

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



Parish Office:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. Patrick K. Donohoe

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Parish Office Fax:
361-384-0056

Mission Office Email:
Saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Mission Website:
www.st-johnog.org/sfoa



Mailing Address—P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Physical Address—303 County Road 185, Sandia, TX 78373

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a



Good News!

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a

MIGUEL DULICK

This season of the Church we call "Ordinary Time" is full of Jesus' teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today's readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of "Thou shalt not," they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The "poor in spirit" get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? *We* are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today's first reading, saw the shift coming, from "don'ts" to "dos," from bossy to beatitude: "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land" (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be "a people humble and lowly" who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with "none to disturb" you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Potest: Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSA, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:15 AM
St. John of the Cross

Saturday: 6:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 11:00 AM ~ English

6:00 PM ~ Spanish

Daily Mass:

Mon., Tues., & Fri. ~ 8:00 AM

Thurs. (Sp.) ~ 6:00 PM ~

Adoration ~

Thurs. (Sp.) - 6:30PM

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM

Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 5:30PM

Please contact Fr. Patrick by phone or email if you need to make an appointment for Confession or **Anointing of the Sick.**

Parish Office Hours

St. John of the Cross

Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

OFFICE IS CLOSED

Fri., Sat., & Sun.

Worship & Prayer

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun.-Feb. 1	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish
Sun.-Feb. 8	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider, Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver



Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

Theresa Laurienti, Ricki Rodriguez Choat and Amanda Smithwick



Praying for our Military

We remember these service personnel in each 'Mass for the Families of the Parish'

Air Force: Preston Holliday, Christopher Lauer II, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas, Audrey Winstead

Army: Father Jim Craig, Magdeleena Delaney, Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald, Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Enrique Perales, Robert Ponce, Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, Tyree Winstead



Coast Guard: Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez, and Noah Vasquez

Please pray for our **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!**

Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit names & branch of service.

Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	01/18/2026	CURRENT WEEK	01/25/2026
Collection	\$715.00	Collection	\$715.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$200.00	Church in Latin America	\$200.00

Today's **SECOND** collection supports **the Our Living Church Building Fund**. Our capital campaign involves numerous necessary repairs to St. John of the Cross parish buildings, including replacing the stucco on the church building, repairing the stained-glass windows in the church, replacing the electrical box outside our Religious Education Building, repaving the parking lot, replacing the roof on the parish hall, among others. One-half of any project must be raised before the project can be scheduled. Father stated in last week's letter that we have raised \$117,000 of our \$685,000 goal! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your continued support is truly appreciated!

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: MARCH 2, 2026 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335 NEXT MEETING: MARCH 3, 2026



Religious Education

Students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion: There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting on Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30PM, in the church for parents and all students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. This includes those in the second grade class as well as all those in the sacramental prep classes.



First Reconciliation: February 14 at 9AM in the church **FHC Masses:** Sunday, May 3 at 9AM and 2PM.

Students preparing for Confirmation: There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting on Saturday, February 21, at 9AM, in the church for parents and all students preparing to receive Confirmation. This includes those in the tenth grade class as well as all those in the sacramental prep classes. **Confirmation Mass:** Wednesday, May 13, 6:00PM, at SJoC



Works of Mercy

Loom Kitting ~ Starting Monday, January 26, parishioners are invited to meet in the SJoC parish hall at 9AM to knit hats for patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department. Contact the parish office or Bertha Forbes for more information.



The next bread and pastries distributions will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, February 11, and at St. Francis** on **Saturday, February 14.**

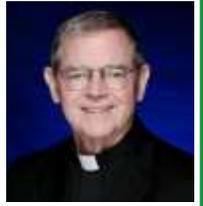


Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, February 5,** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, February 28.**



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



Last week Bishop Mario Avilés was formally installed as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi, and he became our Ordinary – our bishop and successor to the Apostles for this Local Church the Diocese of Corpus Christi. These two ceremonies, Vespers on Tuesday evening and Mass of installation on Wednesday afternoon, were moving moments of the continuity of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith and brought me personal joy and a great feeling of unity and contentment.

