

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



Good News!

March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

ANN M. GARRIDO

The prophets before Jesus had long spoken of God's dreams for our world. In seasons of darkness and despair, they would offer snapshots of hope for what it would be like in the "kingdom of God." Those who were blind would see. Those unable to walk would dance. Those imprisoned would be free. And those who had died would be raised to life again.

In today's gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets' hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." In other words, Martha believes in the coming "kingdom of God." But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: "I am the resurrection and the life." That is, "I am the kingdom of God."

Origen of Alexandria—a third-century theologian—spoke of Jesus as the *autobasileia*. The term comes from two Greek words: *auto*, meaning "self," and *basileia*, meaning "kingdom." It was his way of expressing that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that the prophets had preached. He was all of God's dreams for us manifest, not as had been anticipated in a future time, but in a living person.

We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." ●

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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.-March 22 9:15 AM	† Stephen Menard by Robert & Nancy Vial † Irene Snelling, † Laura Taplin, and † Wayne Tate by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-March 29 9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family † Irene Snelling, † Laura Taplin, and † Wayne Tate by Elizabeth Hackfeld 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 and Ricki Rodriguez Choat



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: Vincent Gordon, 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	03/08/2026	CURRENT WEEK	03/15/2026
Collection	\$1208.00	Collection	\$661.00
		Catholic Relief Services	\$97.00

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




Attention all graduating seniors: The **St. John of the Cross Joint** and the **Knights of Coumbus Scholarships** are now available in the church foyer, the parish office and the high school counselor's office.

The KC Scholarship deadline is Thursday, April 30, and the Joint Scholarship deadline is Monday, May 4.


ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: MAY 4, 2026 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335 NEXT MEETING: APRIL 6, 2026

Religious Education



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



Confirmation Mass: Wednesday, May 13, 6:00PM, at SJoC

Parents are asked to attend our Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday, March 25, from 6-8PM.



Once the students in grades 6-12 have received the sacrament of reconciliation, they will be released for pick up.

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 25**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, April 11**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, April 2**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, March 28**.



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



This Sunday I am very happy to announce that the bids for the exterior stucco work of the church and the stained-glass repair have been approved by the Diocesan Construction Office. The formal contracts are being prepared for the Bishop's signature. The last step is the final and formal approval from the Diocesan Finance Council that there are 50% of the contract amounts of \$307,000.00 in the D&L Savings. That means there are \$153,500.00 of the necessary funds on deposit in the Diocesan Deposit and Loan Exempt Savings and that the balance of the contracted amount (\$153,500.00) has been granted through a loan from the D&L Loan account. This repair work is no longer just a hope and dream, but it is quickly becoming an approved, signed, and funded reality for our parish. But there is a little more that needs to be done in the financing area.

Funds on Deposit with the Exempt Savings	\$101,643.66	
Funds in transit (sent but not yet credited)	<u>\$ 19,457.50</u>	
Total Deposit with the Diocese	\$121,101.16	
Funds not yet sent to Diocese	February 2026	\$ 8,654.00
	Fish Fry Proceeds	\$ 7,710.53
	March 2026	<u>\$ 3,877.20</u>
		\$ 20,241.73
Total Our Living Church Capital Campaign Funds		<u>\$141,342.89</u>
Total needed on Deposit to sign contracts		<u>\$153,500.00</u>
Total Deficit		\$ 12,157.11

The "Funds not yet sent to the Diocese" is the big concern for the operation of the parish. These amounts have been received into the parish checkbook but have not been sent because there are not sufficient funds for the cash flow needs of the parish. We must keep a certain balance in the checkbook for the payroll and the regular ongoing parish expenses – electricity, water, A/C repairs, etc. So, the parish has been using these dedicated fund amounts to keep the parish's cashflow solvent. If I forward the \$20,241.73 to the Exempt Savings, there will not be money in the main checkbook for the regular parish expenses.

To put it another way, the current deficit and the "Funds not yet Sent" total to a shortfall of Funds on Deposit with the Exempt Savings to \$32,398.84. Each week I review the cash on hand in the parish checkbook and the cashflow balance needs of the parish, and as is possible, I forward the "Funds not yet sent" to the Exempt Savings.

And with the war in the Middle East, the price of gas and all other household expenses have skyrocketed. To fill my gas tank on my car usually costs about \$29.00, but on Monday the same amount of gas was \$40.45. YIKES! So, I am painfully aware that all of the parishioner families are also experiencing the same difficulties with their household budgets. So, I on the parish side have been cutting out all non-essential spending, as I am sure you have also done. Possibly, one of those spending reductions that you might have made, or are considering, is your regular weekly donation to the Church. If it is possible, I ask you not to reduce your weekly donation to the Church. If you must I completely understand and I trust God will make up the difference in other ways. And if you might be blessed enough to increase your donation by a dollar or two it would greatly help the regular cashflow needs of the parish. And it would allow us to forward more of the "Funds not yet Sent" to the Exempt Savings.

