

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14, 22-33 / 1 Peter 1:17-21 / Luke 24:13-35



# Good News!

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14, 22-33 / 1 Peter 1:17-21 / Luke 24:13-35

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**The Emmaus story is about two disciples walking seven miles** from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus and their encounter with Jesus, whom they did not recognize. The story is rich in both symbolism and meaning. In a nutshell, it teaches us three basic rules for the formation of Christian community: *Welcome the stranger. Break open the word. Celebrate the Eucharist.* When we are faithful to these practices, we are faithful to the promise of the kingdom in our midst. If we choose to ignore these basic rules, we should not be surprised that we seem to be struggling.

Three out of three rules set the baseline. We cannot congratulate ourselves if we follow one or two of them well enough and ignore the third. We cannot pick and choose. It is the Lord who sets the parameters; our mission is only to respond positively in faith to what he directs us to do.

How are we doing? An honest appraisal probably suggests that improvement is needed. Each of our local communities, and indeed even the wider Church, sometimes struggles to form an Emmaus community of faith. We know we can do better. The good news is that we are not uninformed, and we know where we need to place the most effort. The Holy Spirit of God will show us how we need to apply this renewed effort. ●

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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.-April 19 9:15 AM</b>	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family Birthday Blessings for Faye Tucker by Robert & Nancy Vial People of the Parish
<b>Sun.-April 26 9:15 AM</b>	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family † Randall Godley by Robert & Nancy Vial 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, Aubrey McCown, and  
Noah Vasquez



In honor of our Independence Day, St. John of the Cross would like to send care packages to our parishioners serving in the military and veterans. Items requested include travel-size body wash, shampoo and deodorant, as well as chocolate-FREE snacks, reading material, puzzle books, and prayer cards. Please bring donated items to the church foyer or to the office by June 18 to allow time for distribution and to ensure the United States Postal Service can process the packages and deliver in a timely manner.

## Stewardship of Treasure

<b>PREVIOUS WEEK</b>	04/05/2026	<b>CURRENT WEEK</b>	04/12/2026
<b>Collection</b>	\$813.00	<b>Collection</b>	\$1050.00

## Parish Organizations

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335** NEXT MEETING: MAY 5, 2026



**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.



**CASA DE LUCY** MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM.



**Casa de Lucy Helping Hands Quilting Ministry** sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers. Please contact the office if you know anyone in need of a quilt.

## 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 22**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, May 9**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, May 7**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, April 25**.



# A Note from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Each February Our Ordinary (i.e. the Bishop) calls upon all the members of the Diocese that are grouped into parishes and missions to support some of the essential ministries that affect all of the diocese especially into the future for the Diocese. It has been called the Annual Bishop's Stewardship Appeal. Over the past fifteen years, it usually occurred on the third weekend in February. This year it had to be delayed and here is why.



With the Pope accepting Bishop Mulvey's resignation on December 1, 2025, the Diocese became "sede Vacante" (which means "empty chair"), and all of the major work and operations of the diocese were put on hold as we were without a Bishop. Bishop Mario was named to be the new bishop, but he had no power or authority to make any decisions until he was installed in the "empty chair". Only the "required" on-going business of the diocese could continue. There was no construction contracts signed, no policy changes, and no priest personnel changes, meaning that the diocese could only move forward with what was absolutely necessary until the new bishop arrived and was installed. Therefore, in the months of December and January, the Bishop would ordinarily produce and publish the Bishop Stewardship appeal materials, the video, and the parish goals. No bishop meant no work could even begin until after January 28, 2026, when Bishop Mario Avilés was formally installed. And so on Tuesday evening our parish received the notice that the 2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal 2026 would occur in this month of April.

While the appeal this year is late in starting, it is our opportunity to come together as Catholics across the entire Diocese to show our unity as a diocese. So often we only look to our parish needs and within our parish boundaries, but without the Bishop and the diocese we would really not exist. Therefore, the 2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal (BSA) will take place next weekend, April 25-26. The BSA Diocesan and parish-based efforts are an important part of our shared call to discipleship. Working together, the people of the Diocese of Corpus Christi initiate and strengthen numerous ministries throughout the Coastal Bend.

