

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Pastor:
Rev. James Stembler

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19 / Romans 8:26–27 / Matthew 13:24–43 or 13:24–30



Good News!

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19 / Romans 8:26–27 / Matthew 13:24–43 or 13:24–30

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. “He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]’” (Matthew 13:34–35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn’t force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: “Whoever has ears ought to hear” (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it’s his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn’t God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it’s difficult to tell the difference. Those who are “wheat” should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be “weeds.” The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God’s own time. ●

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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 19	9:15 AM	Birthday blessings for Antonio Medrano, Jr., Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk, & Tony Silva by David & Terrie Silva People of the Parish
Sun.-July 26	9:15 AM	† Dcn. Jim Culpepper (2nd anniv.) by Family 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

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!

Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit names & branch of service.



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	07/05/2026	CURRENT WEEK	07/12/2026
Collection	\$922.00	Collection	\$827.00
Our Living Church Building Fund	\$351.00	Church in Africa	\$132.00

Parish Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4



CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

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.**



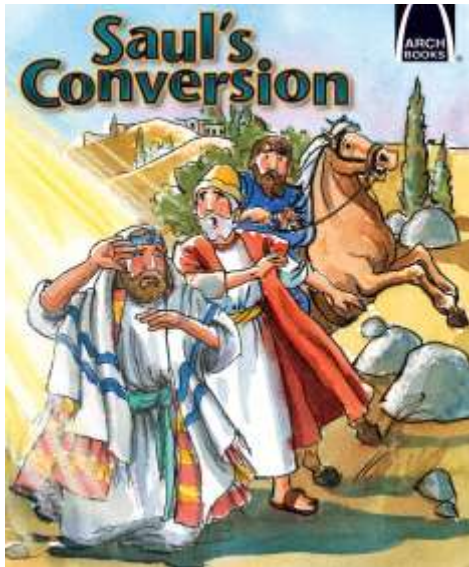
Diocesan News

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. The upcoming Weekend Schedule is **Men's**: Sept. 17-20 **Women's**: Jly 30—Aug 2
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.

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all on this, the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Gospel for this Saturday Vigil/Sunday is a parable which is difficult for several people. Jesus tells a story that deals with the subject of final judgement. That is not something that is in our job description as creations of God. Final judgement is for God to make, and we are to leave that to Him. Using the image in the parable, in the garden that God plants, there are weeds, but we are not the ones that are to be pulling them up and disposing of them. That is something that God will do in the end times. It is not our responsibility to do it now. Because in God's garden, weeds can change to wheat.



The most obvious example of this is St. Paul. As Saul, he persecuted and killed Christians because he did not agree with what they believed. We first meet him in the Acts of the Apostles watching the cloaks of those who are stoning the Deacon Stephen. If anyone or any group had taken it into their own hands to kill him, to get rid of him, look what would have happened! We would be without one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Saul was knocked off his horse, called by Jesus, and became an Apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote several letters to communities, some of which he founded, and spread the Word of God across the Mediterranean Sea area from the Middle East into Greece, and eventually to the city of Rome. This “weed” changed into “wheat” by the grace of God.

Therefore, who are we to get rid of weeds? We cannot make final judgements on people because through the grace of God, people can change. Why would we substitute our own final judgement about people as if God's grace cannot work on them? Something to think about...

We are called by God to pray for one another, to support and help one another, but not make final judgements about one another. God is greater than any of us, and God is working in the lives of all of us. Good things are happening, and they can't happen if we make final judgements of one another – if we substitute our own will for the will of God who created all things, including people who are different than us. May we continue to pray for one another so that the will of God will work out in all of us.

God bless!
Fr. James G. Stembler



Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

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



VASYLCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters....

Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY,
ROME, JANUARY 7, 2026

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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 20
Weekday
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8
Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday

July 21
Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday

July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

July 23
Weekday
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
Mt 13:10-17

Friday

July 24
Weekday
Jer 3:14-17
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28

Sunday

July 26
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52
or 13:44-46

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

Entrada Viernes 7-9pm
Llevar articulos
personales y cobijas

Para hombres mujeres
mayores de 18 anos



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

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!”