

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 /

Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37



Good News!

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 / Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, “And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be” (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple “Yes” or “No”? Do you want to say, “Yes, but... I can’t do it now.” Or “I can’t forgive this particular person.” Or “I can’t welcome this particular stranger.” Or “I can’t love him or her or them.”

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

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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. 15 9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by his loving family † 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.
Sun.-Feb. 22 9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by his loving family † 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:



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	02/01/2026	CURRENT WEEK	02/08/2026
Collection	\$1650.00	Collection	\$493.00
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.



2025 Tax statements Church Donation Records ~ If you would like a statement of your church donations during 2025 for tax filing, please call the Parish Office. To save paper and postage, statements will only be provided upon request.

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:

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 25**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, March 14**.



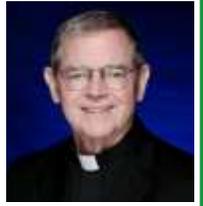
Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, March 5**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, February 28**.



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This last week was very refreshing, and I was able to relax a little before the busy season of Lent begins on this Wednesday! I hope that you used this last week to reflect on what your Lenten Promises are going to be – what you are going to sacrifice or give up during Lent AND what you are going to add to deepen your spiritual life as you prepare for Easter Sunday. If you have not made that decision, you have four more days to reflect and make that promise to renew your spiritual relationship with Jesus. Our decision to follow Christ is not a one-time moment in our lives, but a daily renewal. Think of a marriage relationship. After the one-day celebration of the wedding, there is the daily renewal of love and commitment between the spouses. The same should be happening in your relationship with God and Jesus. Lent should not be a time of pain or endurance, but a time of joyful preparation for Holy Week and the Easter Resurrection of Jesus.



One of the most common “complaints or concerns” by parishioners over the last century is “the pastor is always asking for money.” I have tried hard to restrict those direct appeals to the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal each February and the occasional ask for increased support to the parish. Over the last few months, there has been an extensive list of requests for help for parish organization fundraisers, thanksgiving baskets, socks for the nursing homes, and the Christmas Angel Tree for the children, among others. The response to each of these requests for the needy and poor of our community has exceeded the expectations for which I want to say, “THANK YOU!” The following is an update on the Capital Campaign.

The “Our Living Church Capital Campaign Building Fund” is going well. Since our kickoff in September, we have collected \$131,000.00 in funds toward the renovations for the parish. The total for the whole campaign is \$665,000.00. The first part of the construction/repair projects of the campaign are the exterior stucco of the Parish church and the repair to the stained-glass windows of the church. Because of the physical interaction between the window framing and the stucco walls, these two projects need to be simultaneously finished at the same time. The estimated cost for these two projects is \$365,000.00. To execute contracts and begin the actual repairs to the parish must have a minimum of one-half of the total cost in cash in the restricted fund account. Therefore, we must receive and have deposited to the diocesan D&L Capital Campaign account the first threshold amount goal of at least \$185,000.00. All the profits from the Fish Fry this Friday goes to support the Living Church Campaign. If the donations stay constant, we will have the required funds by MAY/JUNE. Thank you to all who have made a pledge and have been fulfilling their pledges. Please continue your support for your parish church. For those that might have not yet made a pledge to the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign” there are commitment / pledge forms in the foyer and in the end of the pews. Remember this campaign is for the restoration and future stability of our building and the future of our parish community. Any additional pledges and donations will get us to that threshold amount sooner. If you are aware of anyone, parishioner or former parishioner or friend of St. John of the Cross Parish, please let me or a member of the Campaign Committee know and we will try to approach them for a donation or commitment. This is a parish wide project for all parishioners to participate and to fulfill as part of their parish commitment. Let us keep the momentum going and reach that threshold amount.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Lent

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Though Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are not holy days of obligation, fasting is required.

Those ages 18-59 should limit themselves to no more than one meal that day.

Abstinence on Fridays during Lent

Those ages 14+ are required to abstain from eating meat every Friday during Lent.



Parish organizations will lead the **Stations of the Cross at 6PM on Fridays** during Lent.

February 20—Spanish community

February 27 — Religious Ed students/ volunteers

March 6—Soc. Guadalupanas

March 13—Knights of Columbus

March 20—Altar Society

March 27—Casa de Lucy

40 CANS FOR LENT FOOD DRIVE ~ Almsgiving is one of the pillars of Lent. Please support our “40 Cans for Lent” food drive to stock our St. John of the Cross Food Pantry. All nonperishable items may be left in the church foyer or brought to the parish office beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.



Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." (Matthew 25:35-40)

Community

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



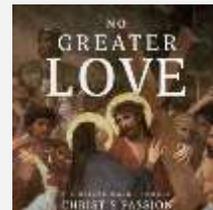
Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. Call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 or visit their website or scan the QR code to sign up. Donors will receive a t-shirt and an Applebee's coupon and a box of Girl Scout cookies! While supplies last.

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. **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

JOIN US FOR THEOLOGY ON TAP ~ All young adults (18-39) are invited to **Theology on Tap** with **Bishop Mario Avilés!** Our topic: Going Deeper with Christ this Lent and Beyond. It will happen on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Sal's Bronx Pizza, located at 5922 Yorktown Blvd.



Please RSVP by Monday, February 16th to the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesec.org or to Young Catholic Adults of CC: ycacctx@gmail.com.

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 through 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



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.

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.



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,

My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of

mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday

February 16
Weekday
Jas 1:1-11
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

February 17
Weekday
Jas 1:12-18
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

February 19
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

Friday

February 20
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

February 21
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

February 22
First Sunday
of Lent
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19 or
5:12, 17-19
Mt 4:1-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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