

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 / Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28



Good News!

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 / Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today's gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for "the lost sheep" of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

"Faith in what?" one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●

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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. 16	9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld † Aldo Robles (Heavenly birthday) by Pam Robles Cardona People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug. 23	9:15 AM	† Raymundo Villanueva (5 yrs) by Anita Bazan 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



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	08/02/2026	CURRENT WEEK	08/09/2026
Collection	\$724.00	Collection	\$991.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$438.00	Summer Electric Fund	\$207.00

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The **SFoA 2026 BSA** goal is \$2,811 of which \$3,220 has been pledged. With a projected \$845 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



CASA DE LUCY MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

Religious Education



Save the Dates - Registration and orientation for Religious Education:

Wed., Aug. 26, at 6:00PM, and Sun., Aug. 30, at 12:00 PM.

Religious education begins **Wednesday, September 2.**

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 26**, 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 on this Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Following up the bulletin article last week, the Masses that are already in the intention schedule will remain. The single intention which the Church directs for Masses will begin with the upcoming new liturgical year which begins with the Saturday evening Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 28th, 2026. The two multi-intentional Masses will be decided in the next few weeks and will be consistent each week. They will begin following November 28, 2026. Many thanks for your patience and understanding with this as we follow the mind and heart of the Church with Mass intentions here at St. John of the Cross and St. Francis of Assisi Mission. The office staff is aware of all this, and they, and I, should be able to help with any questions that may arise. May God bless us all as we begin!



According to #45 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the instruction we are to follow as to how we celebrate Mass presently in the United States, states the following: “Sacred Silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its purpose, however, depends on the time it occurs in each part of the celebration. Thus, within the Act of Penitence and again after the invitation to pray, all recollect themselves; but at the conclusion of a reading or the homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise and pray to God in their hearts.

Even before the celebration itself, it is commendable that silence be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose (prepare) themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting manner. “

How often do I remember being told when I was young that once I entered a church, I was to be quiet. The only time I said, or sang, anything was when the community all joined together or I had a role in the service, such as a reader, or a soloist, etc. Over my time as a priest, things have changed. Many people have the custom of praying out loud before Mass. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with prayer; however, the truth be told, I may have my own prayers to offer to God, or maybe I just want to sit in quiet reflection and prepare myself to join the community in the celebration of Mass. Is there anything wrong with that?

One person’s prayer is not better or worse than another person’s. All our prayers, whatever, they may be, are communication with God which is always the goal of prayer. One prayer is not better than another.

The custom here at St. John of the Cross and at St. Francis of Assisi is to pray the Rosary out loud before Mass and, in my experience, these out loud prayers have finished around five minutes before the beginning of Mass. This custom may continue; however, I am asking that we respect the General Instruction of how we celebrate Mass as Roman Catholics at this time, so I would ask that the Rosary be begun at such a time so that there is at least ten (10) minutes of quiet time before Mass begins in order to follow the mind of the Church, and people are given the opportunity to prepare for the celebration of Mass as God is calling them to do so.

This would be before the celebration of any, and all Masses. After the celebration of Mass, I would ask that inside of the church, including the sacristy, vestibule, etc., quiet be observed for all those who would like to spend time in prayer after Mass before leaving the church. Outside is fine for socializing and greeting people – a very holy thing in and of itself. However, before and after Mass inside the church, please maintain quiet.

At other times, such as cleaning the Church, designated prayer gatherings, etc., out loud public prayer is certainly welcome and fitting. But before and after Mass, let us follow the mind and heart of the Church.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler



Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Jubilee Year of Saint Francis is a special holy year proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. It marks the 800th anniversary of the death (the Transitus) of Saint Francis of Assisi, inviting the faithful worldwide to focus on spiritual renewal, peace, simplicity, and care for creation.

Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Peace

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognize true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen.



St. John of the Cross Catholic Church

200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX

**ANNUAL GUADALUPANA SOCIETY
BINGO FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, September 27, 2026
Parish Hall**

Doors open at 11:45am for Concession Stand.

BINGO starts at 12:45pm

Participate in our Sweets Auction & 50/50 Raffle

6 On Bingo Book: \$35.00 for 20 games

Plus FREE door prize ticket with book purchase

"Cash and Credit Cards accepted"

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul

II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin's evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn't written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



JULIUSKELMATTA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

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

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