

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 29, 2026

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)**

Matthew 21:1-11 / Isaiah 50:4-7 / Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54



## Good News!

March 29, 2026

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)**

Matthew 21:1-11 / Isaiah 50:4-7 / Philippians 2:6-11 / Matthew 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The adoring crowds, chanting “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Matthew 21:9), capture our attention on this Palm Sunday. We hear the crowds, and we rejoice with them. Sometimes, we forget that not everyone in the crowd is joyful. Some are challenged; some are threatened. For them, Jesus is not Good News; he is not the long-awaited one—he is something entirely different, and he must be silenced.

Our Sunday celebration begins with jubilant crowds and ends with a most cruel death. Those who were once joyful are now silent and dispersed. It appears that the authorities have once again triumphed. Hope is dashed. The promise remains unfulfilled.

Spiritually sit with desolation in the week that comes. Do not jump ahead to the triumphant end of the story. It is true that we are an Easter people, but we must also pay attention to the details of how evil often attempts to silence the good. It is important, as people of faith, to remind ourselves that even when all things seem to be lost, the Father has the last word. His will is accomplished. He is the Creator and the author of the story. We should always prepare ourselves to be surprised. To embrace light instead of darkness. And, even when there is death all around us, to know that there will be life—life in abundance for all. ●

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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.-March 29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b> † Jerry Cross by His Loving Family † Irene Snelling, † Laura Taplin, and † Wayne Tate by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
<b>Sun.-April 5</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b> † Terry Boudreaux by Robert & Nancy Vial † Jerry Cross by His Loving Family Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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	03/15/2026	CURRENT WEEK	03/22/2026
Collection	\$661.00	Collection	\$922.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$97.00		

Pope Leo has asked our parish to support the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection**, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Through the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection**, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. Please be generous.

**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

## 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, April 8**, 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, April 25**.



## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As we come to the end of Lent, we enter into Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum. It is important to remember the early Church traditions and so appreciate the significance and specialness that is the Paschal triduum. Here is a brief understanding of it that I hope will inspire you to attend and participate in the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the Good Friday Liturgy on Friday, and the Solemn Easter Vigil on Saturday night.



The followers of Jesus met in secret to pray and celebrate the Eucharist. If you wanted to become a Christian, your journey began on Ash Wednesday when you would formally proclaim yourself a sinner with the imposition of ashes on your head and declare that you would spend the next forty days in prayer and study requesting entry into the church. You were assigned a Sponsor who took on the duty of instructing you in all of the aspects of the Faith, and this was not just for the forty days of Lent, but for the rest of that person's life. This process of entering the Church occurred only once a year starting on Ash Wednesday and ending at the Easter Vigil. If you missed a day of instruction or the Easter Vigil you had to wait another entire year. During this Lenten time, the candidates would only attend the "first part" of the Mass – the Liturgy of the Word, the time of instruction of the Faith, and be dismissed before the people recited the Sacred Creed. Each week of Lent they would be tested (scrutinized) to make sure that they understood the faith and prepare them for the final and sacred instructions of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. The three days – Triduum means Three Days – were so sacred that only fully committed persons were ever allowed to attend them! And these three days were actually the telling of the last three days of Jesus' life and teachings and the center of the story of salvation through Jesus. As the Paschal Triduum is actually one Liturgy that is told over three days starting on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday morning, it is best to attend all three parts and so to better understand the specialness that is Easter.

Holy Thursday is the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, remembering the last gathering of Jesus and the Apostles at that final Passover Meal that He shared with his disciples where he washed their feet and instituted the Eucharist. It is the moment on which Jesus bestowed the Priesthood upon the Apostles (and through them down to this century upon all Bishops and Priests). After this Last Supper Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemani where he will be arrested and the Apostles and Disciples abandon him.

Good Friday is the liturgy where we remember the Trial, Scourging with the Whips, Crowning of Thorns, the Way of the Cross, and the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus. We spend the time in prayer and remember the vicious treatment of Jesus who had done no wrong but was persecuted none the less. In this liturgy we are asked to learn the lesson, that if we follow Christ, we may also be betrayed and suffer torture and martyrdom for Jesus. And the question is asked, "Would you be able and ready to follow Christ in that same way?"

