

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



Parish Office:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. James Stembler

Mission Office Email:
saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Mission Website:
www.st-johnog.org/sfoa

Pastor's Email:
pastorsjoc@gmail.com

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com



Mailing Address—P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Physical Address—303 County Road 185, Sandia, TX 78373

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:1-3 / Romans 8:35, 37-39 / Matthew 14:13-21



Good News!

August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:1-3 / Romans 8:35, 37-39 / Matthew 14:13-21

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Even when the apostles think they have anticipated what is needed, they often come up short. Not a lack of preparation or a lack of talent, but something is missing, nonetheless. In the gospel, they announce to Jesus that there is not enough food to eat. The crowds are too massive. They are too far away from the resources they need. But Jesus is not concerned. He sees what they are incapable of seeing. He believes in ways they cannot even begin to comprehend.

In blessing the limited amount of food they scrounge up for him, Jesus reveals to them an abundance they were unable to see. Not only is there enough for all who have assembled, there is more than enough, beyond their wildest imaginings.

How did the apostles understand what they experienced this day? How did they react to the miraculous, overflowing abundance where there was once scarcity? How could there be something where there was nothing?

The real lesson of the gospel is not necessarily the miraculous. Rather, the real lesson of the gospel is found in the invitation to see, to hope, to anticipate that with God all is possible. Even when it seems like a dead end. Even when nothing adds up. Even when you come up short. ●

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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.-Aug. 2	9:15 AM	Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug. 9	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	07/19/2026	CURRENT WEEK	07/26/2026
Collection	\$1101.00	Collection	\$724.00
Religious Education	\$155.00		

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The BSA goal is \$2,811 of which \$3,065 has been pledged. With a projected \$1,000 recurring gifts, SFoA has a total of \$4,065 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 145% of the diocesan goal with 14% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA.

Parish Organizations

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4

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



CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

Casa de Lucy Helping Hand 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.

Religious Education



Save the Dates - Religious education begins **Wednesday, September 2.**

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, August 12**, 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 as we begin the month of August! Can you believe it is August already?

At the end of the month, I will be away at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I will leave Orange Grove on Monday afternoon, August 24th, and return to Orange Grove on Sunday, August 30th, in the early afternoon. I should be available for Confessions and the Sunday evening Mass that evening.



I have been involved with the National Council of Catholic Women for every year of my priesthood except the first. I began as the Chaplain for the Altar and Rosary Society at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, then I became the Moderator for Corpus Christi Area of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, then I became the Moderator for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, then I was asked to be the Moderator of the Province of Galveston-Houston Catholic Women, then I became the National Chair of Spiritual Advisors, as we are now known as, for two terms, and now I continue to be the Province of Galveston-Houston Council of Catholic Women. For several years, I was the Spiritual Advisor for the Friends of NCCW for WUCWO which stands for the World Union of Catholic Women Organizations.

My time with NCCW has truly been a gift. As I have often said, I am blessed among women! Within the Diocese of Corpus Christi, the Council of Catholic Women has been through difficulties. Right now, it does not really exist as an organization. The reasons depend on who you speak with. I would like to see it resurrect somehow. The Council throughout the country has been through several changes. It is experiencing growth pains. However, there are Catholic Women in the United States – that is the only criteria necessary to be a member. Not only Catholic women's organizations are members, but now individual members can be members. A while ago, the Orange Grove women were very much involved with Council. Maybe that can come about again, and growth will continue.

I will bring back information that I receive at the Convention, and we will see how God is calling us here in the Diocese of Corpus Christi to resurrect the DCCW. Perhaps the women here are being called to start something! You never know! Like the Gospel this past Monday indicated, important things start with trivial things – a mustard bush begins as a tiny, little seed. Important things can begin in small places like Orange Grove! There is no telling what God is bringing forth!

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

Text **SJCOG** to **84576**

Or Connect with us online at:
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

Dear Padre,

Jesus gave his disciples both bread and wine and said, "Do this in memory of me." But our priest decided that we cannot receive from the cup at Communion. Does he have the right to deny his parishioners the Precious Blood?

"The diocesan bishop may lay down norms for the distribution of Communion under both kinds for his own diocese, which must be observed" (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, 24). (Also see *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 283.) After the COVID-19 pandemic, many parishes did not resume Communion under both kinds. Some opted instead to make the Precious Blood available only on major solemnities. However, "Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds" (*GIRM* 281). "It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do...partake of the chalice (cf. no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion may stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated" (*GIRM* 85). Still, pastors "should instruct the Christian faithful...that Christ, whole and entire, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species, and hence...those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any grace that is necessary for salvation" (*GIRM* 282). ●



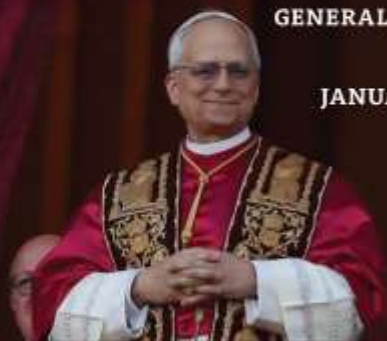
ARTIM / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[Friendship with the Lord] is achieved first of all in liturgical and community prayer, in which we do not decide what to hear from the Word of God, but it is he himself who speaks to us through the Church; it is then achieved in personal prayer.... Only when we speak with God can we also speak about him.

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

August 3
Weekday
Jer 28:1-17
Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday

August 4
St. John Vianney,
Priest
Jer 30:1-2, 12-15,
18-22
Mt 14:22-36 or
Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday

August 5
Weekday
Jer 31:1-7
Mt 15:21-28

Thursday

August 6
The Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Pt 1:16-19
Mt 17:1-9

Friday

August 7
Weekday
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Mt 16:24-28

Saturday

August 8
St. Dominic, Priest
Hb 1:12-2:4
Mt 17:14-20

Sunday

August 9
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a
Rom 9:1-5
Mt 14:22-33