

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

• May 10, 2026

• **Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)**

• Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 / 1 Peter 3:15–18 / John 14:15–21



Good News!

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 / 1 Peter 3:15–18 / John 14:15–21

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The church celebrates again and again during the Easter season a core truth of Christian thought and belief: “the already and the not yet.” Jesus has already saved us, but we have not yet experienced the fullness of the kingdom. In this belief, there is tension, the experience of standing in the middle, where the tension is lived, and hopefully where balance is achieved.

What makes the tension bearable is that we know we have not been left as orphans. We are not on our own. The Spirit of God is sent to us and enables us to hold fast to what we have known and experienced and what is still unknown to us. Scripture and tradition, dogmas and doctrines, sacraments and sacramentals, practices and disciplines, all inspired by the Spirit of God, provide us with the necessary support and direction and help us remain balanced.

As wonderful as each of these gifts of the Spirit may be, each gift must be received, encountered, enabled, and lived. If the gifts are given but never received—and, even more important, used and shared—we not only refuse a gift freely given by our God but also deprive ourselves of the means to maintain our balance and remain on the path that leads to life and light. •

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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 10 Mother's Day	9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Family † Steve Lile by Robert & Nancy Vial People of the Parish
Sun.-May 17 Graduation Mass	9:15 AM	† Phyllis Toler by Charles Toler Margaret Victor (birthday blessings) by Robert & Nancy Vial 2026 Graduates 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 honor our 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 be delivered by July 4, 2026.

Please contact the parish office to provide a mailing address for your service member or veteran.



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	04/26/2026	CURRENT WEEK	05/03/2026
Collection	\$424.00	Collection	\$1014.26
Catholic Home Mission	\$61.00	Retired Diocesan priests	\$117.00

Bishop's Stewardship Appeal 2026—Through the **Bishop's Stewardship Appeal**, you sustain the programs, pastoral services, schools, vocations, outreach, and care for retired clergy that serve every parish community across our Diocese of Corpus Christi. With your gift you are: Forming young minds and hearts, Forming disciples on campus, Preparing tomorrow's shepherds, Caring for retired priests, Growing in faith and formation.

SFoA 2026 BSA GOAL—\$2,811 **Current pledge** — \$895 **% Participation** — 5% of parish (4 families of 86 registered families pledge)



Today's **SECOND** collection supports the summer electric fund.
As the days grow hotter, your generosity in keeping our buildings cool is appreciated!



Parish Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: JUNE 2, 2026

CASA DE LUCY

MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM.

Religious Education

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

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, June 27.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on Thursday, June 4, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on Saturday, May 23.



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Happy Mothers' Day!

This weekend, we celebrate two momentous events, the First Anniversary of our new Pope - Pope Leo XIV, and Mothers' Day. And while it might look as totally divergent events, there is a common thread that unites them - Responding to the Vocational Call.



How many women do we know who have given birth to a child, but they do not become a “mother” to their child? There is the biological “motherhood” in the generation of a new life and there is “True Motherhood” that is the loving and nurturing maternal care for a new life. Recently, I joined a couple with whom I have been close friends for over 35 years for an anniversary lunch. And as I was reflecting on this letter on Mothers' Day weekend, I thought of this woman, who has never given birth to a child, but has been a mother to children three times over. Christy is the oldest of four children in her family, and she simply responded to the call of caring for her younger siblings while she herself was still a young person. Her parents were very hard working to care for the family and were often at work, and unfortunately, missed some of the daily opportunities to be the mother / father to the children. And Christy stepped in to fulfill that nurturing and caring role – making lunches and meals, binding up scrapes and injuries, and comforting them in their distresses. She was being a mother without ever having given birth to these children. After her marriage to a wonderful man, she continued caring for her siblings and took on the additional caring for other older children in the extended family who came to live with them in their house due to all sorts of other situations and difficulties. She was mother to three young children all the way through their time in college. And then almost twenty years later, she and her husband received the blessing of adopting a child from a very young woman of her family who couldn't care for or keep the child. She is one I truly call a “blessed” mother. Motherhood is responding to the call for the caring and nurturing of children in love, hope, and faith.

On May 8th, Pope Leo celebrated his first anniversary as the Pope for our Catholic Church. One year ago, the Church asked him directly, “Do you accept the role and responsibility to be the next pontiff of the Church?”. Pope Leo had already responded to the vocation of priesthood, then the vocation as a bishop, and finally to the vocation of being a cardinal, and then once more called to serve the Church in yet another capacity as Holy Father. It has been an ongoing vocational choice that was being presented to him, to serve God and the Church. I am grateful that he accepted to be Pope Leo XIV. But with all of the ups and downs in his Pontificate over this last year - the war in Israel and Iran, and the recent tensions reported to us by the media between Pope Leo and our country's administration - I am sure that he is reflecting on “I didn't think it would be this difficult and stressful”. As the Head of the Universal Catholic Church, the popes have always striven to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for peace and the common good of all humanity. As Pope Leo XIV, he must always avoid any nationalistic or political involvement, but also as Pope Leo, he must also proclaim the Church's teachings in light of current political situations. It is within the rights of every person, to offer our Catholic Church's position as alternative solutions to problems and needs in the world. Let us pray that our Holy Father will be strong in proclaiming our “Catholic Teachings of Peace and the Common Good” in all of his actions, deeds and words.

On this coming Wednesday, we as the Diocese of Corpus Christi pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Emeritus Rene Gracida, the fifth Bishop of our Diocese. We pray in thanksgiving for all the deceased bishops and retired bishops of our diocese who have striven to lead us in years past. And I ask you to join with me in praying fervently for Bishop Mario Avilés, C.O. - our new ordinary as he completes four months into this new call to lead our Diocese of Corpus Christi. We need to support him in all of his decisions and as a reminder to support the 2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal with a pledge for this year's campaign.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

What are the role and responsibilities of a parish priest in his church and community?

Primarily, a parish priest is a teacher and sanctifier. As teacher, he is obliged to instruct people in the faith, especially through the homily and catechetical formation—the Catholic education of children and young adults. He fosters “works through which the spirit of the gospel is promoted, even in what pertains to social justice.” With lay assistance, he brings the gospel message “to those who have ceased the practice of their religion or do not profess the true faith” (*Code of Canon Law* 528 §1).

As sanctifier, he works “so that the Christian faithful are nourished through the devout celebration of the sacraments,” especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance. He is also responsible for ensuring that the Eucharist is central to the faith community by encouraging active participation in the liturgy and parish life so that it’s authentically celebrated. (See *CCL* 528 §2.)

His other pastoral obligations are in the area of governance. These duties include outreach to those entrusted to his care, especially the sick and dying. He fosters growth in the Christian life within the family. “[W]ith particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties.” Moreover, he is responsible for grounding his local community within the broader universal Church’s mission. (See *CCL* 529.) ●



ZAMRZLITI/TONKOWI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Lord wanted us in this time filled with challenges that, at times, seem to exceed our strength. We are called to embrace these challenges, to interpret them evangelically, to experience them as opportunities to bear witness.

Let us not flee from them! Pastoral commitment, like that of study, become for us a school to learn how to build the kingdom of God in today’s complex and challenging history.

ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY OF ROME,
JUNE 12, 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 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday

May 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday

May 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22–18:1

Jn 16:12–15

Thursday

May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1:15–17, 20–26

Jn 15:9–17

Friday

May 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

Saturday

May 16

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

Sunday

May 17

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23

Mt 28:16–20