

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 17, 2026

*The Ascension of the Lord (A)*

Acts 1:1–11 / Ephesians 1:17–23 / Matthew 28:16–20



## Good News!

May 17, 2026

*The Ascension of the Lord (A)*

Acts 1:1–11 / Ephesians 1:17–23 / Matthew 28:16–20

MIGUEL DULICK

**Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord,** the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●

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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.-May 17</b> 9:15 AM <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> <b>Graduation Mass</b>	† Phyllis Toler by Charles Toler Margaret Victor (birthday blessings) by Robert & Nancy Vial 2026 Graduates People of the Parish
<b>Sun.-May 24</b> 9:15 AM <b>Pentecost</b>	† Yolanda Ochoa by Family † Richard Phillips by Robert & Nancy Vial † Phyllis Toler by Charles Toler 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	05/03/2026	CURRENT WEEK	05/10/2026
Collection	\$1014.00	Collection	\$518.26
Retired Diocesan priests	\$117.00	Summer Electric Fund	\$112.00

Today's **SECOND** collection is for our **Religious Education Fund** that supports our Vacation Bible School. With your generous donations, we will be able to purchase supplies to provide a fun, faith-filled VBS. This year's theme is Let's go on a Road Trip—on the go with God.

There is a **SPECIAL** collection this weekend for the **Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign**. Through websites, social networks, television, radio, and print, the **Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)** helps the Church spread the Gospel message through the media locally and nationally. Half of all donations to the CCC collected in your diocese *stay* in your diocese to support your local communications needs, such as radio and television programming and diocesan publications.



## Parish Organizations

**ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY** NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 5 @ 2PM

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335**



NEXT MEETING: JUNE 2

**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 27**, 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,

It has been an exciting few days! Hold on to the story.

Late Thursday evening I received a phone call from my sister – I thought it was just a regular check-in type call from my little sister who lives in Manassas, Virginia – but it wasn't. She was on a 14-day cruise through the Panama Canal. On the tenth day they stopped in Los Angeles, CA, where she had a medical emergency on the cruise ship - short of breath and chest pain. Since the medical team on the ship determined it to be beyond their Capabilities, they transferred her by an ambulance to a hospital in San Pedro, CA, for testing and observation. And then the ship sailed away to its next stop on the cruise. Now she was alone in a hospital with no family or friends and not sure what was happening. Her husband in Virginia couldn't travel by air by himself, and her daughter had just given birth a few months earlier to baby Benjamin and couldn't travel to help her. So, she called her brother - the priest - to rescue her! Early Friday morning I took a flight to Long Beach, California, arriving late Friday night and visited her in the hospital. What was a "heart attack", turned out to be a severe cardiac event, but not a heart attack and which she had already recovered from and she was ready to be discharged. So Saturday we boarded a flight to Washington Dulles Airport to take her home to Virginia and her husband Roger. With layovers and time differences, we arrived at 11:30 PM. Due to the lack of flights, I had to wait till Monday to fly back to Texas. Getting up at 3:30 AM to catch the Uber to the airport, I was able to get to the 5:30 AM flight to return to Corpus Christi. So in essence, I flew across the United States twice in three days! But I was able to deliver my little sister in good condition and good health to my brother-in-law. What a good brother am I!

There was an urgency in getting back for the Monday evening Parish Pastoral Council meeting to share the latest updates on the signed contracts and the preparations for the beginning of the stucco work and the stained glass windows. The two companies are ready to begin in the next few weeks once they can coordinate an actual start date. I will be talking to the two project leaders this coming week. I re-emphasized to the Parish Council members the necessity for them, the Parish Finance Council and the Building Fund Capital Campaign Committee, to take a more pro-active role in their roles in those positions. The members of these councils are the lead advisors to the Pastor of the Parish and they need to be present and support for the good of the parish, *because ...*

Having attained the age of seventy years old, in March of this year, I petitioned Bishop Avilés for retirement from active ministry in a parish, and he granted me retirement effective July 1, 2026. I have served the Diocese of Corpus Christi faithfully for over fifty years as a seminarian and as a priest and it is time for me to take a step back from the administration of a parish. Being a priest to celebrate the Sacraments and to lead others to Christ through teaching and preaching is the most wonderful part of my life! To see the many movements of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of so many people over the years has brought me real joy and peace. But the reality of my brother's diagnosis with Alzheimer's, my sister's failing health, and my simply getting old, reminded me that I also have a need to self-care in my later years. And it will always happen, "that this is the time for the next generation of Catholic faithful to step-up and take on the role of continuing the Catholic Faith in the world". That is the center of our celebration of Confirmation last night! Fifteen young adults who stood in our parish church to proclaim that they are ready to take up the challenge to live their life in Christ for the future of our parish and our Catholic Church. May everyone in the parish take up that mantra – "It is my Church and my parish and I must stand up and continue to do my part!"

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick



# Religious Education

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of our religious education teachers and helpers! Thanks to you, our youth are growing in their faith! As we end this year's religious education program, we are already in the planning stages for next year's program. We need at least five teachers to cover all grade levels. If you feel called to help grow our youth's faith, please contact the parish office. Your help is needed!



Save the Date ~ **Vacation Bible School**—July 20—24, 5:30PM—8:00PM  
**Let's go on a Road Trip—on the go with God.** Registration begins June 1.

## Senior Corner

**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.

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

**NEWMAN CONNECTION**

One Mission. One Movement. One Million Connected.

Scan QR Code

**Graduation Mass**— Sunday, May 17, at 11AM.



Congratulations to our  
St. John of the Cross Scholarship recipients:  
Altar Society—Linden Rodriguez  
Sociedad Guadalupanas—Alejandra Aguilar  
Knight of Columbus—Aiden Medrano

## Community

### May is the month of our Blessed Mother Mary

All are invited to a presentation on the Apparitions of Mary on Saturday, May 23, from 8:30-1:00PM, in our parish hall.

The sisters from the Pax Christi Institute will lead the presentation.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the church foyer or call the parish office to let us know you plan to attend so that we can have enough materials and food prepared for the workshop.

Come join us as we learn how Mary still speaks to each of us today!



**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	July 30—August 2
September 17-20	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 contact Bud Coldwell @ (361) 779-1971.



## 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

# Diocesan News

## 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 beings 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.

**World Youth Day—Seoul, South Korea**—All young adults (18-39 years old) are invited to join the Diocese of Corpus Christi on pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea for World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV!

There will be an **Info Night on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Parish Hall** (7522 Everhart Rd., Corpus Christi). Full package, cost, and pilgrimage leaders will be presented. Please check diocesan social media for updates coming soon!

**To help sponsor a young adult pilgrim from your parish**, please contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry:

[soconnor@diocesecc.org](mailto:soconnor@diocesecc.org).



## 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,

*I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?*

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



BILLION PHOTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...*

*Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.*

ADDRESS TO MEETING  
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



#### Monday

May 18  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

#### Tuesday

May 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a

#### Wednesday

May 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19

#### Thursday

May 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

#### Friday

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19

#### Saturday

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

#### Sunday

May 24  
Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Jn 20:19-23

MARCO IACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK