

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

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9



Good News!

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9

ANN M. GARRIDO

Have you ever noticed that mountains and clouds seem to “go together”? When I was a child, I thought it was because the mountains’ height pierced the sky. Turns out, it’s a bit more complicated. Mountains “create” their own clouds. When moving air comes across a mountain front, it forces the warm air to rise to cooler zones and water droplets in the air to condense. The phenomenon is so common that these clouds have their own name: lenticular. They are known for being bright—even colorful—with rays of light peeking out from behind.

It’s no wonder why, throughout history, people have sought to ascend mountains as part of their spiritual journey. It was a way to get closer to the “heavens”—to those radiant clouds. Recall the prophet Elijah, who climbs Mount Sinai seeking a face-to-face encounter with God. Or Moses, who, with three of his closest friends, ascends Mount Sinai to meet God in a radiant cloud that hovers over the top of the peak.

So, it’s also no wonder why Jesus, with three of his closest friends, might also climb a mountain and meet Elijah and Moses there. No wonder why that mountain would be covered in a bright cloud that thunders with God’s voice, and why, in that moment, Scripture describes heaven and earth as mysteriously yet visibly mingling in the person of the transfigured Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration reminds us that just like mountains and clouds were meant for one another, heaven and earth were meant for one another. Jesus stands at the point where the two meet. ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Inquiries: Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSSR, 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.-March 1 9:15 AM	† 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
Sun.-March 8 9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by his loving family 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
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'

Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	02/15/2026	CURRENT WEEK	02/22/2026
Collection	\$656.00	Collection	\$655.00
Phyllis Toler Seminarian Fund	\$600.00	Phyllis Toler Seminarian Fund	\$500.00
		Black and Indian Missions	\$65.00
		Altar Society V-day Auction	\$170.00



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

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

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, March 11**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, March 14**.

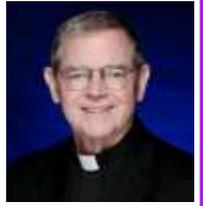


Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, March 5**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, March 28**.



A Note From Our Pastor

“He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design...” 2 Timothy 1:8



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This quote from today's second reading reflects today's Gospel and reflects our work during Lent. As we hear in Matthew's Gospel of the Transfiguration of Jesus and the "showing" of His true divinity as Son of God, we are reminded that God has a design for our life as well - to be holy. We were created in goodness and holiness to be with God and on a journey of a full and complete union with Him in Heaven for all eternity. And as St. Paul says "not according to our works" (our designs, hopes, and human wishes), but according to His design for us. This is the universal call to holiness that is already within us by our birth that is deepened and strengthened by the call of our Baptism. This is not the call to our vocation in the world – single, married, ordained, or consecrated religious – but even more basic and intimate within the depths of our souls. The call to union with God!

So often on this Sunday of the Transfiguration we center in on the miraculous change and manifestation shown to us in Jesus, but we also need to look to the transfiguration and change in the Apostles. They already knew Jesus as the Rabbi that so inspired them to leave their jobs and families to follow Him. They continued to do so and were even named as disciples, then as Apostles, and now on the Mount, the special witnesses to the transfiguration. This event in Matthew's Gospel occurs immediately after Simon Peter has declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:17) While Peter does declare to Jesus, "You are the Messiah", it is this next event that Jesus shows to Peter, James, and John the "reality" of what that truly and actually means in the Transfiguration. And to even bring it to a higher level, "a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!". And this ongoing revealing and slow comprehension by the Apostles will continue throughout the Gospels. There is the deepening unfolding of who Jesus is and the deepening understanding of what that means to the Apostles and later to the disciples, not only in that first century, but also to us today. And remember that this same Peter is the same "faithful Apostle" who will "never disown you" (Mt. 26:35) and then disowns Him three times, "I don't know the man!" (Mt: 26: 69-75). And it is these words that we center in on the Lenten journey. How have we sometimes declared ourselves true followers of Jesus, and then quickly thereafter denied that we even know him? These forty days of Lent are the time we reflect on how we have so frequently flip-flopped, "Yes, I follow him! No, I don't follow Him". It is hard to imagine the suffering that Peter went through after Jesus looks at Peter after the denial, until the resurrection.

