

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20



Good News!

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response.

No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

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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. 23	9:15 AM	† Raymundo Villanueva (5 yrs) by Anita Bazan People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug. 30	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

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	08/09/2026	CURRENT WEEK	08/16/2026
Collection	\$991.00	Collection	\$678.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$207.00	Catholic School Development	\$122.00

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The **SFoA 2026 BSA** goal is \$2,811 of which \$3,270 has been pledged. With a projected \$795 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, September 9**, 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, September 26**

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to all of you! I trust all is well with everyone as we begin this Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time.



Just a reminder, I will be leaving on Monday afternoon to head to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the National Council of Catholic Women Convention. I will return next Sunday, August 30th, in the afternoon. There will be a visiting priest for the Sunday evening Spanish Mass on the 30th just in case a delay happens. So that Mass will be covered.

Looking forward to “being blessed among women,” renewing friendships from throughout the United States, and meeting new people. Be assured that you will be in prayer while I am away, and I will be taking the Mass intentions with me to remember at the Masses that will be celebrated each day. The weather is showing that it will be rainy and in the upper 70’s while I am there. So, we will see...

Someone asked me a question last week that I am sure is a question that may be on many minds, so here is an answer. The person had come to the Solemnity of the Assumption Mass on Saturday morning the 15th, but also came to the Mass on Saturday evening (the Vigil Mass for Sunday the 16th) and wondered if they could receive Communion at that Mass if they had received Communion at the morning Mass.

The official 1983 Code of Canon Law understanding is: If you receive Communion once, you may receive Communion a second time on the same day, **only if you fully participate at the second Mass**. You cannot just come to receive Communion and then leave. As the Second Vatican Council’s document on the Sacred Liturgy teaches us, we are to fully and consciously participate in the celebration of Mass. So, if you go to Mass once, you can go a second time, if you fully participate in that Mass.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler



Please join us at an official Installation Mass for
The Very Reverend James G. Stembler

on Sunday, September 20, 2026,
at the 11AM Mass at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church.

Bishop Mario Avilés will formally present Father James G. Stembler to our parish.

All are invited to a potluck luncheon in the St. John parish hall immediately after Mass.

The Knights of Columbus will provide spaghetti. Please bring a side or dessert.

We have been blessed to have Father Stembler assigned as our pastor. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to transition to his new pastoral leadership and shepherd our community.



Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.

MESSAGE ON WORLD
DAY OF THE SICK,
ROME, FEBRUARY 11,
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 24
St. Bartholomew,
Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Tuesday

August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17
Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18
Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop
and Doctor of the
Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13

Saturday

August 29
The Passion of St.
John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29

Sunday

August 30
Twenty-second
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27