

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



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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JESUS FERNANDEZ / SHUTTERSTOCK



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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



Sat.–24 6:00PM † Juan Alaniz by A friend
† Trinidad Molina by Liza Ochoa
† Jack, † John, & † Myldred Robinson
by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
† James Wostal by Rose Nell Gwosdz

Sun. - 25 7:30AM † Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia
† Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family

11:00AM † Sylvia Rios Munguia,
† Fabian & † Beatrice Lopez, and
† George Rios by Rios Family
† Bruce Rokohl (Heavenly birthday)
by Don & Kim Rokohl
† Santiago Soliz by Mr. & Mrs. Rene Rios

6:00PM † Reina Becerril, † Martin Becerril,
† Elena Centena por Pauline Becerril y familia
† Marco Pena (8th anniv.)
by Luis & Nora Romanos
Los feligreses de la parroquia

Mon.– 26 8:00AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
In thanksgiving for blessings, graces, and miracles
by Anita Bazan

Tues.- 27 8:00AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
† Martha McCloskey by Anita Bazan
† Johnny & † Nora Vaughn by Anita Bazan

Thurs.- 29 8:00AM **SERVICIO COMMUNION**
† Julio Bazan by Anita Bazan

Fri.- 30 8:00AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
All who are in the seminary / vocations
by Anita Bazan

Sat.–31 6:00PM † Patricia Barnes by Luis & Nora Romanos
† Oscar Garcia by Anita Bazan
† James Jake Wostal by Barbara E. Burnett

Sun. - 1 7:30AM † Myldred Robinson by Jana Robinson
† Santiago Soliz by Mr. and Mrs. Rene Rios

11:00AM † Gary Graham by Graham Family
† Pauline Ramon (4th anniv.) by Bea & Lupe Garcia
Living & Deceased Members of the St. John of the
Cross Altar Society

6:00PM † Reina Becerril, † Martin Becerril,
† Elena Centena por Pauline Becerril y familia
Los feligreses de la parroquia

*Father Stembler will take the weekday
Mass intentions with him while he is away.*

The sanctuary light is offered in memory of
Sylvia Rios Mungia
by Rios Family



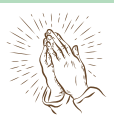
PRAYER LIST

We continue to pray for the needs of
those in our parish:

Diana Deanda, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes,
Isabela Fuentes, Roel Galván, Antonio Medrano,
Edward Medrano, Daniel Pena, Annette & Roger Rivera,
Hilda Rodriguez,
and Sissy Thomas

*The names of newly added persons will remain for three
weeks. Contact the Parish Office if names need to be added
to the prayer list.*

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:
Stephanie Hernandez and Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk



PRAYER LIST

**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, and Audry Winstead

Army: Rev. 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 Bundton 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’



Altar Flowers / Sanctuary Light

You can sponsor
the sanctuary light (\$20/wk) and/or
flowers for the side altars (\$80/wk) in memory
or celebration of your loved ones
Contact the parish office to schedule when you’d
like to sponsor the light or flowers.



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 23 @ 6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE
October 29-31-- Ms. Amanda Sanchez, Mrs. Elaine Lopez, Mrs. Elena Medrano
November 5-7-- Paid Professional



The Altar Society is having a fall raffle fundraiser. The top two prizes are each \$1,000 in Visa gift cards. Each ticket is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will take place on November 15, at 2PM, in the parish hall. You do not need to be present to win!

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 16 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 3: Nora Romanos
Corporate Mass—November 15—7:30AM Mass **Rosary** at 7:00AM **Leader:** Norma Cornejo
Offertory: Gabriella Becerril, Janie Flores, & Janey Henderson
Roses for Our Lady of Guadalupe - Jennifer & Jessica Alejandro

Any lady of the parish interested in joining the Sociedad Guadalupanas should talk with
President Isabel Alanis or any Guadaluapana.



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.

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. 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.

