

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16



Good News!

February 8, 2026

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Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16

ANN M. GARRIDO

Some years ago, I took a crash course in chaplaincy. Chaplains are often called on to accompany people through life's gloomier seasons—be it in a hospital, in a nursing home, in prison, or following a disaster. As you might imagine, our training involved sessions on how to best alleviate the isolation and despair many people experience in these places and situations. Pray with people? Invite them outside into nature? Make sure physical discomfort is mitigated? All of these are good practices, my chaplain supervisor emphasized, but research indicates that the quickest way to lift the heaviness many feel is to get them involved in alleviating the suffering of others.

I suspect neither Isaiah nor Jesus would have been surprised by this research. In today's first reading, Isaiah says that if we feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, if we clothe the naked and care for our family members in need, we will know what it means to have light in the midst of darkness, and our gloom will melt away as if under the noonday sun. Similarly, Jesus describes our good deeds as being like light, meant to be shared generously with others.

In recent years, we have seen an uptick in depression and anxiety, even among the young. We can be tempted to focus more inwardly on our own lives, our own griefs and shortcomings. Self-awareness is certainly a good trait to have! But, perhaps counterintuitively, today's readings remind us that our "wounds shall quickly be healed" more readily when we focus on the needs of others. ●

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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. 8	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Feb. 15	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Wed.-Feb. 18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		Masses at SJoC at 8AM, 4:30PM, and 6PM.

PRAYER LIST

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

Baby Emilia, 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

Please contact the parish office for any additions or deletions.



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	01/25/2026	CURRENT WEEK	02/01/2026
Collection	\$715.00	Collection	\$1650.00
Church in Latin America	\$200.00	Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$108.00



To access the St. Francis of Assisi online giving portal, scan the QR code. As always, feel free to contact the parish office if you need any assistance with setting up your online giving.



Parish Organizations

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

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

CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM.

Religious Education

Students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion:

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 ~ Parishioners are invited to meet in the SJoC parish hall on Mondays 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, March 5,** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, February 28.**



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

The week before Lent, Bishop Mulvey has gathered the priests of the diocese for our annual Priests' Retreat in Cedarbrake Retreat house (just north of Austin). It is a special time for us priests to gather as brother priests and to spend time in prayer as we get ready for the Season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. This annual event goes from Monday to Friday and so there will be Eucharistic Communion Services on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. I will be celebrating the Monday morning 8:00 AM Mass as usual. This year we will be gathering with our new Bishop Mario Aviles! And I am really looking forward to this time as I have not yet actually met the new bishop nor have I spoken to him directly. It will be exciting to listen to him and his hopes and dreams for our diocese. It will be the first time for us to get to know him and for him to get to know us. Pray for me and all the priests as we spend this week of reflections and prayer in preparation for Lent.



Ash Wednesday is next week on February 18th, and we will be having the same three Ash Wednesday Services as we have had in past years – 8:00 AM Mass; 4:30 PM Mass; and the evening 6:00 PM Mass. While a little early, what is your Lenten Promise?

In the first centuries of the Church **only on Easter** was Baptism celebrated for people wanting to become a Christian and to follow Christ. Ash Wednesday was the day that those people made their formal declaration to the Church that they wanted Baptism. Lent was the final forty days of prayer and reflection for those Catechumens (candidates for Baptism at the Easter Vigil). And having said that, it is a good time for everyone to begin thinking of what Lenten Promise that they will be doing during Lent. Lenten Promises are two-fold. First, what sacrifice, or giving up, that they would do to show their true intention of turning from sin and the world and toward Christ. The second half of the Lenten Promise was what extra spiritual action they were going to do to deepen their spiritual living practices of the Catholic Faith. This was required for the Catechumens, but each year those already baptized Catholics would renew their Baptismal Promises by joining with those preparing for Baptism by again entering into Lenten Promises. It was an action of solidarity with those preparing for Baptism, but also a time of reflection on how well (or poorly) that they themselves were doing in their journey with Christ.

So, what is your Lenten sacrifice? Giving up candy, giving up beer, giving up the internet on our phones, or giving up social media or television, giving up your TicTok, Instagram, or YouTube? It is a turning away from something that we enjoy or like but might be distracting us from spending time in prayer with Christ or bringing us into dangerous temptations. A child once told me that they were giving up Brussels sprouts for Lent, but since they totally hated and never ate Brussels sprouts it was not a valid Lenten sacrifice. That reasoning also is not allowed for adults! A sacrifice should have a little bit of “pain” to really be a sacrifice.

And what is your Lenten Promise for deepening your spiritual life? Reading a few pages of the Bible each day, praying a rosary at least once a week, going to an additional Mass during the weekdays, reciting the Stations of the Cross in the Church, or maybe just taking time to spend time at home and interacting with parents or other family members. Another one would be just to come to the church and spend some quiet time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Not so much praying but listening to Jesus speak to your heart.

And I will be making my Lenten Promises as well. Make this a wonderful and spiritual Lenten experience.

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 recommended, 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 you like to grow closer to Jesus this Lent?

