

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Romans 8:18-23 / Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9



Good News!

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Romans 8:18-23 / Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●

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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. James 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 12	9:15 AM	People of the Parish
Sun.-July 19	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	06/28/2026	CURRENT WEEK	07/05/2026
Collection	\$1045.00	Collection	\$922.00
Our Living Church Building Fund	\$100.00	Our Living Church Building Fund	351.00
Peter's Pence Collection	\$121.00		
Religious Education Collection	\$100.00		
June Online Giving	\$976.00		

There will be a second collection next week for our **religious education program**. Your donation ensures that our religious education teachers have the supplies needed to form the faith of our youth, including new textbooks, online sources, pens, crayons, etc. Your generosity in supporting our religious education program is truly appreciated!



Parish Organizations

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4



CASA DE LUCY

Religious Education



Let's go on a Road trip with God ! Join us for a faith-filled fun week of bible stories, games, arts and crafts.

VBS July 20-24 5:30PM—8:00PM

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade. A meal will be provided each evening.

Save the date for religious education orientation and registration: Wed., August 26, and Sun., August 30. Classes begin Wed., September 2.

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, August 8**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Thursday, August 6**, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, July 25**.



A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to all of you!

As I have been telling people, it is so good to be back in Jim Wells County. When this millennium began, I was serving the people at St. Elizabeth Church in Alice. Now, 26 years later, I am in this beautiful community of Orange Grove serving the people of St. John of the Cross and the mission of St. Francis of Assisi in Lagarto. What an honor it is to be here with you! God has crossed our paths for a reason, and I am looking forward to serving you and learning from you as my time here on this planet continues to unfold.



“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.
Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer.”

Some of you might remember this song of Nat King Cole's. The first time I heard it, I was watching a cartoon and singing it while following a bouncing ball. Remember those cartoons! The song always reminded me that summer was the time to relax. No school, no major responsibilities to fulfill, just time to enjoy the world around us.

As you know, we are in the second half of the longest season of the Church year – Ordinary Time. We always think of God and the living out of our faith in the major seasons of the year, such as Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter. However, in the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer”, God is still present with us. Our faith can strengthen and wonderful things are happening. The Gospel is being shared; good evangelization is taking place. The Word is getting out to people. Even in the ordinary, humdrum, everyday times of life, God is at work.



I walked around the parish property this morning – about a twenty-two-minute walk – and yes, it was hot!!! But I realized that it is indeed a blessing to be here, and I am so happy to be here among you. I am ready to see how the good Lord is going to use me to help us continue to grow as St. John of the Cross parish, and St. Francis of Assisi mission. I will keep an open mind and heart to service and always know what a blessing it is to be here.

Now, one question! Does anyone have an orange tree in their yard?

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●



GUSTAVO FRAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about "departing," but instead "remaining" in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 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 13

Weekday

Is 1:10–17

Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin

Is 7:1–9

Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 15

St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of
the Church

Is 10:5–7, 13b–16

Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 16

Weekday

Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19

Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 17

Weekday

Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8

Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 18

Weekday

Mi 2:1–5

Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

July 19

Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16–19

Rom 8:26–27

Mt 13:24–30 or

13:24–30