

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 4, 2026

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43



Good News!

October 4, 2026

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

A wise old sage once observed, "When it starts out stupid, it just gets more stupid." The parable in today's gospel illustrates this wisdom.

The son has been sent. The jig is up. The owner is not going to give up the vineyard. The tenants gambled and lost. It's time for them to accept the inevitable and pay the rent. But common sense and wisdom do not prevail. *Kill the son*, they think, *and all that he would have inherited will be ours!*

How do you get from "don't pay the rent" to "kill the son"? It is not a straight or smooth path. There are a lot of twists and turns between point A and point B. But it happens. It sneaks in. It demands little compromises and small dishonesties along the way as it becomes easier and easier for you to choose what is destructive. Then, you find you have lost it all—your very self. And the corruption you've embraced convinces you that you're making wise choices. You must be completely cleansed of the seduction that has enabled you to make these choices. You need to start again. ●

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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.-Oct. 4	9:15 AM	The Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish
Sun.-Oct. 11	9:15 AM	† Jackie 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

CURRENT WEEK	09/27/2026	2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ Goal = \$2,811; Pledged = \$3,575; Pledged + recurring expected = \$4,465; 159% of Goal; 14% parish participation
Collection	\$651.00	



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, **JoAnn Rodriguez**, for providing the meal for our jr high—high school religious education students.
They really enjoyed the taco/nacho bar!

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, October 14**, and at
St. Francis on **Saturday, October 10.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Tuesday, October 6**, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **October 24.**

A Note From Our Pastor

WOW! October 2026 already! We have recently begun the final quarter of this calendar year. It'll be Easter before you know it!



As we were asked once in a theology class, “What is faith”?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

176. Faith is a personal adherence of the whole man to God who reveals himself. It involves an assent of the intellect and will to the self-revelation God has made through his deeds and words.

177. “To believe” has thus a twofold reference: to the person and to the truth: to the truth, by trust in the person who bears witness to it.

178. We must believe in no one but God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

179. Faith is a supernatural gift from God. In order to believe, man needs the interior helps of the Holy Spirit.

180. “Believing” is a human act, conscious and free, corresponding to the dignity of the human person.

181. “Believing” is an ecclesial act. The Church’s faith precedes, engenders, supports, and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers. “No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother” (St. Cyprian).

182. We believe all “that which is contained in the word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed” (Pope Paul VI).

183. Faith is necessary for salvation. The Lord himself affirms: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Gospel of Mark 16:16).

184. “Faith is a foretaste of the knowledge that will make us blessed in the life to come” (St. Thomas Aquinas).

This will be a busy month for me. The Priests of the Diocese will be in convocation from Monday evening, October 12th, through Wednesday noon, October 14th. Then I will be going to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Holy Sepulchre Southwestern Lieutenancy Meeting - October 15 - 18. I have duties with the lieutenancy as Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies so there are two large Masses that I have responsibility for with the help of a number of others in the lieutenancy. We make a good team. Then, I will be off to Thailand to help minister in the mountain villages above the northern city of Chiang Mai. I was invited to go and help about two and one-half/three years ago; however, because of the renovations at the Cathedral, I had to keep postponing the trip. Well, now I can go; they want me to come, and so I am going. I will be gone starting Monday, October 19th and return on Saturday mid-day, October 31st. Be assured that you will be with me in my mind and heart while I am gone. I will take the Mass intentions with me and remember them while away, too.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Dear Padre,

My friend is deeply involved in her faith, but I struggle with our friendship because I don't like how she treats her pets. I don't understand how someone who values religion so highly can show so little care for animals. What should I do?



HEIDI BAHOSKA / PEXELS

Franciscan Friar Kevin Mackin writes, "The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love" ("Why We Bless Animals," *Catholic Update*). Because of this strong bond between humans and sentient creatures, it's especially difficult to witness their mistreatment, either through neglect (such as failing to provide sufficient food, water, shelter, or veterinary care) or direct physical abuse (a violation of anti-cruelty laws and a criminal offense in all fifty states). Studies show that owning pets offers us companionship and emotional support; in turn, these qualities can foster in us greater empathy and compassion toward others. Yet, while pets may greatly benefit our health and well-being, owning them comes with a serious obligation and moral responsibility. Vulnerable pets depend on humans for adequate care and protection. At times, some pet owners can be overwhelmed by their responsibility to provide proper care; others may even be unaware that they are treating their pets inappropriately. Out of concern for both your friend and her pets, consider a non-critical, non-confrontational approach to discuss your observations and to offer assistance. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

"PRAY WITH THE POPE" VIDEO MESSAGE, MARCH 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

October 5
Weekday
Gal 1:6–12
Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday

October 6
Weekday
Gal 1:13–24
Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday

October 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
Gal 2:1–2, 7–14
Lk 11:1–4

Thursday

October 8
Weekday
Gal 3:1–5
Lk 11:5–13

Friday

October 9
Weekday
Gal 3:7–14
Lk 11:15–26

Saturday

October 10
Weekday
Gal 3:22–29
Lk 11:27–28

Sunday

October 11
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 25:6–10a
Phil 4:12–14, 19–20
Mt 22:1–14 or 22:1–10