I have meetings next week with various departments at the diocese to assess what our possible options might be. We have \$20,965.03 in our Regular Savings that might make up the "Funds not Sent", but that still leaves us the \$12,158.00 deficit. And that would also leave us without any savings. This is not an impossible situation as I have faced this several times over the years. And each time trusting in God, the necessary funds have always shown up. So, Pray Hard!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Lent

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting on Good Friday

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 SJoC at **6PM on Fridays** during Lent.
March 27—Casa de Lucy



Good Friday, April 3 — **Stations of the Cross on**
English —3:00PM Spanish—5:00PM

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.

Items most needed are canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, SPAM), canned chili, canned vegetables and fruit, boxed cereal, and snack bars.

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)



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



Reconciliation

Prepare for Easter Sunday! 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.

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



Easter Sunday Mass, April 5
Regular Mass times

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!”

Upcoming Parish Event



BBQ 1/2 Chicken plate fundraiser Sunday, April 26, 11:00AM—1:00PM



Plates are \$12 and come with pinto beans and potato salad.

Tickets are on sale now! Get yours from a Knight or the parish office today!

DRIVE THRU with delivery to vehicle ONLY.

Diocesan News

Young Catholic Adults are welcome to join the parish of St. John the Baptist for Family Holy Hour and Social on **Sunday, March 22**, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Confession is offered during Adoration.

All are welcome to stay for fellowship and potluck in the parish hall after Adoration.

Contact Angie Windnagle at St. John the Baptist for more information: awindnagle@sjbctx.org.



The Office of Young Adult Ministry will host the 3rd annual Virtual SEEK Conference on

Saturday, March 28 at the TAMUCC Newman Center from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

It will include dinner, 2 conferences and small group discussions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more.

This conference is open to all young adults, college-age and young professionals.

RSVP to Sofia at ycacctx@gmail.com or soconnor@diocesecc.org

The **Andrew Dinner** will be at St. Pius X Catholic Church on **Thursday, April 16**, at 6:00 p.m.

The Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for young men earnestly seeking God's will in their lives to share a meal and an evening of fraternity with Bishop Avilés and some of the priests of the diocese. The witness of priests in communion with the bishop is a powerful experience for those who feel they may be called to this life.

Young men interested in attending are asked to speak with their pastor.

Please RSVP to Father James Vasquez in the Office of Vocations at jvasquez@diocesecc.org or call (361) 882-6191 ext. 604.

Let's Brighten Our Community service retreat for high school teens will happen on **Saturday, April 18**

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, located at 3350 South Alameda in Corpus Christi.

This will be a fun opportunity to gather in faith and fellowship.

Register at <https://diocesecc.org/lboc>



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES ~ Bishop Mario A. Avilés, C.O. is hosting a fun celebration for our graduates on **Sunday, April 26** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

BBQ WITH THE Bishop

It will be a gathering filled with food, games, music, and more. Students will have an opportunity to meet fellow graduates and learn more about the Newman Centers and other Catholic groups to help them continue their faith journey after graduation.

There is no cost to attend. **RSVP by April 13th.** Spots are limited.

The Inaugural Corpus Christi Cathedral Gala a Family Reunion

with Special Guest Speaker The Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores Bishop of Brownsville

Friday, May 22, 2026, 7:00PM, at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel.

Tickets and more information at cathedralgala.com

Community

The Coastal Bend Blood Center will be at St. John of the Cross on **Sunday, April 19, from 8AM—1PM.** Spring into action. Donate Blood.

Appointments are recommended and walk-ins are welcome. Scan the QR code or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to schedule your life-saving appointment. Donors will receive a Fishing for Donors t-shirt and a Longhorn Steakhouse coupon. While supplies last.



Dear Padre,

I've offered many Masses for wife and family, thinking if perhaps they are in Purgatory, it would help shorten their time. How can we tell if our prayers and Masses are beneficial? How do we know?

It has been a long- and well-established expression of Catholic faith and practice to pray for the departed. Our prayers help us as we grieve and mourn the passing of the people we love. Our prayers help us keep their passing in perspective—not as the end of something, but rather as the beginning of new life in Christ. This is beneficial and needs no further evidence to illustrate the value of the practice.

Your question, on the other hand, goes beyond what the tradition emphasizes. It seems like you are seeking some sort of guarantee or warranty, which you assume will be reassuring. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee or warranty either promised or implied in this spiritual practice. In death, indeed in the whole of Christian life, we bump up against mystery, not certitude. We are invited to enter into the mystery. To grow in the mystery. To be graced by the mystery. Nothing more is possible. We hope because we believe. We believe because we practice what we hope for. ●



REMIJA SEDIMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



FAUSTO BENDA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face. And so, we switch off, we fall asleep.... But reality has to be faced.... Let us go to Jesus: he can heal us; he can revive us. Jesus is our hope!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 25, 2025

Monday

MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Nm 21:4-9
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday

MARCH 25

*The Annunciation
of the Lord*

Is 7:10-14; 8:10
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Gn 17:3-9
Jn 8:51-59

Friday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10-13
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Ez 37:21-28
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday

MARCH 29

*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord*

Mt 21:1-11
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mt 26:14-27:66 or
27:11-54

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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