

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



Good News!

July 26, 2026

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1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like "the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ●

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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 26	9:15 AM	† Dcn. Jim Culpepper (2nd anniv.) by Family People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug. 2	9:15 AM	Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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	07/12/2026	CURRENT WEEK	07/19/2026
Collection	\$827.00	Collection	\$1101.00
Church in Africa	\$132.00	Religious Education	\$155.00

There will be a **SECOND** collection NEXT weekend to support the Capital Campaign that funds **Our Living Church Building Fund**. We can see the fruits of our generosity as the stucco repair is well underway, some of the stained-glass windows have been taken out for repair, and we can all hear with the newly installed sound system. Your continued generosity is needed to complete the restoration of our parish buildings.

Parish Organizations

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4



CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

Religious Education

A HUGE "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!" goes to all of the volunteers who helped make our Vacation Bible School a success! We had 55 participants take a Road Trip with God and 16 youth volunteers.

Religious education begins **Wednesday, September 2. Save the Date** – Registration and orientation for Religious Education: **Wed., Aug. 26, at 6:00PM, and Sun., Aug. 30, at 12:00 PM.**

All students in junior high thru high school and a parent/guardian must attend a mandatory orientation in the parish hall to register. Parents who have children in jr. high – high school AND elementary grades and the student(s) MUST attend the orientation to register ALL of their children.

Parents who ONLY have children in elementary grades are not required to attend an orientation to register their child(ren) and can register in the Religious Ed building.



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 29**, 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, August 22**

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all!

A liturgical moment:

In the Roman Catholic Church, there must be exactly one main crucifix in the sanctuary visible to the congregation during Mass. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, it is placed either on the altar or near it.

Here at St. John of the Cross, the main crucifix is suspended over the altar, visible to all in the Church. Therefore, the processional cross will now be kept in the side altar server sacristy and vesting area.

I may include a liturgical moment from time to time just to keep us in line with the mind of the Church. We all need it from time to time. So, may God watch over us as we continue to be true to the mind of the Church.

All is really going well with me as I continue to unpack and transition into this community of Orange Grove. And what a wonderful community you are! Between here and the Mission of St. Francis of Assisi in Lagarto, these are wonderful communities in which good work is being accomplished!

That is great!

Collaboration is the name of the game in the Church right now, I do believe. We help and support each other as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ! Through this witness, the kingdom of God is being realized in and around us.

May God bless us everyone as we continue to be His witnesses in this world!

Be assured of prayers!

Fr. James G. Stembler



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: July 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.



PLEDGEFEST 2026 HAPPENS SOON!



For more than 41 years, KLUX 89.5 HD Radio has been blessed to serve the Coastal Bend community by providing positive, uplifting, and faith-filled programming.

PledgeFest 2026 will take place on the air from Monday, August 24th through Friday, the 28th with a goal of \$55,000. With your prayers and financial support, this campaign will meet—and even exceed—this goal.

See more details, and also find out how you can volunteer. Help ensure that "Good Company" Radio remains a source of inspiration for years to come.



For any young adults (18-39) who are interested in joining the diocesan World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea August 1-10, 2027.

Please visit <https://diocesecc.org/wyd> to register by September 30th.

For all questions or to sponsor a pilgrim, please contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org.



The Diocesan Marriage Formation Retreat Weekend – “**Unveiled**” will be held at

Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center

(4601 Calallen Dr, Corpus Christi, TX)

starting 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, August 1st** until **Sunday, August 2nd**

concluding at 2:00 p.m.

The cost to register is \$300 per couple. **The deadline to register is Monday, July 27.**



UNVEILED

Dear Padre,

I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church.

It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ●



BROOKAN SCHMIDT / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

God speaks to us.... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, JANUARY 14,
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 27
Weekday
Jer 13:1-11
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday

July 28
Weekday
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

July 29
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

Thursday

July 30
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

August 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3
Rom 8:35, 37-39
Mt 14:13-21