

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11



## Good News!

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11

MIGUEL DULICK

**The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play.** Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play with God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an “overflow” of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that’s what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●

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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

<b>Sun.-Feb. 22</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>	† Jerry Cross by his loving family † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
<b>Sun.-March 1</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>	† Jerry Cross by his loving family † Yolanda Ochoa by Family † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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.

1. Go to [www.st-johnog.org](http://www.st-johnog.org)
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'

## Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	02/08/2026	CURRENT WEEK	02/15/2026
Collection	\$493.00	Collection	\$656.00
		Phyllis Toler Seminarian Fund	\$600.00



The **SECOND** collection this weekend supports the **Black and Indian Missions Collection**. The **Black and Indian Mission Collection** exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground.

**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



**FHC Masses:** Sunday, May 3 at 9AM and 2PM.

**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.**



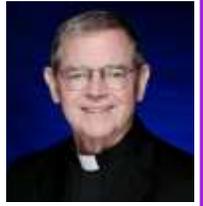
Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, March 5,** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, February 28.**



# A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

On the first Sunday of Lent, we hear the Temptations of Christ in the desert. They can be reduced to three main false identities of self – Physical (Bread/Food), Mental (Knowledge/Beauty), and Spiritual (Presumption/Power). These all can be reduced even further into the self-centered sin of Pride. It is Pride that tempted Eve and Adam in the Garden, while human then wanted themselves to not be servants of God but to be like God. Pride is that outward looking of self and comparing myself to everyone else “to be like them” or for them to look “at me”. You could say it like this: “I am the greatest and best in all things and as such I need no one else”. Combating this self-centeredness of “it is all about me” and realizing that I am in an eternal relationship to God as the Father’s created beloved child (son/daughter) is the center of the Lent. These are the three questions of Lent. “What am I?” “Who am I?” “Where am I going?”. And these reflect directly back to the three temptations.



“What am I?” – A human person whose body needs to be fed and nourished. A human person who comes into life as a baby and needs to be cared for food, clothed, and protected. A human person who has to be taught how to walk, how to talk, and to be educated in so many other ways. A human person who grows up in both physical ways, emotional ways, and intellectual ways. And though we don’t like to discuss it, a human person who ages physically and loses mental capabilities. And we are a human person who has a finite time of life on earth. The temptation for bread manifests those three false identities. On the physical side – the need for nourishment, often food from others. On the mental – without food I will eventually get sick and die. On the spiritual – I have the power to turn stone to bread; I have the power to do it myself and need no one. The more proper response against these temptations of Pride is: As a human person my life has a beginning and an end, my body constantly needs nourishment to live and grow, and as much as I might not think about it, I have no power within myself to overcome these realities of human life. My birth and my life are a gift from God that I need always to be thankful for. God is always watching over my life as it is constantly growing and changing and He provides the nourishment and protection. From my birth and my Baptism, I am on a journey of life toward God (and hopefully Heaven).

“Who am I?” – A human person with finite capabilities and capacities. We are born with a brain and a mind that is eager to learn and comprehend the world around us. A baby that learns it has its own hands and feet, and begins to recognize voices and words. That early learning simply reminds us that on the physical level I must be trained and develop into all of the bodily abilities, and that I must always keep active or I might lose the physical abilities. Mentally, I learn to speak and to think and to remember. While as teenagers we “know everything”, but we realize that even after schooling we are constantly growing in knowledge and abilities for the entirety of our lives. We begin to understand that I can be pretty good in assorted ways, but there is always someone who is better, or later will surpass me. Spiritually, I am not alone, but born into a family, a community, and a world that is outside of myself and with which I live. More properly, I understand that I am not “all knowing”, “all powerful”, nor “eternally infinite”. God is and all that I am, all that I do, and all that I will ever become is given to me and is perfected in my relationship with God – His beloved child.

“Where am I going?” – One of the most constant thoughts in a person’s life is: “Where did I come from and to where am I going?” Maybe you remember a phrase from your mother when you asked as a child where you came from - “From my belly!”. And as we live, there are the millions of times when we are asked, “Where were you born? Where did you go to school? Where are you going to college? Where did you go on vacation? Where are you moving to? Where were you this morning? My favorite question is “Where are you going to eat?”! And so many other “where from” and “where to” in your life. In Lent we reflect that there is a time before I ever was and that I began a journey from the moment of my birth. And as we experience life and death of friends and family, we will eventually begin to ask, “Where am I going after this life?”. Physically we are finite. Mentally we are finite. Spiritually we are finite. (Our soul is infinite; our spirit is not.) As St. Thomas Aquinas states for the existence of God, “If there is a finite, then there must be the opposite an “infinite”. I am finite. Only God is infinite. But we pray, “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, who was, is now, and will be forever world without end”. I came from God, and I pray that I am on the path to go to God.

Have a great Lent! Remember your Lenten Promises!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

# Lent



“Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement,... let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language... so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others.” - Pope Leo XIV

## Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

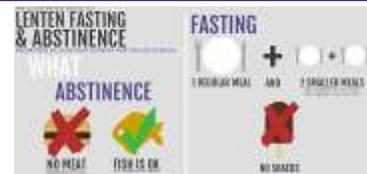
### Fasting on Good Friday

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 27** — Religious Ed students/ volunteers

**March 13**— Knights of Columbus

**March 27**—Casa de Lucy

**March 6**—Soc. Guadalupanas

**March 20**—Altar Society

Come spend some time with Jesus this Lent. Adoration is every Thursday from 7PM—8PM.

Confession is the soul’s bath. Even a clean and unoccupied room gathers dust; return after a week and you will see that it needs dusting again!”- St. Padre Pio.

Don’t wait until the end of Lent! Confessions are offered every Thursday and Sunday at 5:30PM and Saturday at 5:00PM.

Our Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, from 6PM—8PM. Four visiting priests will be available for confession. An extra opportunity for confession will be offered on Holy Thursday from 8:30PM—9:30PM. Prepare for Easter Sunday!



**No Greater Love** ~ 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. Please let the parish office know if you plan to attend.

**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.



# 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 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](http://www.DIOCESECC.ORG/ESA) or scan the QR code



**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](mailto:imenchaca@GoCCN.org) or call her at 361-289-6437.



**ANDREW DINNER** ~ **Save the date!** The **Andrew Dinner** will take place on Thursday, April 16 at St. Pius X Parish in Corpus Christi. The evening will begin with Mass at 6:00 p.m. More details coming soon.

## Upcoming Parish Events



**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,

*I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.*

It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, "requirement" does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A "requirement" might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11	Jon 3:1-10	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Ez 18:21-28	Dt 26:16-19	Gn 2:1-4a
Mt 25:31-46	Mt 6:7-15	Lk 11:29-32	Mt 7:7-12	Mt 5:20-26	Mt 5:43-48	2 Tm 1:8b-10
						Mt 17:1-9

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!*

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025