

Dear Padre,

I occasionally need to be reminded why I should remain Catholic. Can you help?

Whether our faith was inherited at birth or adopted later, it's healthy to periodically reexamine our beliefs and practices with the intent to grow closer to God. Saint Paul uses the metaphor of moving beyond milk to solid food to explain our maturing faith. (See Hebrews 5:12–14). Questions or doubts are not necessarily signs of crisis or disloyalty to God or the Church. Indeed, it's often when we challenge pat answers that God moves us to a deeper meaning and stronger relationship—that is, if we're steadfast on the path to holiness. People remain Catholic for numerous reasons, including:

- the Church's belief in God's goodness to us through the sacraments;
- a 2,000-year tradition of living the gospel in a universal, multicultural community of faith;
- a proven track record as an agent for personal and spiritual growth and social transformation.

When Church members' behavior is contrary to Christ's mission, and our confidence to remain is tested, it's good to recall that the Church is divinely fortified and humanly composed. People remain Catholic because the Church exists to bring us into full communion with God, through Christ, by working toward the fullness of the kingdom. "The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity,' because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one people of god, form one body of Christ, and be built into one temple of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 776). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



JESUS FERNANDEZ / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



FABRIZIO MAFFEI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Health cannot be a luxury for the few.... Universal health coverage is not merely a technical goal to be achieved; it is primarily a moral imperative for societies that wish to call themselves just. Healthcare must

be accessible to the most vulnerable, then, not only because their dignity requires it but also to prevent injustice from becoming a cause of conflict.

ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS,
ROME, MARCH 19, 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 26 <i>Weekday</i> Eph 4:32–5:8 Lk 13:10–17	Thursday October 29 <i>Weekday</i> Eph 6:10–20 Lk 13:31–35	Saturday October 31 <i>Weekday</i> Phil 1:18b–26 Lk 14:1, 7–11
Tuesday October 27 <i>Weekday</i> Eph 5:21–33 Lk 13:18–21	Friday October 30 <i>Weekday</i> Phil 1:1–11 Lk 14:1–6	Sunday November 1 <i>All Saints</i> Rv 7:2–4, 9–14 1 Jn 3:1–3 Mt 5:1–12a
Wednesday October 28 <i>Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles</i> Eph 2:19–22 Lk 6:12–16		



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Exodus 22:20–26 / 1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10 / Matthew 22:34–40



Good News!

October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Exodus 22:20–26 / 1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10 / Matthew 22:34–40

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Love makes the world go 'round." Or another saying: "Love is all you need." Love, so necessary, so welcome, and seemingly so elusive. How can something be so needed, so valued, and so treasured and at the same time be so rare and even, at times, so difficult? Philosophers, poets, and scribes all provide different insights, each capturing something of the truth yet remaining somehow incomplete.

Jesus changes the context: love understood not as a feeling or as an emotion, but as a commandment. In God's kingdom, love is not something you pursue or something you hope to find. Living in God's kingdom, love is something you do. It is core; it is essential. It is how you live. It is how you form your judgments and perceptions. It is what energizes your choices and your decisions.

We come closer and closer each day to loving God fully when we understand the need to embrace the "unspoken" commandment: "[Jesus said,] 'For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'" (Matthew 16:25). ●

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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. - 25 9:15AM	† Yolanda Ochoa by family † Ted Snelling & † Irene Snelling by Elizabeth Hackfeld † Phyllis Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the parish
Sun.-1 9:15AM	† Virgie Tate Acosta by Elizabeth Hackfeld Altar and 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, Isabela Fuentes, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider, Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Pat Pantoja, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

Stephanie Hernandez 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, 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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current Week Collection

Envelopes \$ 145.00 Loose \$ 430.00

World Mission Sunday \$ 122.00

Scan the QR code to access the online giving portal

2026 Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal

Goal = \$2,811 Pledged = \$3,880

Pledged + recurring expected = \$4,465

159% of Goal 14% parish participation



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEXT MEETING: November 3

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

October is Respect Life Month. Our Knights 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.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

October is the month of the Rosary.

Everyone is invited to join Casa de Lucy on Friday, October 30, at 6PM at St. John to pray the rosary.

Works of Mercy

The next **HEB bread and pastries distribution** will be at 9AM at SJoC on Wednesday, October 28, 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 5, and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, November 28, at 9AM.



St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association

The annual St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association meeting will take place in the parish hall on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2:30PM.

Father Stembler will begin blessing graves at the St. John of the Cross Cemetery at 4PM.

Dcn. Cavada will begin blessing graves at Casa Blanca Cemetery at 4PM.

AN UPDATE WHILE OUR PASTOR IS AWAY



CHANGES IN MASS INTENTION PROCEDURES

Starting the first Saturday in Advent, November 28, 2026, only one Mass intention will be offered at each Mass, except for the two multi-intentional (collective intention) Masses that will be offered every week.

- Canons 945–947:** Priests are permitted to accept offerings to apply a Mass for a particular intention
- Canon 948** ("One Mass, One Intention"): Ordinarily, a separate Mass must be applied for each individual intention requested. (Collective intentions are only permitted under strict conditions with explicit donor consent).

The two **multi-intentional Masses** will be at

the Thursday 6PM Spanish Mass and the Sunday 11AM Mass.

There is no limit on the number of intentions allowed at either of these Masses.

Every **Monday 8AM Mass** has been designated as a **Mass for the People of the Parish and Mission;** therefore, no other intention may be added to that Mass.

In addition, each parish organization schedules Masses throughout the year, further limiting the number of intentions allowed at certain Masses.

The **Sociedad Guadalupanas** dedicate the 7:30 AM Mass on the third Sunday of every month. These Masses will only have the one intention for the designated organization.

The **St. John Cemetery Assoc.** dedicates the 11:00AM Mass on the second Sunday of every month, and the **Altar Society** dedicates the 11AM Mass on the first Sunday of every month to its deceased members.

However, these Masses will be **multi-intentional Masses**. In addition to the monthly Altar Society and/or Cemetery Assoc. intention, other intentions may be offered at these 11AM Masses.

Furthermore, Masses may only be scheduled three months in advance. To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the parish office to confirm the requested/preferred dates / Mass time as well as submit the necessary form. The suggested donation for each Mass intention remains at \$5 per requested Mass.

PLEASE NOTE- Many of the Masses that are currently scheduled to have more than one intention after the November 28 date will need to be rescheduled. Parishioner patience and understanding of this change is truly appreciated!