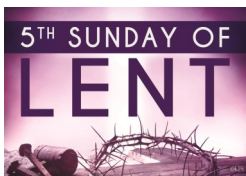


A photograph of a wooden cross and a crown of thorns against a purple background. The cross is made of light-colored wood and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The crown of thorns is made of dried, light-colored wood with sharp, pointed thorns and is draped across the center of the image. The background is a solid, deep purple color. The text "FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. A large, semi-transparent purple number "5" is also visible behind the text.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



March 22, 2026

Fr. Kevin's Korner

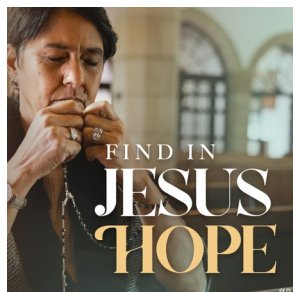
## JESUS, THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Everyone needs friends—even Jesus. In the village of Bethany he had three dear friends: Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus. Their home was always open to him, even at times when others were closing their doors.

When Lazarus became seriously ill, the sisters naturally turned to Jesus for help. They sent word to him, saying, "Lord, the one you love is ill." It seemed a request that could not be ignored. Yet, surprisingly, Jesus did not rush to his friend's side. Instead, he remained where he was for two more days. For Martha and Mary, this delay must have been heartbreaking. As they watched their brother's life slipping away, the one they believed could save him was not there.

Many of us can understand their feelings. When suffering comes to us or to those we love, we may feel abandoned by God. We wonder why, if God truly loves us, he would allow such things to happen.

Lazarus died, and the Gospel reveals the deep sorrow that filled the hearts of Martha and Mary. It is the same sorrow many people experience at the loss of a loved one. Although friends and neighbors gathered to comfort them, the one person they most wanted with them—Jesus, their friend and the friend of Lazarus—had not yet arrived.



When Jesus finally came, Martha said to him, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." Her words reveal both her grief and her faith in Jesus' power. Jesus then spoke words that are at the heart of the Gospel: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Do you believe this?" Despite her grief and the evidence before her, Martha professed her faith: "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The story ends with joy as Lazarus is restored to life and returned to his sisters. Yet the Gospel is not simply about a miracle that gave Lazarus more years of earthly life. The deeper message lies in Jesus' declaration: "I am the resurrection and the life."

Jesus did not come into the world merely to prolong our earthly existence. He came to give us a life that death cannot destroy—the very life of God. Those who believe in him and follow him enter into a relationship with God that even death cannot break.

This Gospel also reminds us that Jesus is a faithful friend. Even in the face of death, we are never beyond the reach of his love and help. Jesus understands the pain and sorrow that death brings, because he experienced it himself. He overcame death not by avoiding it, but by entering into it and conquering it through his resurrection.

For this reason, Jesus stands before us as our guide and our hope. In him we find the promise that death is not the end, but the doorway to the eternal life that God has prepared for all who believe.

Fr. Kevin's Korner

## JESUS, LA FUENTE DE LA VIDA ETERNA

Todo el mundo necesita amigos—incluso Jesús. En el pueblo de Betania tenía tres queridos amigos: Marta, María y su hermano Lázaro. Su hogar siempre estaba abierto para él, incluso en momentos en que otros cerraban sus puertas.

Cuando Lázaro enfermó gravemente, las hermanas recurrieron naturalmente a Jesús en busca de ayuda. Le enviaron un mensaje diciendo: "Señor, el que amas está enfermo." Parecía una petición que no podía ignorarse. Sin embargo, sorprendentemente, Jesús no se apresuró a acercarse a su amigo. En cambio, permaneció donde estaba dos días más. Para Marta y María, este retraso debió de ser desgarrador. Mientras veían cómo la vida de su hermano se desvanecía, la persona que creían que podría salvarle no estaba.

