



# St. John of the Cross



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*Mailing Address — P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372*

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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2026

**Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)**

Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



## Good News!

March 22, 2026

**Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)**

Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

ANN M. GARRIDO

The prophets before Jesus had long spoken of God's dreams for our world. In seasons of darkness and despair, they would offer snapshots of hope for what it would be like in the "kingdom of God." Those who were blind would see. Those unable to walk would dance. Those imprisoned would be free. And those who had died would be raised to life again.

In today's gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets' hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." In other words, Martha believes in the coming "kingdom of God." But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: "I am the resurrection and the life." That is, "I am the kingdom of God."

Origen of Alexandria—a third-century theologian—spoke of Jesus as the *autobasileia*. The term comes from two Greek words: *auto*, meaning "self," and *basileia*, meaning "kingdom." It was his way of expressing that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that the prophets had preached. He was all of God's dreams for us manifest, not as had been anticipated in a future time, but in a living person.

We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." •

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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. Patrick 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.

# Worship, Prayer, & Ministries

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Sat.-21</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Linda Corrales (Heavenly birthday) by Family Birthday blessings for Robert Silva and Mason Bishop by David and Terrie Silva For the honest person who returned a lost ATM card
<b>Sun.-22</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	† Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family
	<b>11:00AM</b>	† Adolfo Guevara (Heavenly birthday) by Janie Beltran † Randy Slater by His Loving wife and Family
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, † Clemencia Gomez por Familia Gomez Martinez Sus once años de vida de Valeria Ordonez por sus papas Las familias de la parroquia.
<b>Mon.-23</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	† David Gaza by Sonia Bernal
<b>Tues.-24</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
<b>Thurs.-26</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	For all the souls in Purgatory by Anita Bazan
	<b>6:30PM</b>	Adoration
<b>Fri.-27</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	Unwed mothers
	<b>6:00PM</b>	Stations of the Cross—Casa de Lucy

## Masses for March 28 and 29

<b>Sat.-28</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Mr. and † Mrs. Antonio Medrano by David and Terrie Silva Birthday blessings for Aria Garza by Grandpa and Grandma † Carmen Contreras by Luisa Mesa
<b>Sun.-29</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	The families of the parish
	<b>11:00AM</b>	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family Souls in Purgatory by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, † Clemencia Gomez por Familia Gomez Martinez † Jose Antonio Zaragoza Sevilla (13 anos) por su hija

**Sanctuary light and altar flowers** ~ The sanctuary light and / or the altar flowers may be sponsored in honor of or for the repose of the soul of a loved one, or in celebration of special occasions like birthdays or wedding anniversaries. Please contact the parish office for more information. The sanctuary light is \$20 / weekend. The altar flowers are \$80/ weekend. Please contact the office for more information.

Let us join in one voice to beseech our Lord for rain -

O God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, grant us rain, in due abundance, that, being sufficiently helped with temporal gifts, we may seek with more confidence those that are eternal. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Pray with the confidence that He will grant our request.*



### 2025 Tax statements Church Donation Records ~

If you would like a statement of your 2025 donations for tax filing, please call the Parish Office.

To save paper and postage, statements will only be provided upon request.



## Ministry Schedule for Mass

### Ministry Schedule

**March 28—6:00PM—Lector:** Pablo Alaniz, Anita Bazan  
**EM:** Sharry Stipp, Luis and Nora Romanos  
**Head Ushers:** Carlos Alaniz, Mike Schroedter

**March 29—7:30AM—Lector:** Ed Ortiz, Rick Svetlik  
**EM:** Jose Isais, Luz Paiz, Margie Svetlik  
**Head Usher:** Bart and Maria Miller

**11:00AM—Lector:** Youth Mass-5th Grade, Mitch Hippensteal, Ernest Henderson  
**EM:** Dee DeLeon, Janie Flores, Volunteers  
**Head Usher:** Tinker Villarreal

**6:00PM—Lector:** Esmeralda Castro, Deacon Cavada  
**EM:** Jesus Perez, Joachin Ordonez  
**Head Usher:** Paulin Becerril

We are in need of more lectors, eucharistic ministers, and ushers for all Masses. Please let the parish office know if you can help.