Holy Saturday we sit in sorrow and in darkness stunned by the Death of Jesus, and at the end of that day we gather around the fire (first century living rooms) and retell the whole story of Salvation from the creation of the World, the Prophets of the Old Testament, the writers of the New Testament and the teachings of who and what the Messiah is. In the darkness of that night, we would remember that Jesus is "The Light" who will dispel the darkness, and we profess our Faith in Him as our Redeemer and through the Solemn Liturgy we would be Baptized (sins washed away), Anointed with Oil (Confirmation), dressed in new long White Garments (our white robes of Heaven) and participate in Holy Communion (uniting ourselves with Jesus at the Last Supper and with the Eternal Baquet in Heaven). And then with the Easter Sunday morning sunrise, we would leave the darkness of our old lives and enter into the Light of a New Day in Christ!

To truly appreciate the glory and blessedness of Easter Sunday, we need to experience Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the Easter Vigil, so I encourage you to make the time to attend these Three Most Sacred Days of the Paschale Triduum.

Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Patrick

# Lent



## Good Friday, April 3 — Stations of the Cross

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)*



## 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.

## Reconciliation

**Confessions** are offered every Thursday and Sunday at 5:30PM and Saturday at 5:00PM, except no confessions on Holy Saturday.

Extra opportunities for confession will be offered on **Holy Thursday from 8:30PM—9:30PM** and **Good Friday from 3:30-5:00PM**.

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



## 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



### Good Friday Service (bilingual) @ 7:00PM

### Easter Vigil Mass - Saturday, April 4—@ 8:00PM

Candidate practice for Easter Vigil @ 9AM  
Altar Server practice for Easter Vigil @ 10:00AM  
Decorate for Easter at 11AM



### 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

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](mailto: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.**



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](http://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.



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Text **SJCOG** to **84576**

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**CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL:**

**Sunday 9:30AM (ENG)  
and 11:00 AM (SPA)**

Available at: KDF-TV Ch 47 (9:30AM only),  
KLUX 89.5HD, or Diocese of CC Website

# Dear Padre,

**How do the three sacred oils differ, and how do I dispose of them properly as a sacristan?**

Jesus Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king. *Christ* means “Anointed One.” The sacred oils assist the members of the Church, who share in Christ’s priestly, prophetic, and royal mission. Catechumens are anointed with the oil of catechumens for God’s help to resist evil, reject sin, and adhere to a lifelong profession of faith as they prepare for baptism. The infirm and elderly are anointed with the oil of the sick to fight against the physical and spiritual debilitating effects of illness through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Chrism, the most important of the three, can only be consecrated by a bishop. It is used for baptism (along with the oil of catechumens), confirmation, the ordination of a priest or bishop, and the dedication of a church and altar.

A repository for the oils—often marked *Olea Sanctae* (“Holy Oils”)—is called an *ambry*. It is usually in a prominent church location near the baptismal font. Each year, when the oils are replaced, a priest, sacristan, or other person may absorb the old oil with cotton and burn it in a thurible or as part of the fire that begins the Easter Vigil. With special care, old oil can also be added to a large burning candle, like the sanctuary lamp. Reverence and safety are proper for whatever method of disposal is used. ●



**Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>MARCH 30</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>APRIL 2</b>	<b>APRIL 3</b>	<b>APRIL 4</b>	<b>APRIL 5</b>
<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)</i>	<i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</i>	<i>Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)</i>	<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>
Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11	Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38	Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25	Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Rv 1:5-8 Lk 4:16-21 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15	Is 52:13-53:12 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42	Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ex 14:15-15:1 Is 54:5-14 Is 55:1-11 Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Rom 6:3-11 Mt 28:1-10	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

**Dear brothers and sisters, we too are invited to “prepare the Passover” of the Lord. Not only the liturgical one: that of our life too. Every gesture of willingness, every gratuitous act, every forgiveness given in advance, every effort patiently accepted, is a way to prepare a place where God can dwell. What does it mean for me today to “prepare”?**

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,  
ROME, AUGUST 6, 2025**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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