

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



Parish Office:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. James Stembler

Mission Office Email:
saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Mission Website:
www.st-johnog.org/sfoa

Pastor's Email:
pastorsjoc@gmail.com

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com



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

Physical Address—303 County Road 185, Sandia, TX 78373

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 18:25–28 / Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5 / Matthew 21:28–32



Good News!

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 18:25–28 / Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5 / Matthew 21:28–32

ANN M. GARRIDO

Most parents can resonate with today's gospel. Who hasn't had a child promise to do their chores and then neglect to do them? Or a child who threw a fit when asked to help but then pitched in after all?

Jesus' parables intend to give clues about a mystery he called the kingdom of God—a revelation about what the world will look like when God's dreams for it are realized. We get a good hint that this parable is meant to be about the kingdom of God because it speaks of a vineyard, and Jesus often compared God's kingdom to a vineyard. Vineyards throughout the ancient world were associated with joy and abundance, but they also required much tending. They needed workers, and that is what God has called us to be for the kingdom.

Jesus observed that those who professed to support God's coming kingdom often seemed to do little to help bring it about whereas those who historically had been viewed as resistant to God's ways were more receptive to John the Baptist's preaching—and, we can imagine, Jesus' message as well. They were the ones who proved in the end more willing to lend a hand.

The vineyard of which Jesus spoke still requires workers. It still requires people willing to collaborate with God in gathering the abundant harvest that will mark a season of great joy. We can imagine that, like any parent, God's greatest delight would be to have children who say "yes" and then follow through on their word! ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Potest: Fr. Kevin Zobel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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. 27	9:15 AM	† Daniel Terrell by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-Oct. 4	9:15 AM	The Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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	09/13/2026	CURRENT WEEK	09/20/2026
Collection	\$695.10	Collection	\$680.00
Catholic University	\$109.00		



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**

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

October is Respect Life Month. Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. **Our Knight of Columbus are hosting a diaper drive in honor of Respect Life Month.**

Please donate newborn/ infant to toddler-size diapers to be donated to the Corpus Christi Hope House.

Religious Education

**Students will not be allowed to walk to the front of the church to be picked up after their Religious Education class.
Parents must pick their children up from the designated areas.**

Thank you, **Bunch family**, for providing the meal for our jr high—high school religious education students.
They really enjoyed the chili cheese dogs!

Works of Mercy

The St. John Food Pantry is in need of spaghetti sauce, spam / treet canned meat, jelly, XL and Medium disposable briefs with tape.

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 as we soon say goodbye to September!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has some interesting information concerning Sacred Scripture:

134. All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and this one book is Christ, “because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ” (Hugh of St. Victor).

135. “The Sacred Scriptures contain the Word of God and, because they are inspired they are truly the Word of God” (Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Vatican Council II).

136. God is the author of Sacred Scripture because he inspired its human authors; he acts in them and by means of them. He thus gives assurance that their writings teach without error his saving truth.

137. Interpretation of the inspired Scripture must be attentive above all to what God wants to reveal through the sacred authors for our salvation. What comes from the Spirit is not fully “understood except by the Spirit’s action” (Origen).

138. The Church accepts and venerates as inspired the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New.

139. The four Gospels occupy a central place because Christ Jesus is their center.

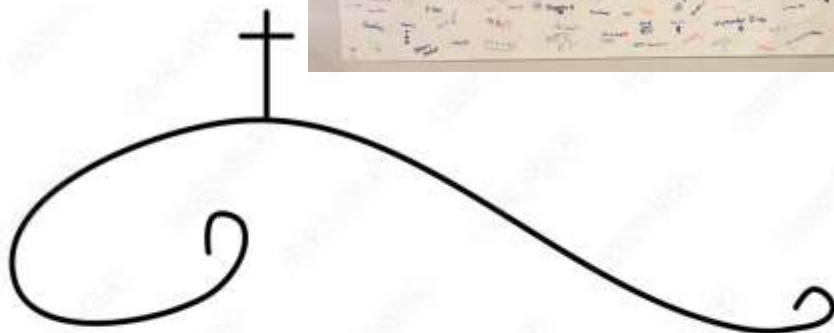
140. The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God’s plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God.

141. “The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord” (Dei Verbum): both nourish and govern the whole Christian life. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Words cannot adequately express enough thanks to all of you who helped in any way with the Installation Mass celebration and luncheon last Sunday. It was a truly wonderful occasion and a beautiful celebration. You know how to throw a party in Orange Grove! To all of you, a heart-filled thank you - muchas gracias! How beautiful it is to be among you! May God bless all of you abundantly!

God bless us everyone!

Fr. Stembler



Dear Padre,

Why must I choose practicing Catholics as my baby's godparents?

The Church is clear about the qualifications of godparents: at least sixteen years old; leading lives of faith; confirmed and having already received Communion, among others.

(See the *Code of Canon Law*, 872–874.) “Godparent” isn’t simply an honorary title we bestow on someone.

It’s an important role in a child’s faith life. Parents and godparents introduce us to Jesus and teach us to pray. We talk to Jesus on our own and learn more about him through Scripture. Our parents take us to church. We watch their example and that of our godparents. It is the gradual process of being introduced to Jesus by those who know him that leads us to trust him and have faith in him. At baptism, a godparent lights a candle from the Easter candle and holds it for the child as the presider says, “Receive the light of Christ.” That is how faith comes to us: a gift from God, but through other people. Parents and godparents must have the bright flame of faith in their own hearts if they hope to pass it to the child.

It is permitted to have only one godparent, fulfilling the requirements previously mentioned, and a special “witness” who is a person of faith but is not Catholic. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 28	September 29	September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4
Weekday	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	The Holy Guardian Angels	Weekday	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jb 1:6–22	Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12ab	Jb 9:1–12, 14–16	Jb 19:21–27	Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5	Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17	Is 5:1–7
Lk 9:46–50	Jn 1:47–51	Lk 9:57–62	Lk 10:1–12	Mt 18:1–5, 10	Lk 10:17–24	Phil 4:6–9
						Mt 21:33–43



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Jesus taught us that in discerning how to help our neighbor, we must imitate the example of the Good Samaritan, who selflessly gave of his time and resources to someone whom he had never previously met.... When we help those in need, especially those who cannot repay us, we become the Lord's instruments.

MESSAGE TO FADICA NETWORK, ROME, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.