

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

• **May 3, 2026**

• **Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)**

• **Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12**



Good News!

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

When I was a child, my parents taught me to pray with my hands pressed together, fingers pointed upward toward God. But somewhere along the way, I learned a different posture for prayer: seated, with my palms facing upward on my lap. It's a gesture of openness—an acknowledgment that I come before God in humble need, ready to receive whatever he wants to give.

In today's gospel, Philip approaches Jesus in a similar stance of openness. "Show us the Father," he says, "and that will be enough for us" (John 14:8). Jesus responds that Philip has already seen the Father because Jesus' words and actions are the Father's words and actions. Philip needs no more—he has already received "enough."

Sometimes, I need this reminder myself. I long for a new insight into God that perhaps one more book or one more lecture will give me. Don't get me wrong: lifelong learning is a wonderful thing, and there is always more of God to discover! But it is important to acknowledge that, like Philip, I have already come to know the Father through Jesus, and everything I need to live the Christian life is already in place. Rather than more knowledge, it is a question of putting into action what I've been taught.

Of late, when I pray, I have embraced a new prayer posture: turning my hands downward, resting my palms on my knees. It helps me remember that with Jesus as my shepherd, I "shall not want." I already have all I need. •

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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.-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
Sun.-May 10	9:15 AM	† Steve Lile 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:
Mama Cecilia, 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, Audry 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, Andrew Saenz, Robert Silva, and Noah Vasquez



St. John of the Cross will 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 by July 4, 2026.

Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	04/19/2026	CURRENT WEEK	04/26/2026
Collection	\$694.00	Collection	\$424.26
		Catholic Home Mission	\$61.00



There is a **SPECIAL** collection this weekend to support the retired priests of our diocese. Through generous donations, those men who answered God's call to serve the church receive assistance, including medical expenses as well as living expenses at the St. John Vianney Home.



Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: MAY 4, 2026 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: MAY 5, 2026

CASA DE LUCY

MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM.

Religious Education

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

Graduation Mass—will be celebrated Sunday, May 17, at St. Francis at 9:15 AM and then at St. John at 11AM. Please let the parish office know if your graduating senior will participate.

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 Jesus,



As we end our year of religious education, Father Patrick asked that Terrie Silva, Director of Religious Education, and Laura Adams, Assistant Director of Religious Education share the following:

Every spring we celebrate the sacrament of initiation at the Easter Vigil as well as those students receiving their First Holy Communion and those candidates being confirmed in their faith.

And so, this weekend we celebrate 24 children receiving their First Holy Communion.

We celebrate this sacrament as the Catholic Church around the world experienced record-breaking numbers of people being initiated into the Catholic Church at Easter. People today are spiritually hungry and find deeper meaning in life through this shared faith. These Catholic converts find renewed, intense focus on the Eucharist as a key factor in their search for true, objective presence in a chaotic world.

And our young candidates find peace in receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. How appropriate that in today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus tell his disciples that he is "the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." These children, in receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist will come to know Jesus and the Father.

They spent two years learning and preparing to receive the body and blood of Christ in this Sacrament, two years of memorizing prayers, learning about the Mass, and growing closer to Christ.

And so, let us congratulate our First Holy Communion students:

Evelyn Diaz	Jonathan Huffman
Johnathan Cade	Joshua Huffman,
Audrey Cunningham	Logan Ivy
Andrew Diaz	Ava Kraatz
Henry Diaz	Nancy Lopez
Joselyn Diaz-Ordonez	Rowan Lopez
Natalie Diaz	Nancy Ordonez
Yessenia Diaz,	Porter Ortiz
Annalaya Gonzalez	Gabriel Resendiz
Lia Gonzalez,	Emily Saenz
Olivia Gonzalez	Bruno Zaragoza
Olivia Hippensteal	Viviana Zaragoza

We extend sincere gratitude to our First Holy Communion teachers for preparing our students for this monumental moment: Isabel Alanis, Sue Alejandro, and Belinda Sanchez.

As our First Holy Communion students grow in faith and love with the Father through Jesus in the Eucharist, we pray that they continue on that path to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which we will celebrate here at St. John on Wednesday, May 13, as 10 students and 3 adults will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Aviles.

This past week was our last class of religious education, and we invite the youth of our parish in grades kindergarten through fifth grade to plan to attend our Vacation Bible School: Let's go on a Road Trip -on the go with God July 20 – 24.

Please save the date for registration and orientation for our religious education program on August 26 and 31 as well as the first day of class on Wednesday, September 2.

We also want to express sincere gratitude for all of our religious education teachers, classroom helpers, attendance aids, and those who helped with/ provided meals. Their participation and commitment to guiding our youth in their faith journey is truly life-changing for these youth. With that, as we look forward to next year's religious education program, we will need at least three teachers to cover classes next year. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help in our religious education program, please contact the parish office.

Yours in Christ,
Religious Education Staff

Dear Padre,

I have one daughter and a grandchild who say they are bisexual and very much into the LGBTQ lifestyle, where they feel like they belong. I do not know how to handle all of this. They left the Catholic faith years ago. I do not believe they are atheists. Please help.

You are not alone in your struggle to know how to “handle all of this.” It’s hard for parents when their children choose a different lifestyle.

Try not to confuse gender expression with faith. Try not to confuse sexual orientation with faith. Just because a person is attracted to someone of the same sex does not mean they are not a person of faith. They may believe in God and even worship God in their own way. It sounds like your daughter and grandchild are honest with you. If they are willing, perhaps talking with them about how they experience God in their lives would be a fruitful conversation.

Whatever you do, the best practice is to love. Love your daughter and grandchild. When they express to you what they believe to be true about themselves, they are not asking for your permission. They are entrusting you with what they believe they have learned about themselves. Perhaps that very openness with you is a lesson that you taught them and a sign that they want to share with you what is important to them. ●

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



ANGVALDSI BEATA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We live in a time that rewards self-sufficiency, efficiency, performance. And yet, the gospel shows us that the measure of our humanity is



not given by what we can achieve, but by our ability to let ourselves be loved and, when necessary, even helped. Jesus saves us by showing us that

asking is not unworthy, but liberating.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

May 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5–18

Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday

May 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19–28

Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday

May 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1–6

Jn 15:1–8

Thursday

May 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:7–21

Jn 15:9–11

Friday

May 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22–31

Jn 15:12–17

Saturday

May 9

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1–10

Jn 15:18–21

Sunday

May 10

Sixth Sunday of

Easter

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21