## PRAYER LIST

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

J.D. Beeson, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Oscar Ortiz, Jr., James and Janice Wostal



*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:

**Theresa Laurienti and Ricki Rodriguez Choat**



## Praying for our Military

**We remember these service personnel in each 'Mass for the Families of the Parish'**

**Air Force:** Vincent Gordon, Preston Holliday, Christopher Lauer II, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas



**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, 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](http://www.st-johnog.org)
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab

# A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



This Sunday I am very happy to announce that the bids for the exterior stucco work of the church and the stained-glass repair have been approved by the Diocesan Construction Office. The formal contracts are being prepared for the Bishop's signature. The last step is the final and formal approval from the Diocesan Finance Council that there are 50% of the contract amounts of \$307,000.00 in the D&L Savings. That means there are \$153,500.00 of the necessary funds on deposit in the Diocesan Deposit and Loan Exempt Savings and that the balance of the contracted amount (\$153,500.00) has been granted through a loan from the D&L Loan account. This repair work is no longer just a hope and dream, but it is quickly becoming an approved, signed, and funded reality for our parish. But there is a little more that needs to be done in the financing area.

Funds on Deposit with the Exempt Savings	\$101,643.66	
Funds in transit (sent but not yet credited)	<u>\$ 19,457.50</u>	
Total Deposit with the Diocese	\$121,101.16	
Funds not yet sent to Diocese	February 2026	\$ 8,654.00
	Fish Fry Proceeds	\$ 7,710.53
	March 2026	<u>\$ 3,877.20</u>
		\$ 20,241.73
Total Our Living Church Capital Campaign Funds		<u>\$141,342.89</u>
Total needed on Deposit to sign contracts		<u>\$153,500.00</u>
Total Deficit		<b>\$ 12,157.11</b>

The "Funds not yet sent to the Diocese" is the big concern for the operation of the parish. These amounts have been received into the parish checkbook but have not been sent because there are not sufficient funds for the cash flow needs of the parish. We must keep a certain balance in the checkbook for the payroll and the regular ongoing parish expenses – electricity, water, A/C repairs, etc. So, the parish has been using these dedicated fund amounts to keep the parish's cashflow solvent. If I forward the \$20,241.73 to the Exempt Savings, there will not be money in the main checkbook for the regular parish expenses.

To put it another way, the current deficit and the "Funds not yet Sent" total to a shortfall of Funds on Deposit with the Exempt Savings to \$32,398.84. Each week I review the cash on hand in the parish checkbook and the cashflow balance needs of the parish, and as is possible, I forward the "Funds not yet sent" to the Exempt Savings.

And with the war in the Middle East, the price of gas and all other household expenses have skyrocketed. To fill my gas tank on my car usually costs about \$29.00, but on Monday the same amount of gas was \$40.45. YIKES! So, I am painfully aware that all of the parishioner families are also experiencing the same difficulties with their household budgets. So, I on the parish side have been cutting out all non-essential spending, as I am sure you have also done. Possibly, one of those spending reductions that you might have made, or are considering, is your regular weekly donation to the Church. If it is possible, I ask you not to reduce your weekly donation to the Church. If you must I completely understand and I trust God will make up the difference in other ways. And if you might be blessed enough to increase your donation by a dollar or two it would greatly help the regular cashflow needs of the parish. And it would allow us to forward more of the "Funds not yet Sent" to the Exempt Savings.

I have meetings next week with various departments at the diocese to assess what our possible options might be. We have \$20,965.03 in our Regular Savings that might make up the "Funds not Sent", but that still leaves us the \$12,158.00 deficit. And that would also leave us without any savings. This is not an impossible situation as I have faced this several times over the years. And each time trusting in God, the necessary funds have always shown up. So, Pray Hard!

Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Patrick

## Deacon's Corner

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Liturgical Cycle A, when we should be reading Matthew's Gospel. During Lent each year we read from John's Gospel for the sake of the adults who are going to be coming into the Church on Holy Saturday night. Today's reading from Chapter 11 of John is about the Resurrection. The readings are from Ezekiel 37:12-14; [Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8](#); [Romans 8:8-11](#); and John 11:1-45. Chapter 37 of Ezekiel is my favorite chapter of the Old Testament. This is the vision of the "dry bones." Read it; it is incredibly interesting! Today's first reading describes or contemplates the Resurrection in a very simple way and the coming of the Spirit. Luke describes the Pentecost (in the Acts) in terms of "tongues of fire." In John's version, Jesus "breathes" on the disciples. The readings this week inform us that it is the "Spirit" that gives us life. Resurrection means that death must precede it. Therefore, mostly we think of the final Resurrection. In the exchange between Jesus and Martha in today's Gospel reading, Martha answers quickly that she believes that the Lord will come at the end of time. Jesus does not deny that, but he takes her in another direction. "I am the Resurrection," he tells her. What does that mean? How can a future event be the person of Jesus? This can only be if the Resurrection is a reality now. What are the benefits of Resurrection? Peace, full forgiveness, trust in God, the theological virtues—all these can be experienced in this life; not perfectly because we are sinners, but perfectly in the next life. Some protestant "theologians" have suggested that what John is

