

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?



HLEB RAHOISHA / 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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MARCO IACOBucci EPP - SHUTTERSTOCK

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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

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.–3	8:00AM	† Gary Graham by Janet Graham
	6:00PM	† Pablo Alaniz, Sr., by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Michael Garcia by Luis & Nora Romanos † Lalo Orta, Jr., (15th anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom
Sun. - 4	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso † Dcn. Culpepper and † Dcn. Breland by the St. John Saturday Morning Prayer Group Birthday blessings for Aubrey Adams Newell on her birthday by her mom
	11:00AM	† Martha McCloskey by Scotty & Pam Herschap † Michael Rivera, Sr., (10th anniv.) by Family Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Society
	6:00PM	† Elena Centeno y † Martin Becerril por Paulin Becerril y familia † Manuel Diaz Enriquez, † Javier Diaz, † Maria Guadalupe Sanchez, y † Sergio Pablo Mondragon por Familia Diaz Los feligreses de la parroquia
	8:00AM	† Fr. Michael Brendan Ashe (9th anniv.) by Nell Gwosdz † Trinidad Molina (Heavenly birthday) by Liza Ochoa
Tues.–6	8:00AM	Unwed mothers Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Anita Bazan
Thurs.–8	6:00PM	† David Gaza por “Omy” - un amigo de la familia
	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.–9	8:00AM	† James Jake Wostal by Kathy McCown Sanctity of Family Life
Sat.–10	6:00PM	† Jeffrey & † James Gwosdz by their family † Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas † James Jake Wostal by Barbara E. Burnet
Sun. - 11	7:30AM	† Amanda Tamez by Anita Bazan Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† Noe Alaniz by Anita Bazan † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso Those with cancer or any serious illness by St. John Saturday Morning Prayer Group
	6:00PM	† Manuel Diaz Enriquez, † Javier Diaz, † Maria Guadalupe Sanchez, y † Sergio Pablo Mondragon por Familia Diaz Los feligreses de la parroquia

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, 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:

Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk

MILITARY 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.

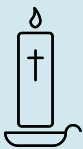
1. Go to www.st-johnog.org
2. hover mouse on ABOUT tab
3. click on ‘Active Military Prayer Request’



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Praxesdis Jimenez

by Raquel S. Jimenez and family



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 1-3— Paid profesional

October 8-10—Mrs. Maria Galvan-Gordon, Jana Robinson, Nora Romanos

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 pairsh hall. You do not need to be presenet to win!



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

Next meeting: October 19 @ 6PM **Hostess grp # 2:** Jennifer Alejandro

Corporate Mass—October 18—7:30AM Mass **Rosary** at 7:00AM / **Leader:** Anita Bazan

Offertory: Nora Romanos, Mary Villarreal, & Sabrina Lopez

Thank you to all who helped make our BINGO fundraiser a success: those who worked the event,
those who played games, and all those who donated prizes!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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. 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. Corpus Christi Hope House provides 24/7 emergency shelter and other assistance to families, pregnant and single mothers, their dependent children and newborn babies who seek an escape from homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, poverty or a crisis pregnancy situation.

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 **HEB bread and pastries distribution** 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 Saturday, 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

Deacon's Corner

The criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees began last week and continues today, and will culminate in Chapter 23 of Matthew. I think that as we see the confrontations between Jesus and the religious ruling authority of the time, beginning with Chapter 21, the Scribes and the Pharisees began to build a case against the Lord Jesus that will lead to his arrest, trial and sentence for blasphemy. What do you think was the real reason for his rejection? Even though it appears that Jesus never really reject the importance of the law, he was more concerned with the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law.

God love you, Deacon Cavada

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current week's collection

Envelopes \$ 1,778.00
Loose \$ 1,832.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund \$ 745.00

Online giving

Have you considered giving online?
It's quick and easy.

Just Scan the QR code and you'll be linked to the St. John online giving webpage.



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal

The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$13,080 has been pledged. With a projected \$1,425 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$14,505 expected pledge & recurring gifts. 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



Are you looking for a way to enhance your family's Catholic faith? Well, let's GATHER together!

All are invited to join Gather — A Family Ministry—encouraging community, growing in God's word, and supporting families. We will meet October 4, from 9:15-10:45AM, in the parish hall. If you are interested in assisting this ministry with childcare, please contact the parish office.



Coastal Bend Blood Center

Giving so that others may live

Coastal Bend Blood Drive
Sunday, October 11, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM

All donors will receive a donor T- Shirt and a P.F. Chang's coupon.

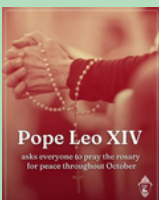


October is the month of the Rosary.

Each Friday a parish organization will lead the rosary in the church at 6PM:

October 2- Altar Society
October 9 - Religious ed students and teachers
October 16 - Sociedad Guadalupanas
October 23 - Knights of Columbus
October 30 - Casa de Lucy

Pope Leo XIV has dedicated the October 2026 Rosary prayer to peace and an end to global conflicts.



All Souls' Day Novena

All Souls' Day is Monday, November 2.

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 for \$5.00 in the parish office.