After the Resurrection of Jesus, we hear in John's Gospel, the three times that Peter reaffirms his love of Jesus and how he is reinstated as an Apostle. "The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" (Jn 21: 17-19). And Peter does follow Jesus loyally from that moment on even up to his death as a martyr.

This story of Peter's journey is that "journey" that we must all reflect on during Lent. Sometimes "yes" and sometimes "No" is the cycle that all of us have in our spiritual lives. We break one of the commandments and we sin. But Lent is that time that I see us, like Peter, reflecting on our "Yes – No". But more importantly, that we hear – "Then he said to you [him], "Follow me!". Maybe it is time to go to Confession and to be ready to reaffirm our Baptismal Promises at Easter to "Follow Him"!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

P.S. – The Lenten Penance Service is Scheduled for March 25. See you there!

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

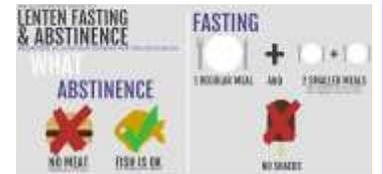
Fasting on Good Friday

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.

March 6—Soc. Guadalupanas

March 13—Knights of Columbus
March 27—Casa de Lucy

March 20—Altar Society



Good Friday, April 3 — Stations of the Cross on

English —3:00PM

Spanish—5:00PM

Holy Thursday—April 2

Holy Thursday Rehearsal for altar servers @ 5:30PM

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7PM

Washing of the Feet
Rededication of Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Procession
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration Shifts on Holy Thursday

8PM-9PM: Altar Society
9PM—10PM: Soc. Guadalupanas
10PM—11PM: Altar Servers & Youth
11:00PM—12:00AM: KCs

ADORATION

Come spend some time with Jesus this Lent.

Adoration is every Thursday from 7PM—8PM.



Confession cleanses the soul.

“Even a clean and unoccupied room gathers dust; return after a week and you will see that it needs dusting again!”- St. Padre Pio.



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! Don’t wait until the end of Lent!

Matthew cautions us, “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. “ (Matthew 24:42)



Good Friday Service (bilingual) @ 7:00PM

Easter Vigil Mass -

Saturday, April 4—@ 8:00PM

Altar Server practice for Easter Vigil @ 10:00AM



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 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)



No Greater Love, a bible study from Ascension, will meet Tuesdays, from 6:15PM-7:30PM, in the SJoC parish hall starting February 24 through March 31.

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 or scan the QR code



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've been to Latin Masses, and people do not socialize in church and seem more respectful than at a regular parish Mass, where people are leaving before Mass is finished, and there seems to be constant talking. Why is there such a contrast?

I'd like to caution you about two assumptions. The first is about judging people who leave Mass early. We can't know what is in a person's heart. Some people work on Sundays or have other unavoidable commitments that require them to leave at a certain time.

The second assumption is that socializing before and after a parish Mass is disrespectful. The celebratory and welcoming culture of a Christian community that has gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist gives glory and praise to God. It is not disrespectful of the Eucharist, but rather a powerful witness to the unity, the community, and the faith of the people of God who gather with their Lord and Savior.

There are Eucharistic gatherings that encourage silence, such as the Latin Mass you have experienced as well as Eucharistic Adoration and Forty Hours Devotion. We need both—silence as we worship together and joyful interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Both give glory to God.

All that being said, to those who enjoy socializing or who must leave the Mass before the final note of the final hymn: do be considerate of those praying near you. They might be praying for you! ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5	MARCH 6	MARCH 7	MARCH 8
<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>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



PROFESSANT / CATHOLIC



BICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We must also cry out for peace in the world. Let us all say, "We want peace in the world!"

Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for peace and be witnesses of the peace and reconciliation of Jesus Christ, the light that we are all seeking for today's world.

GREETING TO YOUNG PEOPLE, ROME, JULY 29, 2025