



Journey to Damascus News & Updates

April | 2025

In this addition of JTD Newsletter

- *Letter from Lay Director for JTD #230
- *Journey to Damascus Weekend Dates
- *Where to apply to attend a Journey Weekend
- Letter from Lay Director for JTD #229
- *Letter from Lay Director for JTD #232
- *Journey to Damascus Prayer Vigils
- *Prayer Hour
- *How to get involved



Journey to
Damascus #230

May 1-4, 2025

"While I am in the
world, I am the
light of the world"

John 9:5

Dear Journey to Damascus Community,

As JTD #230 is upon us, I am overcome with gratitude at

what an incredible blessing this past year has been. I am filled with joy and humbleness as our team excitedly awaits the beautiful weekend our good Lord has planned. Our JTD community never ceases to amaze me by showering us with prayers, love and support for our awaiting pilgrims. We have felt every prayer and thank you with much love. I want to thank my amazing St. Elsewhere team, my spiritual team, and wonderful Board Rep. God truly blessed me with these people and my heart will always be filled with much gratitude for them. The Holy Spirit's presence was ever prevalent during our team formation and can truly be seen through our angels, TL/ATL and fabulous music team.

Thank you to the JTD Board for entrusting us to bring our beautiful pilgrims closer to God. We are ready to serve with a grateful servant's heart! We thank everyone for your continued prayers and commitment to make this upcoming weekend possible. We look forward to seeing you at candlelight and closing. What a privilege and honor it has been to serve as Lay Director for JTD #230!

De Colores!
Lina Garza,
Lay Director

Journey # 230 Team:

Lay Director

Lina Garza "*Perseverance/4th Day*"

Spiritual Director

Fr. Scott Braathen "*Sacraments*"

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Rev. Billy Storms "*Faith*"

Rev Gwen Perkins "*Grace*"

Hester Rodriguez "*Obstacles to Grace*"

Board Representative

Edna Lopez Alonso

Music Director

Gina Ramon

Music

Pilgrim Roster

Nizaha Arriaga-Salazar

Christine Battles

Stephanie Braddock

Kristi Britt

Angela Buckingham

Aimee Cerda

Celina Contreras

Teresa Cruz

Monica Duhart

Brenda Franco

Anissa Ganceres

Melissa Garcia

Samantha Garcia

Alexis Garza

Paola Gonzalez

Sarah Kessler
Susan Dalrymple-Hyde
Celia Fossum
Sonya Rodriguez
Cindy Rodriguez

Assistant Lay Directors

Romy Doherty "*Priesthood of All Believers*"
Noela Garcia "*Growth Through Study*"
Kristy Scott "*Priorities*"

Head Angels

Christa Creek "*Love & Unity*"
Jamie Flores "*Discipleship*"

Table Leaders

Alejandra Mckinney "*Body of Christ*"
Rita Naranjo
Joyce Ramirez
Iris Rodriguez "*Changing Our World*"
Stephanie Ybarra Fernandez
Jackie Ybarra

Asst. Table Leaders

Rosalinda Cruz
Nina Dawson
Lori Lozano
Jilissa Ojenda
Leticia Paree
Cindy Pena

Angels

Anna Adrian
Lori Aguilar
Katherine Benavidez
Marila Colunga
Anna Chapa
Christie Fanning
Denise Gonzalez
Mandy Hedrick
Marti Huerta
Elizabeth Letterman "*Life in Piety*"
Crystal Mathis "*Christian Action*"
Bea Martinez

Nydia Gonzalez
MK Haynes
Delia Hernandez
Daniella Hernandez
Valerie Leal
Alexis Libiran
Jenny Lohan
Melanie Longoria
Amalia Lopez
Veronica Mireles
Melody Ramos
Celeste Ramirez
Andrea Richardson
Priscilla Romero
Jamie Rossler
Elizabeth Ruiz
Gabrylle Salazar
San Juanita Salinas
Gysenia Terrazas
Valerie Torres
Laura Torres Carmen
Villanueva Lorraine
Villegas

Irene Martinez
Debra Mendoza
Brenda Olivares
Dominique Perez
Mari Rivera-Roman
Sylvia Rodriguez
Ursula Scott
Patricia Torres



JTD Weekends, 2025

June 12 - June 15
Men's JTD #232 - LD, Alonzo Garza

July 24 - July 27
Women's JTD 233 - LD, Cindy Garcia

September 18 - September 21st
Men's JTD #235 - LD, Mitch Hippensteal

October 16 - October 19th
Women's JTD #236 - LD, Liz Yzaquirre

The Lay Directors or a St. Elsewhere representative from each team will present updated status for each weekend at every candlelight.

Please plan to attend candlelight for the weekends listed below.
Candlelight begins at 8:00 p.m. each Saturday of a Journey weekend at OLCC, St. Teresa Hall, 1252 Lantana St., Corpus Christi, Tx.