talking about in the raising of Lazarus is something called "realized eschatology." Jesus' coming into the world was enough for all time. We accept Jesus as the God-man; we live our humanity to the fullest, doing good and avoiding evil, and his coming into the world blesses and sanctifies our existence, and the only thing left for us is to accept Jesus. The following quote from John's Gospel is probably the most famous and important for our understanding of who Jesus is: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. 'Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.'" According to this statement the Incarnation is enough for our salvation. This means that we are not to fear the end of time. In fact, we pray for it: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Cardinal Josef Ratzinger (Pope Benedict the XVI) made this point clear in his work on the end of time. We can only participate in the Resurrection fully when we die. Death is essential to benefit from Resurrection. (Josef Ratzinger, *Eschatology, Death and Eternal Life*), Second Edition. In a very real sense, participation in a life with Jesus requires dying and rising--the whole concept of the Paschal Mystery—in order to live with Jesus, we must die to self! Isn't that what Lent is all about? God bless you, and I hope you have a tremendous Holy Week!

Deacon Cavada



# Stewardship of Treasure

Week #37	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
3/15/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (6,840.88)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,793.00	\$ (7,147.88)	\$ 77,700.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 16,497.71	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,033.00	\$ 16,330.71	\$ 44,400.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 11,448.66	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,756.86	\$ 11,805.52	\$ 51,800.00	
	<b>TOTAL Collection</b>	<b>\$ 21,105.49</b>	<b>\$ 4,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,582.86</b>	<b>\$ 20,988.35</b>	<b>\$ 173,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 194,888.35</b>



To access the St. John of the Cross online giving portal, scan the QR code. As always, feel free to contact the parish office if you need any assistance with setting up your online giving.



## Parish Organizations



**Attention all graduating seniors:** The St. John of the Cross Joint and the Knights of Columbus Scholarships are now available in the church foyer, the parish office and the high school counselor's office.

***The KC Scholarship deadline is Thursday, April 30, and the Joint Scholarship deadline is Monday, May 4.***

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 13, 2026 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 27 @ 6PM

Monthly processional - April 5 - Pam Herschap



### ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

**March 26—28**—Mrs. Diana Aguilar, Mrs. Maria Robledo, Mrs. Adriana Mahoney, Mrs. Sandra Aguilar, Mrs. Gabi Cuellar  
**April 3-5**— Mrs. San Juanita Gaza, Mrs. Raquel Jimenez, Mrs. Esmeralda Pena, Mrs. Rose Chapa , Mrs. Celia Alejandro

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 20 @ 6PM



Hostess grp #3: Nora Romanos

Corporate Mass—April 19 @ 7:30AM

Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: Jana Robinson

Offertory: Jeri Alaniz, Jolene Hackfeld, & Diane McBride

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Frances Matheny & Maria Beltran

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 7, 2026

CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM



Case 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.

## Religious Education



**First Holy FHC Masses:**  
 Sunday, May 3 at 9AM and 2PM



**Confirmation Mass:** Wednesday, May 13, 6:00PM, at SJoC.

Parents are asked to attend our Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday, March 25, from 6-8PM.



Once the students in grades 6-12 have received the sacrament of reconciliation, they will be released for pick up.

## Works of Mercy

**Loom Knitting** ~ Parishioners are invited to meet in the parish hall on Mondays at 9AM to knit hats for patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department. Contact the parish office or Bertha Forbes for more information.

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at SJoC on on **Wednesday, March 25** and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, April 11.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, April 2** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, March 28.**



## Upcoming Parish Event



### BBQ 1/2 Chicken plate fundraiser Sunday, April 26, 11:00AM—1:00PM



Plates are \$12 and come with pinto beans and potato salad.  
Tickets are on sale now! Get yours from a Knight or the parish office today!  
**DRIVE THRU** with delivery to vehicle **ONLY**.

