

Dear Padre,

In the Creed, we say we believe in the resurrection of the body. So, why is it all right to be cremated?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clearly states what many find confusing: “It is very commonly accepted that the life of the human person continues in a spiritual fashion after death. But how can we believe that this body, so clearly mortal, could rise to everlasting life?” (CCC 996). The *Catechism* goes on to address several questions: “What is rising? Who will rise? How? When?” (CCC 997–1001). In essence, “Christ ‘will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body,’ into a ‘spiritual body’” (CCC 999). The disposition or condition of the physical body at death will not affect the spiritual body that is raised. Cremation, decomposition, mutilation or dismemberment by violence, or the donation of one’s body to science—deemed “a noble and meritorious act...to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity” (CCC 2296)—does not prevent the resurrection of our glorified body. It is only when the act of cremation appears to be a public denial of faith in the resurrection or the sacredness of the body that the practice is forbidden. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV
In the face of...the tragic situations of injustice, violence, and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive, and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world and bring to others the light of the gospel through our commitment to peace, justice, and solidarity.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 15, 2026

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



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Parish Office Phone

361-384-2795

Parish Office Email

saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Pastor

Rev. James G. Stembler

Pastor’s Email

pastorsjoc@gmail.com

Bulletin Email

saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Church website

www.st-johnog.org

MAILING ADDRESS —P.O. BOX 329, ORANGE GROVE, TX 7837

PHYSICAL ADDRESS — 200 S. METZ, ORANGE GROVE, TX 78372

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 11, 2026

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 25:6–10a / Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 / Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10



Good News!

October 11, 2026

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 25:6–10a / Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 / Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10

MIGUEL DULICK

The closer Jesus gets to his death, the more targeted are his parables, specifically to the “chief priests and elders.” He has no patience with their hypocrisy.

The wedding feast has a long history in the prophets and the psalms, always a glorious celebration of love and delight—God marrying the chosen people. But in today’s gospel, Jesus speaks of the feast as a massacre. When the guests refuse to attend his son’s wedding, and they even kill the messengers sent to invite them, the enraged king amasses his troops to destroy “those murderers” and burn their city to the ground. So, the chosen people are un-chosen. Then, the king tries again, this time sending the servants to “whomever [they] find.” And then comes a beautiful moment: the servants invite the “bad (literally, “evil”) and good alike,” and they fill up the hall! This echoes Jesus’ own promise of the cross: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (John 12:32).

There is one more twist to the story that keeps Jesus in his own uncompromising space. When the king spots a guest without a “wedding garment,” he binds him hand and foot and throws him out into the darkness. Pretty scary—but do stay with Jesus. Accept the invitation to the banquet. And let Jesus dress you in his own garment of grace. ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Potest: Fr. Kevin Zubel, 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

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

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Adoration

Thurs.~ Spanish—6:30PM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM - 6:00 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

Mon, Tues, Wed, 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. - 11 9:15AM In loving memory of † Jerry Cross
by Mar Cross & family
† Ismael A. Robles (Heavenly birthday)
by Palmira Robles Cardona
† Jackie Terrell
by Elizabeth Hackfeld
People of the parish

Sun.-18 9:15AM † Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld
† Ted Snelling & † Irene Snelling
by Elizabeth Hackfeld
People of the parish

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Isabela Fuentes, 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, Madeleena Delaney,
Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald,
Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Perales, Robert Ponce,
Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, and
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

Please pray for our 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’

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Good morning,

Marriage blessings at the end of Mass:

Why are only anniversaries of sacramental marriages (marriages blessed in the Church) being blessed at the end of Masses at the weekend?

As I stated, there has been some confusion over the years I have been a priest concerning this. When I was a young priest, a couple, after Mass, once asked me to bless their wedding rings. I went ahead and did that seeing no problem with it. However, after I had done so they thanked me because now their marriage was blessed in the Church, in other words, a sacramental marriage. No, that is not correct. I discovered that somehow among some people this was understood that a civil marriage, or non-sacramental marriage - a marriage not done in the Church - became a sacrament with just a blessing over the couple, or a blessing of their wedding rings. THAT IS NOT CORRECT!

In the Roman Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament, as it is in the Eastern Orthodox Church. In other non-Catholic Christian traditions, marriage is not a sacrament. But somehow, incorrect understanding surrounding this has become accepted by some people, so in order to not keep the confusion going on, the public blessing of marriages at the end of Mass - a custom in this church and mission - is only given to couples who had their marriage in the Church, or have had their marriage blessed, or “sacramentalized” within the Church. If your marriage does not fit into either of those two categories, I am very happy to bless your marriage at another time, either before or after Mass, or in the office. Be assured that I will speak to you about getting your marriage “sacramentalized” within the Church which is not a difficult process. I will be happy to work with you. Because in the Roman Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament. And, a couple living in a sacramental marriage is able to receive Holy Communion. A Catholic couple not in a sacramental marriage is not able to receive Holy Communion.

So, there’s the explanation that I owed you from Mass last week.

Again, I am off to the Priests’ Convocation on Monday afternoon, then off to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Southwestern Lieutenancy Annual Meeting of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and then early Monday morning, October 19th, for Thailand to help with ministry to the villages above Chiang Mai. I will see you on Saturday, October 31st, beginning with Confessions and Mass that Saturday afternoon.

God bless!

Fr. Stembler



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current Week Collection

Envelopes \$ 265.00

Loose \$ 248.00

Respect Life \$ 103.00



Scan the QR code to access the online giving portal

2026 Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal

Goal = \$2,811

Pledged = \$3,600

Pledged + recurring expected = \$4,365

155% of Goal

14% parish participation

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Bible Study

All are invited to join a six-week bible study on Louie Giglio’s *Don’t Give the Enemy a Seat at your Table* every Thursday at 10AM. Come discover how to break free from the chains of negative thinking.

October is the month of the Rosary.

Each Friday a parish organization will the lead rosary at St. John at 6PM:

October 16 - Sociedad Guadalupanas

October 23 - Knights of Columbus

October 30 - Casa de Lucy

Works of Mercy



The next **HEB bread and pastries distribution** will be at 9AM at SJoC on Wednesday, October 14, and at St. Francis on Saturday, November 14.

There will be **Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions** at St. John of the Cross on Thursday, November 3, and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 24, at 9AM.