The most important aspects for me and why I support the BSA every year are:

**Seminarian Formation for the men preparing to be our Shepherds of the Future.** We are currently blessed with three seminarians in formation, four young men discerning their call to the priesthood, and 19 men in formation for the permanent diaconate. Through your generosity, the Diocese supports seminarians by providing for their education, room and board, and daily needs. Your support also ensures that our permanent deacons receive the training necessary to serve the Church faithfully in mind, heart, and soul.

**Caring For our Retired Priests.** Our priests faithfully administer the sacraments, accompany families, and lead our parishes. After a lifetime of service, your contributions help provide for the needs of our retired priests, including transportation, meals, and housing at the Saint John Vianney Residence for our retired priests. There, they are given a comfortable home and opportunities to continue celebrating Mass and participating in spiritual retreats. It is from the St. John Vianney Residence that the priests who cover the parish Masses while I am away from the parish come and help with the spiritual needs of this parish.

Over the last eight years as your pastor, you have always responded well with this call to help our bishop in these and other ministries that affect us and the diocese. And while I know with the price of gasoline and all of the other inflation costs all budgets (for you and your family and me and the parish budget) are strained. And every time this happens, I pray a bit harder putting this is in God's hands telling God that this really is His Church that he needs to help us care for. And every time I have, something always happens and the problem gets solved.

I hope that you can renew the same monthly pledge that you have made in years past and we can be a parish success for the 2026 BSA. Please pray this week as what your family can pledge. God will bless us.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

# Religious Education



**FHC Masses:** Sunday, May 3, at 9AM and 2PM. Practice and third reconciliation Saturday, May 2, at 9AM

**Confirmation Mass:** Wednesday, May 13, at 6:00PM, at SJoC. Practice: Wed., May 6, at 6PM.

Our Sacramental prayer partners are asked to return their crosses and/or rosaries to the parish office by April 23.



## Senior Corner

### Attention Youth of the Parish!

Are you feeling a call to serve the Lord? Would you like to be more active in our faith? Do you want to participate hands-on during Mass? Here's your chance!



The **SJC Altar Server Ministry** will hold our **Annual New Server Orientation** on May 16 at 9:30 AM in the church.

Any youth of our parish grades 3-12, who has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist (FHC) and has a desire to serve the Lord in an active way at Mass is welcome join our ministry! To register or for more information, please contact the Parish Office.

## Senior Corner

The **St. John of the Cross Joint** and the **Knights of Columbus 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.**



**Graduation Mass**—Sunday, May 17, at 11AM. Please let the parish office know if your graduating senior will participate.

## 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.



Congratulations to Cesarine and Maximus Cantu on receiving their First Holy Communion this past Sunday.

*"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart..." - St. Therese of Lisieux*

**Journey to Damascus (JTD)** is a 3-day Christian weekend for those who want to deepen their relationship with God, strengthen their faith, and experience true Christian brother/sisterhood. It is open to all denominations and centers on renewal through prayer, reflection, and community. **JTD** is for those seeking a stronger foundation in Christ and deeper unity with other believers.



It is for those who:

- \*want to grow spiritually,
- \* need time away from distractions to reconnect with God,
- \* value community, faith, and encouragement.

The weekend is full physically, emotionally, and spiritually, so pilgrims should set aside outside responsibilities and come ready to be present.

The upcoming 2026 Weekend Schedule is

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Women's</u>
June 18-21	April 23-26
September 17-20	July 30—August 2
	October 15-18

Weekends are held at OLCC Campus on Lantana and the Weekend Fees are \$225 (assistance is available for those with need). More information can be found at [www.journeytodamascus.org](http://www.journeytodamascus.org) or you may contact Bud Coldwell @ (361) 779-1971.

**ORANGE GROVE RIFLE CLUB'S MAYFEAST**  
**Sunday, MAY 3RD**  
 400 HARROD ST. ORANGE GROVE, TX 78372

**BBQ PLATE LUNCH**  
 Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad & Fixings  
 Plates Served 11:30AM - 1:00PM  
 \$20 per Plate

**PARADE AT 2:00 PM!**  
 Pumpen Races by the ORANGE GROVE VFD  
 3:00 PM

**Dance 5:00PM - 9:00PM**  
 TIMOTHY NOEL & THE BAND  
 Crowning of the MAYFEAST QUEEN at 8:00 PM!

# Diocesan News

Please be aware that news media outlets have approached parishioners after Mass on public property to ask for comments regarding President Trump's remarks about Pope Leo XIV. If a news media outlet approaches you for comments, please refer them to your pastor or the diocese. The Diocesan Office of Communications is referring them to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops or the official response.



