

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Pastor:
Rev. James Stembler

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:6–9 / Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a / Matthew 20:1–16a



Good News!

September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:6–9 / Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a / Matthew 20:1–16a

MIGUEL DULICK

I keep hearing preachers say this is their least favorite gospel, because it makes people so mad! All the workers in a vineyard get a full day's pay—which folks interpret as heaven—even the ones who came at the last hour of the afternoon. “You mean, I work hard my whole life, and some nobody from nowhere just waltzes into heaven ahead of me?” But wait a minute! You think you *deserve* your “pay”? None of us is anywhere or anything, even breathing, without God's grace. It's not a competition; it's our only hope! We should be dancing in the street to celebrate God's generosity. Matthew himself must have chuckled at this parable, since he was also a latecomer, having spent his life grinding his own brothers and sisters into poverty to feed the tax maw of the Roman Empire. Then, Jesus called him! I love the twist in the parable: the owner not only pays the last ones equally, but he pays them *first*!

If you don't like standing in line, you could be like Paul, who wants to just skip to the end: “I long to depart this life and be with Christ” (Philippians 1:23). As he says, “To me life is Christ, and death is gain” (Philippians 1:21). We should all be so eager. Just concentrate on the “fruitful labor” of service to others. Put everyone else ahead of you, and don't be afraid of some hard work. Any vineyard is a challenge, even when that vineyard is the Church. •

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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. 20 9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-Sept. 27 9:15 AM	† Daniel Terrell 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



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	09/06/2026	CURRENT WEEK	09/13/2026
Collection	\$479.00	Collection	\$695.10
		Catholic University	\$109.00

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The **SFoA 2026 BSA** goal is \$2,811 of which \$3,425 has been pledged. With a projected \$990 recurring gifts, SFoA has a total of \$4,415 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 157% of the diocesan goal with 14% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Would you like to discover how to break free from the chains of negative thinking? If so, please join a six-week bible study of *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at your Table* by Louie Giglio. The group will meet at St. Francis of Assisi starting **October 8, at 10AM**. Please contact the parish office if you're interested in participating.

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

Religious Education

Parents, because not all volunteers are able to arrive for religious education classes early, please do not drop your children off for religious education more than fifteen minutes before class. And, Parents, your help is needed in monitoring the church grounds on Wednesdays. There are about 200 students on our property on Wednesday evenings, and the volunteers need your help in monitoring all students at dropoff and pick up. Please contact the office to find out how you can help.

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

Thank you, **Randall Lopez**, for providing the meal for our jr high—high school religious education students. The hamburgers were GREAT!

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 30**, 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 **October 24**.

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all!

The transmission of Divine Revelation: how is it given to us?

96. What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory.

97. “Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God” (Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Second Vatican Council), in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all riches.

98. “The Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes” (Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Second Vatican Council).

99. Thanks to its supernatural sense of faith, the People of God as a whole never ceases to welcome, to penetrate more deeply, and to live more fully from the gift of divine Revelation.

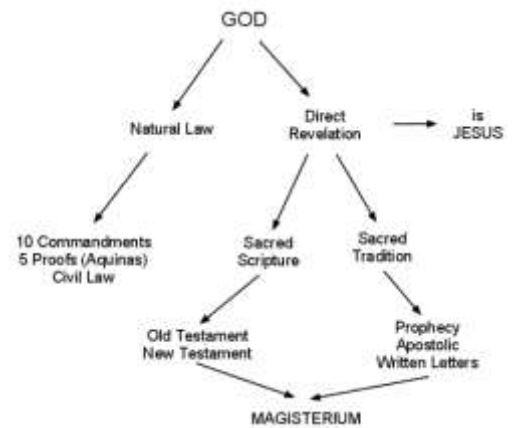
100. The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him.

I am being installed as Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church and its mission of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday by our bishop this weekend. It has been a privilege getting to know you, to work with you, and to serve you so far, and this ceremony will confirm that. We are still in the process of getting to know one another and that will continue to take its time. Be assured of my prayers and support for you. God has caused our paths to cross! May our time together prove beneficial for all of us as we continue to grow as the people whom God has created us to be.

It is an honor to serve you!

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 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.

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,

Adam and Eve had two sons and maybe others not mentioned in the Bible. How were others born without having committed incest?

This is a perfectly valid question, and one that I think many people have probably asked themselves at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is the wrong question, because it does not reflect the true meaning of the story.

The story about Adam and Eve is not a literal story or, in other words, a story that would be reported by CNN or FOX News. It is a teaching story, intended to encourage belief in the creative power of God at work in his creation. It is not, nor has it ever been, a literal step-by-step tutorial of the early days of the human race.

The bible includes different literary forms: narrative or history, poetry and songs, parables, letters, genealogies, and more. Knowing what form is being used, the purpose of the passage, who is writing or talking, and the intended audience is the work of Scripture scholars. The story of creation is not intended to be literal; it is inspirational. ●



OSCAR MAN ESQUINEL / UNSPLASH

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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**.



FACHIL ASHIMANTRA / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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Monday

September 21
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday

September 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday

September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Thursday

September 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday

September 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Saturday

September 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

September 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32