

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 / 1 Peter 2:20b–25 / John 10:1–10



## Good News!

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 / 1 Peter 2:20b–25 / John 10:1–10

MIGUEL DULICK

It is “Good Shepherd Sunday,” and the gospel quotes Jesus: “I am the gate for the sheep.” It seems the oddest of Jesus’ “I am” identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep’s pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—“strangers” who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as “thieves and robbers.”

Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow him because we recognize “his voice.” In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like “a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). ●

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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.-April 26	9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family † Randall Godley by Robert & Nancy Vial People of the Parish
Sun.-May 3	9:15 AM	† Monsignor Morgan Rowsome (birthday) by Charles & † Phyllis Toler Naida Hrdlicka (birthday blessing) by Robert & Nancy Vial 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:



**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 Celina Garcia**



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 veterans and parishioners serving in the military. 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

PREVIOUS WEEK	04/12/2026	CURRENT WEEK	04/19/2026
Collection	\$1050.00	Collection	\$694.00

## 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 come with pinto beans and potato salad.  
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, May 13**, 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, May 23**.



# A Note From Our Pastor

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**For me it was necessary to share this reflection on the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal with the parish and the mission on this BSA Weekend. Please read and reflect with an open heart.  
Fr. Patrick**



***One Body in Christ – The Impact of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal***  
*by Sofia Rodriguez from the South Texas Catholic, Spring 2026*

On any given day in South Texas, the life of the Church unfolds in quiet but powerful ways.

A priest stands at the altar and elevates the Eucharist.

A college student kneels in adoration after a long week of classes.

A child in a Catholic classroom learns their first prayer.

A struggling family receives food, counseling, and clothing.

A homebound parishioner watches Mass through a livestream, united in prayer from afar.

These separate moments are deeply connected. They are our story. And together, through our Bishop's Stewardship Appeal, we make them possible. Each year, we are invited to live more intentionally as One Body in Christ, united in belief and in shared responsibility for the mission entrusted to us. In 2025, more than 13,800 gifts from faithful households across our Diocese strengthened ministries and services that reach every parish and every community. These are some of moments to reflect upon.

## **Caring for Those who Serve – Our Priests**

Our priests walk with us through every season of life. They baptize our children, witness our marriages, anoint the sick, and preach the Gospel week after week. Their vocation is one of complete self-gift. After a lifetime of service, your contributions help provide for the needs of our retired priests, including transportation, meals, and housing at the St. John Vianney Clergy Residence. There, they are given a comfortable home and opportunities to continue celebrating Mass and participating in spiritual retreats. As they guide the faithful, they also help call forth the next generation of leaders.

## **Preparing Tomorrow's Shepherds – Our Future Priests**

Hope for the Church's future is evident in the quiet discernment of a seminarian and the faithful preparation of a deacon candidate, balancing formation with family life. Each man responding to God's call represents a promise that will one day be witnessed in a homily, a baptism, or a parish strengthened in faith. In the summer of 2025, we rejoiced as three new priests were ordained for our Diocese. Today, we are blessed to support three seminarians who are prayerfully preparing to give their lives in service to Christ and His Church. Through the Vocation Office and the Permanent Diaconate Formation, your generosity helps ensure that future priests and deacons are formed in mind, heart, and soul as they respond to God's call. The Church does not exist only today. It is built for generations to come.

## **Sharing the Good News – Proclaiming the Gospel**

In today's digital world, the Church's voice must reach beyond physical walls. Through diocesan communications, the Gospel is proclaimed in new and creative ways. Through the broadcast of Sunday Mass on digital media platforms, the South Texas Catholic magazine, Catholic Connect, and the Corpus Christi Catholic Network App, the diocesan communications team connects our entire diocese and amplifies the voice of our Church. When we support communications, we extend the reach of Christ's voice into homes, hospitals, dorm rooms, and workplaces throughout South Texas. Yet the Gospel is not proclaimed by words alone. It is also revealed through works of mercy.

**One Body, One Mission – St. John of the Cross Church only exists within our Diocese of Corpus Christi**

From altar to classroom, from campus chapel to the St. John Vianney Residence for retired priests, the story is the same. We belong to one another. The Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is not simply about sustaining programs. It is about living our identity as One Body in Christ. Every gift strengthens the mission entrusted to us. When we give, we care for those who serve, form future shepherds, educate young minds, guide young adults, proclaim the Gospel, and restore hope to the vulnerable.

*Together, we are sent to serve.*

*Together, we build up the Church.*

*Together, we continue writing this story of faith across the Diocese of Corpus Christi.*

**As your Pastor, I have already made my pledge to the BSA. Please make your pledge. Fr. Patrick**

# Religious Education

**FHC Masses:** Sunday, May 3, at 9AM (Sanchez) and 2PM (Alanis).

Practice and third reconciliation Saturday, May 2, at 9AM (Sanchez) & 10:30AM (Alanis).

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

If you volunteered to be a Sacramental prayer partner, please return the cross and/or rosary to the parish office first thing Monday morning.

## Altar Servers

### 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.



One Mission. One Movement.  
One Million Connected.



Scan QR Code

## CONNECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Newman Connection is the bridge helping students stay connected to their faith after high school.

Powered by partnerships with dioceses, parishes, high schools, and campus ministries, this mission is made possible thanks to generous donors and ministry partners working together through the Faith Forward Movement.



**NEWMAN CONNECTION**

[www.newmanconnection.org](http://www.newmanconnection.org)

## Community



**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

Men's  
June 18-21  
September 17-20

Women's  
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! ★**  
 Pumper 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



“**World Day of Prayer for Vocations**” is Sunday, April 26. The purpose of **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God’s call.

## 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/communicationsdfcc/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 9<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## 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!”

# Dear Padre,

***Should Christians avoid practicing qi gong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.***

This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

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



VLADKA KAMRNOVA / PEXELS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:11-18	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Acts 12:24-13:5a Jn 12:44-50	Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14	Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12



MARCO IACUCCI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.***

**ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025**