## Diocesan News

**Young Catholic Adults** are welcome to join the parish of St. John the Baptist for Family Holy Hour and Social on **Sunday, March 22**, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Confession is offered during Adoration.

All are welcome to stay for fellowship and potluck in the parish hall after Adoration.

Contact Angie Windnagle at St. John the Baptist for more information: [awindnagle@sjbcctx.org](mailto:awindnagle@sjbcctx.org).



The Office of Young Adult Ministry will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Virtual SEEK Conference on **Saturday, March 28** at the TAMUCC Newman Center from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

It will include dinner, 2 conferences and small group discussions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more.

This conference is open to all young adults, college-age and young professionals.

RSVP to Sofia at [ycacccctx@gmail.com](mailto:ycacccctx@gmail.com) or [soconnor@diocesecc.org](mailto:soconnor@diocesecc.org)

The **Andrew Dinner** will be at St. Pius X Catholic Church on **Thursday, April 16**, at 6:00 p.m.

The Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for young men earnestly seeking God's will in their lives to share a meal and an evening of fraternity with Bishop Avilés and some of the priests of the diocese. The witness of priests in communion with the bishop is a powerful experience for those who feel they may be called to this life.

Young men interested in attending are asked to speak with their pastor.

Please RSVP to Father James Vasquez in the Office of Vocations at [jvasquez@diocesecc.org](mailto:jvasquez@diocesecc.org) or call (361) 882-6191 ext. 604.

**Let's Brighten Our Community** service retreat for high school teens will happen on **Saturday, April 18** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, located at 3350 South Alameda in Corpus Christi.

This will be a fun opportunity to gather in faith and fellowship.

Register at <https://diocesecc.org/lboc>



**CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES** ~ Bishop Mario A. Avilés, C.O. is hosting a fun celebration for our graduates on **Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**



It will be a gathering filled with food, games, music, and more. Students will have an opportunity to meet fellow graduates and learn more about the Newman Centers and other Catholic groups to help them continue their faith journey after graduation.

There is no cost to attend. **RSVP by April 13th.** Spots are limited.

**The Inaugural Corpus Christi Cathedral Gala a Family Reunion**  
with Special Guest Speaker The Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores Bishop of Brownsville  
**Friday, May 22, 2026, 7:00PM**, at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel.

Tickets and more information at [cathedralgala.com](http://cathedralgala.com)

## Community

The Coastal Bend Blood Center will be at St. John of the Cross on **Sunday, April 19, from 8AM—1PM.** Spring into action. Donate Blood.

Appointments are recommended and walk-ins are welcome. Scan the QR code or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to schedule your life-saving appointment. Donors will receive a Fishing for Donors t-shirt and a Longhorn Steakhouse coupon. While supplies last.



# Lent

## Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

**Abstinence on Fridays during Lent** ~ Those ages 14+ are required to abstain from eating meat every Friday during Lent.

### Fasting on Good Friday~

Those ages 18-59 should limit themselves to no more than one meal that day.

Casa de Lucy will lead the **Stations of the Cross** at **6PM on Fridays March 27.**

**Good Friday—April 3—Stations of the Cross**  
English —3:00PM Spanish—5:00PM



## Reconciliation

**Our Lenten Penance Service** is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 25, from 6PM—8PM.** Four visiting priests will be available for confession.

**Confessions** are offered every Thursday and Sunday at 5:30PM and Saturday at 5:00PM.

An extra opportunity for confession will be offered on Holy Thursday from 8:30PM—9:30PM.

Matthew cautions us, "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)



**40 CANS FOR LENT FOOD DRIVE** ~ Almsgiving is one of the pillars of Lent. Please support our "40 Cans for Lent" food drive to stock our St. John of the Cross Food Pantry.

Items most needed are canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, SPAM), canned chili, canned vegetables and fruit, boxed cereal, and snack bars.

All nonperishable items may be placed in the wicker baskets in the church foyer or brought to the parish office beginning through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

*Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." (Matthew 25:35-40)*



## Holy Thursday—April 2

### Holy Thursday Rehearsal for altar servers @ 5:30PM

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7PM

Washing of the Feet  
Rededication of Eucharistic Ministers  
Eucharistic Procession  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Adoration Shifts on Holy Thursday

8PM-9PM: Altar Society  
9PM—10PM: Soc. Guadalupanas  
10PM—11PM: Altar Servers & Youth  
11:00PM—12:00AM: KCs



## Singing is praying twice!

All are invited to **Choir Practice for the Triduum Masses—Monday, March 30, at 7PM.**

Bring a friend or an instrument!