**SHAPING THE FUTURE** - Catholic Young Adult Leadership Formation ~ special day-long retreat. Mass begins at 9:00AM, and is followed by talks, workshops, and personal prayer time, as well as lunch together. There is no cost, but you must register in advance to participate. RSVP to [soconnor@diocesecc.org](mailto:soconnor@diocesecc.org) Last day to register: Thursday, April 23.

**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)



## Celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

Reception of the Bishop into his Cathedral and consecration of the new altar

**Thursday, June 4, 2026**

Mass begins at 6PM with procession to follow.

This will be a truly historic moment in our diocese.

Please save the date. We look forward to celebrating with you united as the Body of Christ.

## High School Leadership Retreat ~

Applications are now available for the upcoming High School Diocesan Leadership program and retreat. The retreat will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Corpus Christi.

The cost is \$30 per person. Apply at <https://form.jotform.com/communicationsdofcc/leadership-liability>



**Father Walsh's Summer Camp**—designed for adults 10 yrs. and up with a special ability, blind, deaf, or hard of hearing.

June 9 –11

9:00AM—2:00PM

Check-in & Breakfast: 9:00AM

St. John Paul High School

Register at  
<https://catholiccharities-cc.org/summercamp>



Registration ends May 15

**Father Walsh's VBS**— a fun-filled day of adventure and faith, designed for children ages 4-13 with a special ability, blind, deaf, or hard of hearing.

June 12

9:00AM—2:00PM

Check-in & Breakfast: 9:00AM

St. John Paul High School

Register at  
<https://catholiccharities-cc.org/vbs>



**SAVE THE DATE ~ CAMP ROOTED**, Diocesan camp, will be held July 9th through July 11th at the Spirit Center.

The cost to participate is \$75. Registration details are coming soon.

This will be an amazing experience and parish youth leaders are encouraged to bring their groups of teens to be a part of this gathering that will focus on leadership, fellowship, and faith.

## Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!  
Text **SJCOG** to **84576**  
**Or Connect with us online at:**  
[www.stjohnog.flocknote.com](http://www.stjohnog.flocknote.com)

## Social Media



**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/  
Stjohnogtx](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnogtx)

## Live Streaming

**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,

## Why are there different stories about Jesus' resurrection?

As a whole, the New Testament is a testimonial to the resurrection. About twenty years after Jesus' death, St. Paul offers the earliest written reference to the resurrection. (See 1 Thessalonians 1:10.) All four gospels tell the story of Jesus, who was crucified, rose from the dead, and appeared to his disciples. However, the evangelists incorporated elements that were handed on orally, and they presented them in their own style to address the particular needs and cultural backgrounds of their readers. Each author attempted to express the inexpressible resurrection within the limits of language, and they selectively highlighted or omitted material for theological purposes. If minor details vary among the writers—such as the number of women or angels at Christ's tomb—these variations are consistent with the nature of eyewitness accounts and recorded events as they are remembered. Divergent accounts are not false accounts. Despite discrepancies, the objective of the authors remained uncompromised: the identity of the historical Jesus of Nazareth is now the risen Lord of All. (See Acts 10:34–43.) Moreover, the authors wanted to convey this fundamental truth: Jesus Christ's defeat of death by his resurrection is central to our Christian hope and is the assurance of our own resurrection! Guided by the Holy Spirit, the gospels' resurrection accounts have inspired believers for 2,000 years—for “if Christ has not been raised, then...empty, too, your faith” (1 Corinthians 15:14). ●



VLADIS CHUBIN / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Mark, Evangelist	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8–15 Jn 6:22–29	Acts 7:51–8:1a Jn 6:30–35	Acts 8:1b–8 Jn 6:35–40	Acts 8:26–40 Jn 6:44–51	Acts 9:1–20 Jn 6:52–59	1 Pt 5:5b–14 Mk 16:15–20	Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Pt 2:20b–25 Jn 10:1–10



ALESSIA PERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*The Church is brokenhearted at the cry of pain rising from places devastated by war.... We must never get used to war!... For this reason, in the name of human dignity and international law, I reiterate to those in positions of responsibility the frequent warning of...Pope Pius XII: “Nothing is lost with peace. Everything may be lost with war.”*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 18, 2025