 **CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 9 AM.**
Casa de Lucy Helping Hand Quilting Ministry sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers. Please contact the office if you know anyone in need of a quilt.

WORKS OF MERCY

Looming Ladies meet each Monday at 9AM in the parish hall to loom beanies and scarves for patients in the Driscoll Oncology Department. All are welcome to join this ministry.

 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.**

Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross on Thursday, November 5,** and at **St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, November 28.**



 **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.

CHOIR MINISTRY

The choir at the 6PM Saturday Mass and the Sunday 11AM Mass are in need of help.
If you can sing or play an instrument and would like to join this ministry, please contact the parish office.



A NOTE 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!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current week's collection

Envelopes \$ 1,164.00

Loose \$ 1,320.42

World Mission Sunday \$ 550.00

There will be a second collection for the St. John of the Cross Cemetery. Your generosity supports the grounds upkeep and lawn service.



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal

The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$13,415 has been pledged. That is 64% of the diocesan goal with 12% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA. Your continued support of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is truly appreciated

PARISH HAPPENINGS

October is the month of the Rosary.

Please join Casa de Lucy on Friday, October 30, at 6PM, in the church to pray the rosary.

All Souls' Day Novena ~ All Souls' Day Memorial Candles are personalized candles that have a space for the name of the deceased who will be remembered in a special way during the Prayer of the Faithful. These All Souls' Day Candles are an opportunity to commemorate your faithfully departed.

The candles are available to purchase in the parish office for \$5.00 and will burn for nine Masses—a novena.

The candles will be blessed and lit at the All Souls' Day Mass on Monday, November 2, at 8AM.

Starting Friday, October 30, a picture may be set beside your loved one's candle for the duration of the novena.



DIOCESAN NEWS

You are invited to a retreat experience at the **Men's Cursillo Retreat** November 12 - 15 at the Corpus Christi Cursillo Retreat Center, 1200 Lantana, Corpus Christi. Contact Dcn. Armando Cavada for more information (361-816-6549).



A HOLY MASS HONORING ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

All healthcare professionals and support staff are invited to an evening of prayer and appreciation as we honor all who serve in the field and ask God's grace and strength upon those who continue Christ's healing ministry through their care and service to others.

The White Mass will take place on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Cathedral, 505 North Upper Broadway. Immediately following Mass, there will be dinner at El Camino Restaurant and a talk on Ethics for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit presented by Sean Hutzler, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM. No RSVP is required.

Evangelization and Catechesis ~ All adult Catholics are encouraged to participate in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Institute for Evangelization and Catechesis. Topics for courses encompass catechetical fundamentals, evangelization training and ministry training. Explore the website (diocesecc.org/olginstitute), now online, for more information. The registration fee is \$5. Please take note of the deadlines for each course. Capacity is limited due to space, so register early to be sure of your spot! See the official flyer for details. Contact Fr. Eric Chapa at echapa@diocesecc.org with any questions you may have.



The fall edition of **Theology on Tap** is set for Tuesday, October 27th at Sal's Bronx Pizza from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We welcome all young adults 21 and up! Enjoy pizza and salad bar, along with cash bar for the evening. Fr. Charles Silvas will be our guest speaker. Fr. Charles' talk, Finding Balance in the Midst of Chaos, will be followed by an open Q&A. Join us and bring a friend!

CARE & PREPARE: CATHOLIC GUIDANCE FOR END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS

Presented by Fr. Richard Libby, Pastor of Saint Helena of the Cross, who holds a Certificate in Bioethics from the National Catholic Bioethics Center, this workshop will address ordinary and extraordinary medical care, nutrition and hydration, pain management, advance healthcare directives, euthanasia and assisted suicide, palliative care, and hospice.

Participants will gain a better understanding of the Church's teachings and receive practical guidance to help themselves and their loved ones prepare for difficult healthcare decisions. It will take place on Thursday, November 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church's St. Juliana Family Center, 3502 Saratoga Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration is requested. Scan the QR code.

