

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



**Parish Office:**  
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Rev. James Stembler

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

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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2026

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Jeremiah 20:7-9 / Romans 12:1-2 / Matthew 16:21-27



## Good News!

August 30, 2026

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Jeremiah 20:7-9 / Romans 12:1-2 / Matthew 16:21-27

MIGUEL DULICK

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—"Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—"Come after me" (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same "trigger" word: "Whoever wishes to *come after* me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cross! That's how the controversy started, when Peter "took Jesus aside" (literally, "collared" him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don't even want to admit I'm a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Everything for Jesus. ●

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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. 30 | 9:15 AM | † Raymundo Villanueva (5 yrs)<br>by Anita Bazan<br>People of the Parish     |
| Sun.-Sept. 6 | 9:15 AM | Altar & Rosary Society on their<br>Communion Sunday<br>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               | 08/16/2026 | CURRENT WEEK | 08/23/2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Collection                  | \$678.00   | Collection   | \$673.00   |
| 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: **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 St. John 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 2**, 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 you! As I write this, I am preparing to leave for Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the National Council of Catholic Women Convention. As you read this, I am either enjoying the final night of the Convention, or on my way back to Orange Grove.



Catechism Corner: A little something from the official Catechism of the Catholic Church for our review as this is the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, hence, it is our understanding of the faith that God has given us:

44. Man is by nature and vocation a religious being. Coming from God, going toward God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by his bond with God.

Do note, that “man” in this usage does not mean, “sex male,” but means man as in “human being.” One of the weaknesses of the English language is that there is only one word that means both, “sex male” and “human being.” In the majority of other world languages, there are two words.

I’ll give you another item from the Catechism since I have room to do so.

45. Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds happiness: “When I am completely united to you, there will be no more sorrow or trials; entirely full of you, my life will be complete” From the Confessions of St. Augustine).

St. Augustine is a saint who searched for many years to discover the meaning of life. He tried many different religions and finally found the meaning of life in the reading of Scripture and became a follower of Christ. He then became a bishop. A wonderful human being.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. 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 Aviles 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,

## *Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?*

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority.

According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is

missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●

**Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



MIND AND I / SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading.*

*The principle established after the*

*Second World*

*War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself....*

*Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.*

**ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 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 31

*Weekday*

1 Cor 2:1-5

Lk 4:16-30

#### Tuesday

September 1

*Weekday*

1 Cor 2:10b-16

Lk 4:31-37

#### Wednesday

September 2

*Weekday*

1 Cor 3:1-9

Lk 4:38-44

#### Thursday

September 3

*St. Gregory the Great,*

*Pope and Doctor of*

*the Church*

1 Cor 3:18-23

Lk 5:1-11

#### Friday

September 4

*Weekday*

1 Cor 4:1-5

Lk 5:33-39

#### Saturday

September 5

*Weekday*

1 Cor 4:6b-15

Lk 6:1-5

#### Sunday

September 6

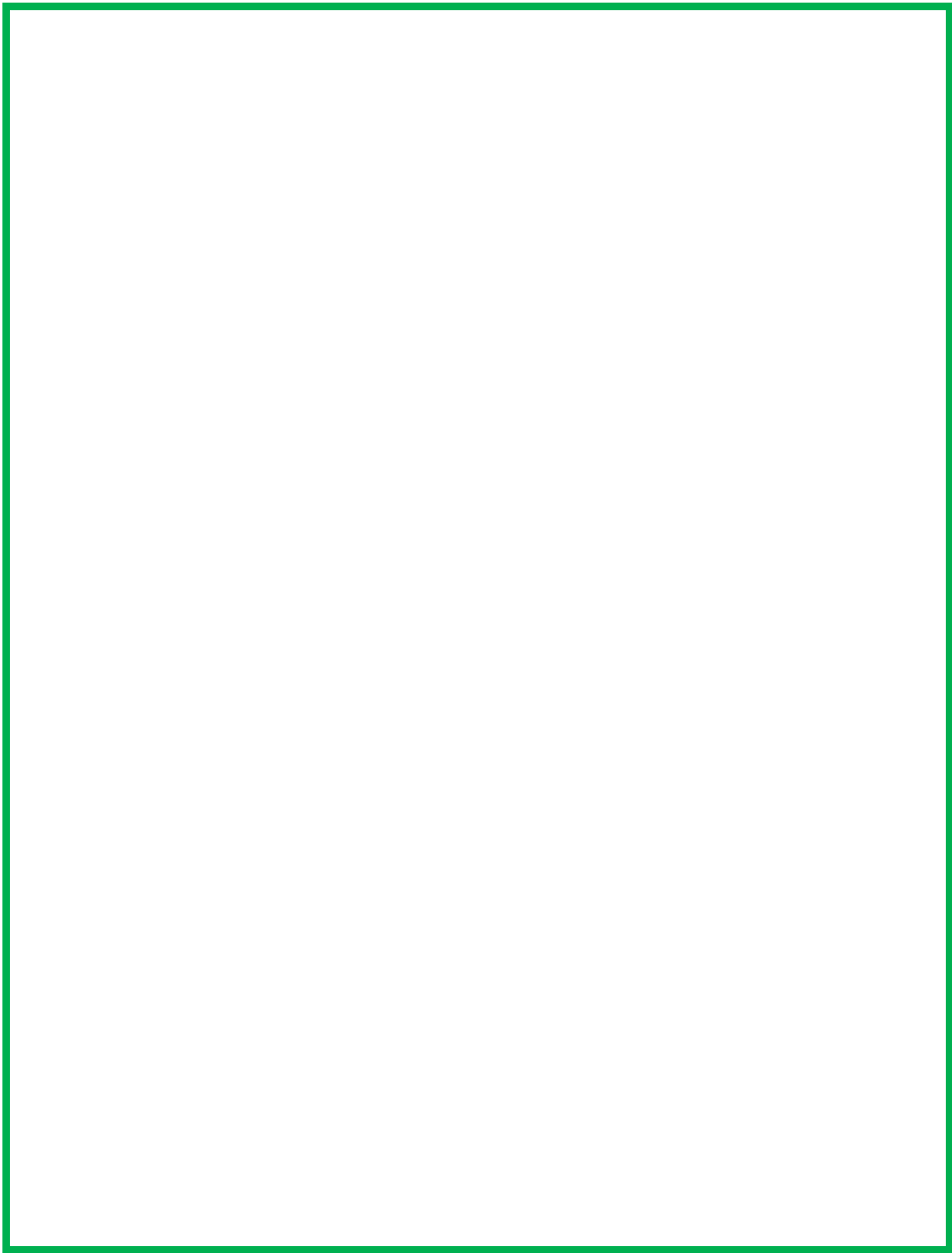
*Twenty-third Sunday*

*in Ordinary Time*

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20





**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"**