Lastly, if you would like to fill out a team application or sign up a pilgrim for any of the up coming Journey weekends please click the link below.

[**Applications**](#)

Journey to Damascus #229
March 20-23, 2025



**“Seek first the Kingdom and
his Righteousness, and all
these things will be given up
to you”
Matthew 6:33**

JTD Community,

Until this moment, I had not stopped to truly reflect on the journey we lived together just a few short weeks ago. Life has a way of keeping us in constant motion, but now that I take a moment to reflect and think back, my heart is overwhelmed with gratitude. There were bumps along the road — small storms that threatened to steal our peace — but together, we (literally) danced our way through it. We stumbled, we laughed, we wept, but we pressed on. And when we reached the pinnacle of our weekend, we looked around and saw something breathtaking: God had “loomed” together every imperfect moment into a perfect, radiant art piece of His love.

JTD 229 was never about perfection. It was about surrender. It was about showing up messy, real, and willing — and in doing so, allowing Christ to do what only He can do: bring life from brokenness, beauty from ashes, and new beginnings from anxious and heavy hearts.

I am deeply, and forever grateful to every pilgrim who said “yes” to the unknown. Your courage changed, molded and then formed everything we encountered that weekend. To the team — thank you for saying yes to the call, and yes to loving each person without condition. You carried the light when the path was dark, and you shared your light freely when others needed it most.

And to St. Elsewhere — the behind the scenes strength behind it all — your heart, your laughter, your steadfastness are written into the very walls of the retreat center.

There aren’t words big enough for the gratitude I hold for each of you. Thank you for every prayer and thank you to every hand that played a part in our weekend. Thank you for making our weekend a mountain that we will never forget standing up on TOGETHER.

As the community now gears up for JTD 230 and all the weekends to come, I can feel God smiling down on us, whispering, “Well done, good and faithful servants.” Because of JTD 229, so many new servant leaders are ready to share their hearts with the journey world. De Colores, forever and always.

♥□□□□

Becca Ramos Taylor
Lay Director #229



JTD #232 – Just Around the Corner!

June 12–15, 2025

Matthew 4:19 “Follow Me, and I will make you Fishers of Men.

I thank the Lord for all He has done for this team as we prepare for JTD #232. His hand has clearly been at work, guiding us as we open our hearts to each pilgrim who will join us on this incredible Journey weekend.

The enemy has certainly been trying to distract and discourage our team, but we serve an awesome God and He is so much greater! We trust that He is keeping his promise to Make us Fishers of Men, and lead others to Him.

We ask for your continued prayers for St. Elsewhere, for team, and for every pilgrim who the Lord has already hand picked to attend. Your prayers matter. Please help us fill up our Prayer Vigil, and we invite you to join us for Candlelight on Saturday, June 14th. Your presence is a powerful way to show the love of Christ to our pilgrims.

I want to thank the community for all of your prayers, and everyone that has already stepped up to help get us ready for this weekend. The support and out pour is greatly appreciated and such a blessing.

Let's keep pressing forward - JTD #232 is going to be the Best Journey Ever!

De Colores,
Alonzo Garza, Lay Director, JTD #232

How to Get Involved with your JTD Community?

Each JTD weekend has a 72 hour
prayer vigil

PLEASE CLICK THE "SIGNUP" LINK
to help out:



*access code (for all) DeColores

Men's JTD #232 – Jun 12 - 15
Prayer **Signup**

Women's JTD #233 – July 24 - 27
Prayer **Signup**

Men's JTD #235 – Sept 18 - 21
Prayer **Signup**

Women's JTD #236 – Oct 16 - 19
Prayer **Signup**

**PRAYER
VIGILS**



Join us in a Prayer Hour on the Monday of each JTD weekend. Let's come together in faith, reflection and support for the journey ahead.

The next Prayer Hour will be held on June 9th from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Location TBA.

Let's lift up the JTD weekends and all who will be participating in them.



The community is invited to join any of the following JTD committees listed below:

Please contact Edna Lopez Alonso, President or Marivel Garza, Vice President with any questions.

Board representatives for each committee are listed below.

1. 4th Day Committee: Liz Yzaguirre
2. Board of Trustees: Javier Flores & Marivel Garza
3. Candlelight/Closing Committee: Jenny Sehy & Liz Yzaguirre
4. Fundraising: Owen Gallagher
5. Historian Report: Rick Svetlik
6. Music Report: Owen Gallagher & Rick Svetlik
7. Newsletter: Marivel Garza
8. Registrar Report: Jenny Sehy
9. Spiritual Director: Rev. Billy Storms & Father Joseph Lopez
10. Spiritual Team: Owen Gallagher
11. Team Selection: Lori Green
12. St. Elsewhere: Javier Flores
13. Manual Committee: Bud Colwell
14. OLCC Timeline: Rick Svetlik

Journey to Damascus | P.O. Box 945 | Corpus Christi, TX 78403 US

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