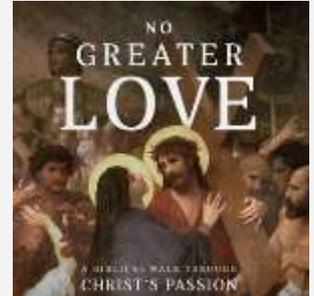
You are invited to participate in a walk through the last hours of Jesus Christ's life here on Earth. We will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historic context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

Texas Education Freedom Account~ Application portal opens February 4 and closes on March 17.

Education Freedom Accounts uphold our belief that parents are best positioned to choose the school that is right for their child—not their ZIP code. Whether your child is thriving where they are or you are exploring new educational possibilities, EFAs are designed to expand options and open doors for families across Texas.

Applications submitted between February 4 and March 17 will be treated equally, allowing families time to prepare and apply thoughtfully.

To support families through this process, Catholic schools across the Diocese will host EFA Application Stations on campus over the next few weeks, aiding parents with the application and required documentation.

Learn more at www.DIOCESECC.ORG/ESA or scan the QR code



Scan me!

Caseworkers and cook needed at the Ark Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter for Youth.

The Ark, a 24-hour facility, has full-time job opening for caseworkers (daytime and graveyard shifts) and a cook. General requirements: bilingual, at least 21 years of age, TB test clear, criminal background and a high school diploma or GED. Caseworkers are responsible for direct care supervision and must have 18 months' child-care/mental health experience, infant and adult CPR, and First Aid certification. The cook must have one year's experience and a Nueces County food handler or food manager card. To apply, take your driver's license and Social Security card to The Ark, 12960 Leopard Street in Calallen or call (361) 241-6566. Equal Opportunity Employer.



40 CANS FOR LENT FOOD DRIVE ~ Catholic Charities will kick off its annual "40 Cans for Lent" food drive on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, inviting the community to help fight hunger across the Coastal Bend. The drive will continue through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Annual 5-day On-air KLUX Campaign Fundraiser ~ Monday, February 23 through Friday, February 27, with three segments each day.



Volunteers are needed in all segments. To volunteer or get more information, contact Irene Menchaca via email at imenchaca@GoCCN.org or call her at 361-289-6437.

DCYC ~ You were **MADE FOR MORE** than all the riches and treasures in this world! God has called you to Himself, and He will fulfill the desires of your heart. Come to DCYC Corpus Christi (Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference) Sunday, March 1st at Delmar Richardson Amphitheater in Corpus Christi. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$15, scholarships available. Event is 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

Scan the QR coder to register.



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.



Upcoming Parish Events

St. John of the Cross Lenten Fish Fry
Friday, February 20, 4:00PM—6:30PM



\$12/plate—fish, fries, hush puppies, green beans, coleslaw, tartar sauce, and ketchup



DRIVE THRU ONLY WITH DELIVERY TO VEHICLE ONLY.

Tickets are on sale now! Find any member of a parish organization or contact the parish office.
All proceeds raised will go to Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign.



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”



SJoC Altar Society's
Silent Auction &
Vendors' Arts/Crafts Fair

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

There will be unique gifts and crafts.

If you have items to donate to the Silent Auction or are interested in selling your crafts, candles, jewelry, snacks, pastries, snow cones, roasted corn, etc. Please contact the Parish Office. (\$10.00/booth)



Dear Padre,

Are the readings at the beginning of Mass equal to the celebration of the Eucharist?

The Mass is celebrated in two major parts: the **Liturgy of the Word** and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**. These parts complement each other in a balance of word and sacrament. In his 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay With Us Lord), Pope St. John Paul II described these complementary elements. Using the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the night of Easter Sunday, the Pope likened the two parts of the revised liturgy to these disciples' journey. First, Christ breaks open the word for them, preparing their hearts with an interpretation of the Scriptures. Then, they recognize Christ as they break bread.

The Liturgy of the Word, proclaimed and preached well, allows time for silence and reflection on the wisdom offered. It becomes the necessary overture for the celebration of thanks and praise and the gift of the sign and sacrament to follow. Parishes are called to take the Liturgy of the Word most seriously and to bring it to a new level of proclamation. Pope St. John Paul II admonished all involved, but especially preachers, to cherish the word and preach it so the depths of the mysteries celebrated may be recognized and received into the burning hearts of Christians. In this context, the Scripture readings are given a prominence they didn't have in the older Roman rite. ●

From *The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews* by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, PhD (816994), © 2009 Liguori Publications



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world but cultivating it and protecting it.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 7, 2025



Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

February 9

Weekday

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13

Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday

February 10

St. Scholastica, Virgin

1 Kgs 8:22-23,
27-30

Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday

February 11

Weekday

1 Kgs 10:1-10

Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

February 12

Weekday

1 Kgs 11:4-13

Mk 7:24-30

Friday

February 13

Weekday

1 Kgs 11:29-32;
12:19

Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

February 14

Sts. Cyril, Monk, and
Methodius, Bishop

1 Kgs 12:26-32;
13:33-34

Mk 8:1-10

Sunday

February 15

Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20

1 Cor 2:6-10

Mt 5:17-37

or 5:20-22a, 27-28,
33-34a, 37