## Good Friday Service (bilingual) @ 7:00PM



Decorate for Easter on Saturday, April 4, at 11AM

Easter Vigil Mass—Saturday, April 4 @ 8:00PM  
Altar Server practice for Easter Vigil @ 10:00AM

Easter Sunday Mass, April 5— Regular Mass times



# Liturgy & Sacraments

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request – please call the office. Any person who is sick (either homebound or in the hospital) or about to have surgery, is encouraged to receive Anointing of the Sick. As current Federal Law prohibits hospitals from the release of any patient's name. Father will not know you are in the hospital unless you call the office.

**Baptisms of Infants: (0 to 5 yrs.):** Please bring the child's civil birth certificate to the parish office to register the child, their parents & the Godparents for the one-hour Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents must be able to provide Certificates for Catholic Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation, & if married, Marriage Certificate in the Catholic Church. Donation for the class and Baptism is \$30.00, for the class only is \$15.00. Date & time for the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Baptismal Class.

**Confessions:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confessions) is available on Thursday from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 5:00 PM—5:30 PM and at any time by appointment with the Priest.

**Quinceañeras:** The honoree and their family must be registered and participating in the parish for two years prior to the year of the Quinceañera (or Quinceañero). The young person must have Baptism & Communion in the Catholic Church, & be attending the parish Religious Education Program. The family is strongly encouraged to contact the Church for **2 years** before the intended date.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made with the priest or deacon, preferably one year before the intended date, (minimum of six months in advance) to complete the necessary requirements. At least one person must be an active and registered member of this parish. No wedding date is guaranteed until ALL diocesan requirements have been fulfilled.

**Blessing of Civil Marriages** – If you were married before a judge, or a non-Catholic minister, and wish to be readmitted to Holy Communion, there needs to be a Blessing of your Civil Marriage. Please call the parish office and set up an appointment with Father Patrick so he can hear your particular situation and can guide you through the process. Father Patrick is always saying "Don't wait! Start the process NOW!"

# Dear Padre,

*I've offered many Masses for wife and family, thinking if perhaps they are in Purgatory, it would help shorten their time. How can we tell if our prayers and Masses are beneficial? How do we know?*

It has been a long- and well-established expression of Catholic faith and practice to pray for the departed. Our prayers help us as we grieve and mourn the passing of the people we love. Our prayers help us keep their passing in perspective—not as the end of something, but rather as the beginning of new life in Christ. This is beneficial and needs no further evidence to illustrate the value of the practice.

Your question, on the other hand, goes beyond what the tradition emphasizes. It seems like you are seeking some sort of guarantee or warranty, which you assume will be reassuring. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee or warranty either promised or implied in this spiritual practice. In death, indeed in the whole of Christian life, we bump up against mystery, not certitude. We are invited to enter into the mystery. To grow in the mystery. To be graced by the mystery. Nothing more is possible. We hope because we believe. We believe because we practice what we hope for. ●



REMIATA SEDIMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

*Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org*



FAUSTO BENDA / SHUTTERSTOCK

## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

*A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face. And so, we switch off, we fall asleep.... But reality has to be faced.... Let us go to Jesus: he can heal us; he can revive us. Jesus is our hope!*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 25, 2025

### **Monday**

**MARCH 23**

*Lenten Weekday*

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,  
19-30, 33-62 or  
13:41c-62  
Jn 8:1-11

### **Tuesday**

**MARCH 24**

*Lenten Weekday*

Nm 21:4-9  
Jn 8:21-30

### **Wednesday**

**MARCH 25**

*The Annunciation  
of the Lord*

Is 7:10-14; 8:10  
Heb 10:4-10  
Lk 1:26-38

### **Thursday**

**MARCH 26**

*Lenten Weekday*

Gn 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59

### **Friday**

**MARCH 27**

*Lenten Weekday*

Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42

### **Saturday**

**MARCH 28**

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 37:21-28  
Jn 11:45-56

### **Sunday**

**MARCH 29**

*Palm Sunday of the  
Passion of the Lord*

Mt 21:1-11  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Mt 26:14-27:66 or  
27:11-54

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.