

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 5, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zechariah 9:9-10 / Romans 8:9, 11-13 / Matthew 11:25-30



Good News!

July 5, 2026

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ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26-27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? •

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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.) - 6:30 PM

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM

Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 5:30 PM

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.-July 5	9:15 AM	Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish
Sun.-July 12	9:15 AM	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:
Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk



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: Juan Luis Alonzo, Jr; 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



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	06/21/2026	CURRENT WEEK	06/28/2026
Collection	\$616.00	Collection	\$1045.00
Vacation Bible School	\$99.00	Our Living Church Building Fund	\$100.00
		Peter's Pence Collection	\$121.00
		June Online Giving	\$976.00

The **SECOND** collection today is for **Our Living Church Building Fund**. The scaffolding is up and stained-glass windows are missing, signs that our renovations are well underway. Your generosity in restoring our parish buildings is greatly appreciated! With the first two projects started, we are looking at our next projects: the repaving of the church parking lot, replacing the electrical box at the Religious Ed building, and the new roof for the parish hall. Your continued support of these renovations is appreciated and needed.



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The BSA goal is \$2,811 of which \$2,885 has been pledged. With a projected \$1,080 recurring gifts, SFOa has a total of \$3,965 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 141% of the diocesan goal with 13% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA.

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 5 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: JULY 7

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

CASA DE LUCY



Casa de Lucy Helping Hand Quilting Ministry will take off the month of July and will resume meeting on August 4.

Works of Mercy

Loom Knitting ~ Parishioners are invited to meet in the 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, July 22**, and at
St. Francis on **Saturday, July 11**.



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



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!



As I was reflecting on this last letter as your pastor and this weekend's holiday, what came to mind was the original intentions of the first colonists from England and the later Declaration of Independence. The earliest populations of immigrants that came to North America from Europe were escaping religious persecution and were searching for a new place to begin a new adventure. There were the Puritan Pilgrims first in 1620 to land in Salem, Massachusetts, then Lord Baltimore and the Catholics in Maryland in 1623, and the then in 1681 it was the Quakers in Philadelphia. This is true of most of the original thirteen colonies. But what is more significant about these new foundations was that they all saw themselves as being on a "New Adventure". They did not have any idea as to the new land they were entering into but saw it as a new hope and a new life. These original colonists in America brought little in the way of possessions, but they brought determination and vision. Then after a century and a half under the realm of the King of England, these same colonies united in a new vision to begin a "New Adventure" by declaring themselves independent from the English Crown. And therefore, we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with parades, firecrackers, concerts, and backyard BBQ's and hot dogs. It is that "new vision" and "new adventure" that inspired the original colonists to come to North America. And this vision and adventure later inspired their descendants to send delegates to the Continental Congress in the new adventure – the United States of America. The visions of a new life, new hope, and a new beginning have remained constant from the first pilgrims to the most recent immigrant to the United States. So, on this holiday, whether our forefathers came in 1620 or 2026, I would hope that we can continue to reflect on the Declaration of Independence that proclaimed "life, liberty, and justice for all" and strive to make it truly an American Experience.

Each time my father came home from work to tell us of his new duty station with the Coast Guard and that we would be moving again (as a child it happened 7 times in 16 years), we usually looked to the ending of school friendships, sorting and packing our belongings, and several weeks of moving from and moving into a new house. And that would bring us some sadness and grief. But then my mother would step in with her maternal instinct to have us begin to see the upside of this change. First, we were to reflect on the great experiences and friendships that we had in our current location (and past locations) and to say thanks to God. Second, we were to remember that we were a family and that we always moved together and supported each other no matter where we were stationed. Third, we would be in a new church building, but we were still Catholics and could worship and pray no matter wherever we went in the world. And finally, we were to be brave explorers on a new adventure in a new world! Yes, we would look back a little as to our losses and the changes, but we were constantly reorientated to the future and the new adventure. As a seminarian, I had a new adventure every academic year for seven years! As a priest, I have been transferred ten times in the forty-three years. And with each transfer, there has been sadness, but also adventure. I have learned to appreciate each assignment and put everything into my parish duties at that church community. When asked where I was from, I usually answered "Wherever my suitcase is now is my home!" Where I was living was my home! If we are always looking backwards to the previous locations, we miss the excitement of the present assignment. If we are always looking forward to the next location, we often miss the people and friendships that are present in front of ourselves. And that is where I am!

We celebrate the 250th anniversary of that "new adventure" the Declaration of Independence and the kernel of the United States of America this weekend. I am reflecting and thanking God for my eight years as Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church with all the love, support, and happiness that I have received from you - my parish family. I am filled with so many memories that bring big smiles to my face! Please be aware that I keep all of parishioners from all my parish assignments from over the years in my daily prayers and Masses! And while there is a sadness with leaving, I am remembering what my mother said every time we moved – "It is a new vision, a new beginning, a new adventure"! And I do not say – "Goodbye", I say "Adios" – "Go with God until I see you one day with God in heaven".

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Father Patrick K. Donohoe, you will be missed!



Religious Education

Catechists and classroom aides are needed! ~ There is a real possibility that some grades of religious education cannot be offered during the 2026-2027 year because there are not enough teachers for every grade level, as TWO adults are required for EVERY classroom (one teacher to prepare and present weekly lessons and one classroom aide to assist the teacher in classroom management).

Committed Catholics who have received all of their sacraments and are living out these sacraments daily are needed to teach our youth the traditions of the Catholic Church. All volunteers MUST be Safe Environment certified through the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

If you feel God's call to serve in this ministry, please call the parish office to find out more about how you can help our religious education program. (361-384-2795).

The future of our religious education program really depends upon YOU!.

Save the dates: Registration for the 2026-27 religious education program will take place on August 26 and August 30.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS VBS



JULY 20-24,
5:30PM-8:00 PM

GRADES:
KINDER -FIFTH

PICK UP A
REGISTRATION
FORM IN THE
CHURCH FOYER OR
PARISH OFFICE.

A meal will be
provided each day.

Community

Conquistando Las NACIONES para CRISTO

RETIRO

de sanacion interior

Centro de cursillos 1200 Lantana, Corpus Christi, Tx 78407
24—26 Julio 2026

Communicate a los siguientes nuevos telefonicos: 361-207-0395 361-354-0153 361-446-0221

Entrada Viernes 7-9pm
Llevar articulos
personales y cobijas

Para hombres mujeres
mayores de 18 anos



Diocesan News

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: September 17-20 Women's: July 30—August 2 and 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 or contact Bud Coldwell @ (361) 779-1971.



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.

Save the Date: Celebration of Charity

Give from the Heart

Guest speaker: Bishop Mario Avilés

Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi invites you to **Celebration of Charity** - an inspiring evening celebrating compassion in action and the strength of our community.

The event will take place on **Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilliard Center, 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd.** in Corpus Christi. Guests will enjoy a beautiful evening of fellowship, stories of impact, and a renewed call to serve with love and purpose.

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,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

While the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 6
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

July 7
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

July 8
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

July 9
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15

Friday

July 10
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

July 11
St. Benedict, Abbot
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

July 12
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10–11
Rom 8:18–23
Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9