During the Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church said every day by Priests, Deacons, and Religious Communities, Archbishop Vasquez from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston received and witnessed the Solemn Profession of the Catholic Faith and the Oath of Fidelity from Bishop Avilés. In the presence of Bishop Vasquez, the gathering of other Bishops, the priests and the deacons of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Bishop Mario proclaimed the same Nicene Creed that we proclaim every Sunday during Mass and his solemn acceptance of the Church's Magisterial Tradition on all matters of the Catholic Faith as proclaimed by the Holy Father and the Councils of the Church. This was his proclamation that the Faith that he holds in his heart is the same One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith that we the Church have proclaimed for the last two millennia. This same Profession of Faith is proclaimed by every Priest before his ordination and again proclaimed before every Priest is installed as a Pastor of a Parish, as I did when Bishop Mulvey installed me as Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church here in Orange Grove, Texas. While simple, it is a profound moment that this new Shepherd of this Diocese of Corpus Christi is in direct continuation of the Catholic Faith and Teachings of Jesus as first held and proclaimed by the Apostles. What the Apostles and the Christians of the first Century proclaimed, and what we proclaim each Sunday, Bishop Mario Avilés also proclaimed in unity with the entire Catholic Church around the world. It is this unity as a community of faith that unites us in our One Holy Communion at every Mass. By this Solemn Profession of Faith, Bishop Avilés has proclaimed to be Our Good Shepherd and to lead us in that same Catholic Faith on our Journey to Heaven. It is that assurance that the Catholic Faith given to us by the Apostles that I have lived for these seventy years, and the Catholic Faith for which I have devoted my life as a Priest of the Catholic Church, will continue in unbroken succession from Jesus until now. Bishop Mario solemnly professed the same Catholic Faith that I profess and that I try to live out each day. Bishop Mario then made his Oath of Fidelity to the Holy Father, recognizing the fact that our Pope has appointed him as the Bishop of Corpus Christi, and that he is in unity with the worldwide College of Bishops and he has promised to be faithful to our Holy Father as the Vicar of Christ in the World and as the Head of the College of Bishops.

In the Mass of Installation, the actual "Papal Bull", the letter of appointment is called a "Bull" because of its lead seal, is read aloud to all those gathered in the Church. The Bull is then actually shown to the attending Bishops, to the Diocesan Consultors, and to the people in the Church so it can be verified as authentic and valid and having been issued by Pope Leo. Then Archbishop Vasquez questions Bishop Mario's willingness to accept the Mandate of the Holy Father. After Bishop Mario accepted the Mandate, he was led by two bishops, Archbishop Vasquez and Bishop Daniel Flores, to the "Cathedra", the Bishop's Chair of Authority as the head of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and he is seated. By that action of sitting in the cathedra, he formally takes possession of the diocese and can be called the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. It is this being "installed in the chair" by the Mandate of the Holy Father that our Local Church (diocese) continues in unity with our Pope Leo, and the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith of the Church. And it is that simple action of sitting in the cathedra that my Profession of the Catholic Faith and by Oath of Fidelity and Obedience to my Ordinary, the Bishop of Corpus Christi, is reconfirmed. It felt to me as a day of renewal and recommitment to my Catholic Faith and to my Catholic Priesthood. What a wonderful feeling!

As Bishop Mario said repeatedly during his homily, "Pray for me your Bishop, that I may lead you to Christ and to Heaven". Let us pray for our new Bishop Avilés. Pray also for me, your Pastor!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Community

St. Francis of Assisi Altar Society's Valentine's Day Dance, Saturday, February 14, 534 Mesquite Inn, 495 FM 534, Sandia, @ 8PM. Music provided by Timothy Noel & the Smokin Guns.

The live auction and 50/50 raffle will benefit St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Lagarto, Texas.



GIVE BLOOD, GET COOKIES! ~ The Coastal Bend Blood Mobile will be at St. John of the Cross on Sunday, February 22, from 8AM—1PM.

Appointments are recommend, but walk-ins are welcome. Call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 or visit their website or scan the QR code to sign up. Donors will receive a t-shirt and an Applebee's coupon and a box of Girl Scout cookies! While supplies last.



Photo ID required.



Are you looking for a way to prepare for Easter Sunday? Are you searching for understanding of Jesus's love for us as he accepted his Passion and crucifixion? Would like to grow closer to Jesus this Lent?

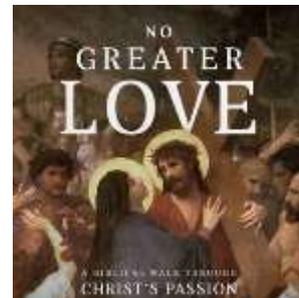
You are invited to participate in a walk through the last hours of Jesus Christ's life here on Earth. We will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historic context will shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

No Greater Love, a bible study from Ascension, offers a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

We will meet Tuesdays, from 6:15PM-7:30PM, in the SJOC parish hall starting the first Tuesday of Lent, February 24, through March 31.

Soft-back book and workbook—\$26.95 + tax (*not required to participate*)

Please let the parish office know if you plan to attend and if you'd like to have a book and workbook ordered for you.



Diocesan News

SILVER & GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION ~ Those blessed by celebrating 25 or 50 years of Sacramental Marriage are invited to attend a special Silver & Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Mario Avilés, C.O. on **February 8, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church (3502 Saratoga Blvd in Corpus Christi). Couples that register before January 30 will receive a certificate recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary.** Scan the QR code to register.



Corpus Christi Catholic Network—Experience our new Local Catholic App! Take faith you wherever you go with the Corpus Christi Catholic Network (CCCN) app. This free app will feature original local Catholic programming, live events when they happen, and Mass every Sunday in English and Spanish for those who cannot attend in person. Available for download in your app store.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

Registration is open until February 18, 2026! Sign up for this incredible experience of Our Lady and the Cristero Martyrs!

For more information, contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesec.org.



Liturgy & Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request – please call the office. Any person who is sick (either homebound or in the hospital) or about to have surgery, is encouraged to receive Anointing of the Sick. As current Federal Law prohibits hospitals from the release of any patient's name. Father will not know you are in the hospital unless you call the office.

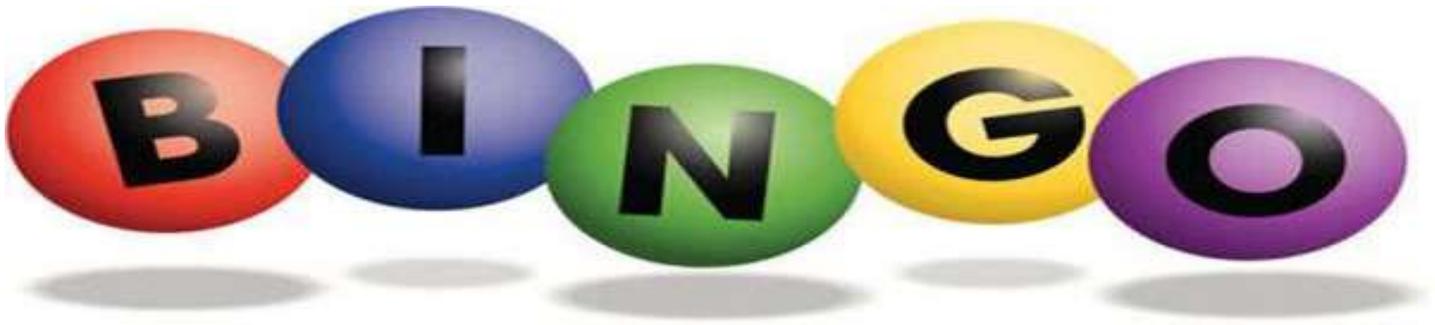
Baptisms of Infants: (0 to 5 yrs.): Please bring the child's civil birth certificate to the parish office to register the child, their parents & the Godparents for the one-hour Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents must be able to provide Certificates for Catholic Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation, & if married, Marriage Certificate in the Catholic Church. Donation for the class and Baptism is \$30.00, for the class only is \$15.00. Date & time for the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Baptismal Class.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confessions) is available on Thursday from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 5:00 PM—5:30 PM and at any time by appointment with the Priest.

Quinceañeras: The honoree and their family must be registered and participating in the parish for two years prior to the year of the Quinceañera (or Quinceañero). The young person must have Baptism & Communion in the Catholic Church, & be attending the parish Religious Education Program. The family is strongly encouraged to contact the Church for **2 years** before the intended date.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made with the priest or deacon, preferably one year before the intended date, (minimum of six months in advance) to complete the necessary requirements. At least one person must be an active and registered member of this parish. No wedding date is guaranteed until ALL diocesan requirements have been fulfilled.

Blessing of Civil Marriages – If you were married before a judge, or a non-Catholic minister, and wish to be readmitted to Holy Communion, there needs to be a Blessing of your Civil Marriage. Please call the parish office and set up an appointment with Father Patrick so he can hear your particular situation and can guide you through the process. Father Patrick is always saying "Don't wait! Start the process NOW!"



St. John of the Cross Catholic Church
200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX

ANNUAL GUADALUPANA SOCIETY
BINGO FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Parish Hall

Doors open at 11:45am for Concession Stand.
BINGO starts at 12:45pm

Participate in our Sweets Auction & 50/50 Raffle

6 On Bingo Book: \$35.00 for 20 games
Plus FREE door prize ticket with book purchase

“Cash and Credit Cards accepted”

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19	2 Sm 7:4-17	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13
Mk 3:22-30	Mk 3:31-35	Mk 4:1-20	Mk 4:21-25	Mk 4:26-34	Mk 4:35-41	1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025