

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



Parish Office:
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Pastor:
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 27:30–28:7 / Romans 14:7–9 / Matthew 18:21–35



Good News!

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 27:30–28:7 / Romans 14:7–9 / Matthew 18:21–35

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

As we hear today's Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn't really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn't explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one's own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers. ●

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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.-Sept. 13	9:15 AM	† Jackie Terrell by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-Sept. 20	9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld 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:
Isabela Fuentes and 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.

1. Go to www.st-johnog.org
2. hover mouse on ABOUT tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	08/30/2026	CURRENT WEEK	09/06/2026
Collection	\$949.00	Collection	\$479.00
August Online Giving	\$1,036.00		

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEXT MEETING CHANGE: **OCTOBER 6 @ 2PM**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 6



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

Students in the elementary grades should be dropped off at the Religious Education building no earlier than 5:15PM and must be picked up at 6:30PM at the Religious Education Building. Students in jr. high thru high school should be dropped off at the parish hall no earlier than 6:15PM and must be picked up at 8:00PM at either the parish hall or the Religious Ed building.

Students will not be allowed to walk to the front of the church to be picked up.

Thank you, **Cassandra Bunton**, for funding the meal for our jr high—high school religious education students. They enjoyed the spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and brownies.

Works of Mercy

Looming Ladies meet in the SJoC parish hall on Mondays at 9AM to knit for patients a Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department.

The next bread and pastries distributions will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, September 23**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, October 10**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, October 1**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, September 26**.

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all on this Sunday on which we begin festivities for the High School Homecoming. I understand the parade will take place this Sunday afternoon. I hope I can see at least some of it depending on the time. GO BULLDOGS!!!!



The Revelation of God.

#73 Catechism of the Catholic Church

God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he has established his covenant for ever. The Son is his Father's definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after him.

So God's Revelation to us is Complete.

#66b. Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries.

For example, the Dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary were always within Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition; however, they did not become Dogmas of the Church until 1854 and 1950 respectively.

Prior to those dates, for example, 1854, a Catholic did not have to accept as Truth the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After 1854, Catholics are to accept as Truth this Dogma.

#67. Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* (sense of the faithful), knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church.

Christian faith cannot accept "revelations" that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such "revelations."

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,

If Catholics say the Confiteor at Mass, then why do we still need to go to confession?

Recall when Jesus told Simon and his fishing companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. (See Luke 5:1–11.) When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Likewise, at Mass, we're so filled with awe upon entering the presence of God that we become aware of our own sinfulness.

The penitential act prepares the assembly to enter the celebration in a proper spirit of humility. The priest and the faithful observe a period of silence to acknowledge their sinfulness and confess their awe of Christ's love and mercy. This is expressed in different forms, one of which is the Confiteor, a general confession that invokes the support of the communion of saints and the specific community gathered at Mass. It includes the instruction to strike one's breast, an ancient gesture of humility and penitence. (See Luke 18:13; 23:48.) The rite concludes with the priest's absolution, but it "lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 51). Thus, the penitential act isn't a substitute for absolution from sins confessed in the sacrament of penance, particularly serious, mortal sins. Rather, it prepares the faithful as a unified community to properly listen to God's word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily (*GIRM* 46). ●

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*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the Church there is...a place for everyone, and... every Christian is called to proclaim the gospel and bear witness in every environment.... Thus,

this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the gospel to purify them and to raise them up.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, MARCH 11, 2026**

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FRANCESCO ALBERTI / UNSPLASH

Monday September 14 <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> Nm 21:4b–9 Phil 2:6–11 Jn 3:13–17	Wednesday September 16 <i>Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i> 1 Cor 12:31–13:13 Lk 7:31–35	Saturday September 19 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49 Lk 8:4–15
Tuesday September 15 <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> 1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35	Thursday September 17 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 15:1–11 Lk 7:36–50	Sunday September 20 <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 55:6–9 Phil 1:20c–24, 27a Mt 20:1–16a
	Friday September 18 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 15:12–20 Lk 8:1–3	