

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Rev. James Stembler

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a / Romans 9:1-5 / Matthew 14:22-33



Good News!

August 9, 2026

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MIGUEL DULICK

In the first reading, Elijah is ready for anything—a whirlwind, an earthquake, a fire—because “the Lord will pass by” (1 Kings 19:11). But God comes tiptoeing, with a tiny whisper. Elijah, a giant of a prophet, covers his face like a child and wraps himself in the word of the Lord. Ordinarily, at this point, a homily would move on to the gospel. But in the second reading, from Romans, we are brought up short. Paul, a giant himself, would love a reassuring whisper from God. He is in utter agony, for the doubtful salvation of “my own brothers,” the Jews. Such is his distress that he wishes he could offer himself in exchange, even to the extent of being “accursed and separated from Christ” (literally, “anathema”) for “my kin.” (See Romans 9:3.) His anguish is heartbreaking, especially since it seems to be a prayer he has repeated over and over. Paul was no doubt thinking of Moses, who dramatically offered his own life to save the Israelites from God’s judgment after the golden calf: “[Lord,] if you would only forgive their sin! But if you will not, then blot me out of the book that you have written” (Exodus 32:32). Paul’s faith told him that Christ had opened the door of salvation to everyone, and even rejection by the chosen people could not close it. In fact, it confirmed its universal promise. A paradox perhaps, much like when Jesus walked on water, as we hear about in today’s gospel. ●

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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. 9	9:15 AM	People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug. 16	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	07/26/2026	CURRENT WEEK	08/02/2026
Collection	\$724.00	Collection	\$724.00
		Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$438.00

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: **SEPTEMBER 1**



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



CASA DE LUCY MEETS TUESDAYS @ 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, September 12.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Thursday, September 3** and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, August 22**

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all! I trust all of you are doing well as the summer vacation time is winding down and school will begin this coming Wednesday.



The 1983 Code of Canon Law, the code that the Church is following at this time in its history, has several Canons; to be accurate it is Canons 945-958, concerning Mass intentions. These Canons protect the faithful from exploitation; they preserve the dignity of the priesthood; and they maintain proper stewardship among all Catholics. Basically, they are:

- *only one intention per Mass. In our Diocese, the permission has been given that two regularly designated Masses each week – the same two Masses each week – are multi-intentional Masses.**
- *The suggested offering – the Canons no longer refer to this as a “stipend” but an “offering,” – for an intention in our Province or area of the United States is \$5.00 per Mass. If someone requests a Mass, but they cannot pay the offering of \$5.00, the Mass is still offered.**
- *A priest receives only \$5.00 per day for the Mass intention offered. If it is a multi-intentional Mass, he only receives \$5.00 per day. The exceptions to this are: Mother’s Day Novena, Father’s Day Novena, and All Souls’ Day Novena. Also, on Christmas Day, the priest may be given \$5.00 per every Mass he offers.**
- *Priests are not spiritual merchants selling prayers. Your prayers are heard by God as are mine. God does not hear my prayers more than yours. The Church has never taught that! When you pray for an intention at Mass, it is our faith that God hears and is aware of your intention. My praying for it does not mean that God listens to it more.**

These Canons are not bureaucratic obstacles – they SHOULD NOT be seen as this at all! They are safeguards for something precious. PRAYER! They protect the faithful who trust their intentions are heard by God – which He does – and that they will be honored – which God does. THAT IS OUR FAITH, ISN’T IT?! When a grieving family requests a Mass for their loved one, they are placing profound trust in the Church. Canon Law ensures that trust is never betrayed. The intention will be offered. The obligation will be fulfilled. We trust God, don’t we? And if we do trust God, that is seen and understood in how we trust the Church.

May God bless us everyone as we come to understand the teachings of our Church and follow the mind of the Church.

Fr. James G. Stembler

Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

Text SJCOG to 84576

Or Connect with us online at:
www.stjohnnog.flocknote.com

Social Media

Facebook:



[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/stjohnnogtx)

stjohnnogtx

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,

I am in my third year of sobriety. Can I still become a eucharistic minister if I do not partake in Christ's blood?

Yes. Your personal sobriety practice has nothing to do with your eligibility for service as a minister of the Eucharist. Some would even argue that your commitment to sobriety is a powerful witness of your commitment to living a responsible and mature Catholic life. Instead of an obstacle to ministry, it is a shining example and witness of the power of God's grace at work in your life.

Practically, since ministers of the Cup are often required to consume any remaining Precious Blood after holy Communion is distributed, it might be a good personal practice to make sure there are enough ministers present to perform this necessary step in ablution. If everyone is informed in advance, it contributes to the shared sense of reverence and respect that is required of a eucharistic minister. ●

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



MARIANA C. / CATHOPIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We live immersed in a culture of speed, immediacy, and haste—a culture of “discard” and indifference that prevents us from pausing along the way and drawing near to acknowledge the needs and suffering that surround us. In the parable, when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he did not “pass by.” Instead, he looked upon him with an open and attentive gaze—the very gaze of Jesus.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK,
ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026



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Monday

August 10
St. Lawrence, Deacon
and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6–10
Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday

August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Ez 2:8–3:4
Mt 18:1–5, 10,
12–14

Wednesday

August 12
Weekday
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 13
Weekday
Ez 12:1–12
Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

August 14
St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63
or 16:59–63
Mt 19:3–12

Saturday

August 15
The Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin
Mary
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a,
10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

Sunday

August 16
Twentieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6–7
Rom 11:13–15,
29–32
Mt 15:21–28