Muchos de nosotros podemos entender sus sentimientos. Cuando el sufrimiento nos llega a nosotros o a quienes amamos, podemos sentirnos abandonados por Dios. Nos preguntamos por qué, si Dios realmente nos ama, permitiría que sucedieran tales cosas.

Lázaro murió, y el Evangelio revela la profunda tristeza que llenó los corazones de Marta y María. Es la misma tristeza que muchas personas experimentan por la pérdida de un ser querido. Aunque amigos y vecinos se reunieron para consolarles, la persona que más deseaban con ellos—Jesús, su amigo y amigo de Lázaro—aún no había llegado.

Cuando Jesús por fin llegó, Marta le dijo: "Si hubieras estado aquí, mi hermano no habría muerto." Sus palabras revelan tanto su dolor como su fe en el poder de Jesús. Jesús entonces pronunció palabras que están en el corazón del Evangelio: "Yo soy la resurrección y la vida. Quien crea en mí, aunque muera, vivirá. ¿Te lo crees?" A pesar de su dolor y de las pruebas ante ella, Martha profesó su fe: "Sí, Señor. Creo que tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, el que viene al mundo."



La historia termina con alegría cuando Lázaro es restaurado a la vida y devuelto con sus hermanas. Sin embargo, el Evangelio no trata simplemente de un milagro que dio a Lázaro más años de vida terrenal. El mensaje más profundo radica en la declaración de Jesús: "Yo soy la resurrección y la vida".

Jesús no vino al mundo solo para prolongar nuestra existencia terrenal. Vino a darnos una vida que la muerte no puede destruir: la propia vida de Dios. Quienes creen en él y le siguen entablan una relación con Dios que ni la muerte puede romper.

Este Evangelio también nos recuerda que Jesús es un amigo fiel. Incluso ante la muerte, nunca estamos fuera del alcance de su amor y ayuda. Jesús entiende el dolor y la tristeza que trae la muerte, porque él mismo lo experimentó. Venció la muerte no evitándola, sino entrando en ella y conquistándola mediante su resurrección.

Por esta razón, Jesús se presenta ante nosotros como nuestro guía y nuestra esperanza. En él encontramos la promesa de que la muerte no es el final, sino la puerta a la vida eterna que Dios ha preparado para todos los que creen.



# MASS INTENTIONS

## Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

### 7:00 AM

✠ Philip Jacobs by Marion & Charles Jeffers

### 8:30 AM

✠ José ✠ Rejinaldo y ✠ Vicenta Villegas de parte de Oliva Cisneros  
✠ In Loving Memory of Deyanira Tello by your loving sister Erika  
✠ Floriano ✠ Sara y ✠ Atenógenes Cisneros de parte de Josefina García

### 10:30 AM

✠ Patrick Pape by his loving family  
Special Intention for Kate Crawford on her birthday by Judy Crawford  
✠ Eileen Emley by Herbert Bludeau & family

### 12:30 PM

For all St. Anthony de Padua Parishioners

## Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 AM

✠ Reynaldo A. Canchola lovingly by Sylvia Cooke  
✠ Pete Martinez by St. Anthony de Padua  
✠ Truelito Esguerra

## Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM

Special Intention for the health of Joslee & Cavy Silva family by Peter Dias  
✠ Martin Cantu by St. Anthony de Padua  
✠ Truelito Esguerra

## Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM

Special Intention for healing and recovery for Alan Spalten by Sharon Linnartz  
Special Intention for the healing of Mike Pope by Judy Crawford  
✠ Harry Affleck by Judy Crawford

## Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM

✠ William Church by Walter & Marilyn Church  
In Thanksgiving for Chuck Anderson & the Anderson family by Judy Crawford  
✠ Richard Goldsmith by Judy Crawford

## Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM

✠ Ann Shanahan by her loving family  
✠ Special Intention for Elizabeth Webb Roehl and her family by the Schmidt family

## Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM

For all St. Anthony de Padua Parishioners

## Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

### 7:00 AM

✠ Sylvia Barrera Stiles on her heavenly anniversary by Barrera & Castro family  
✠ Rosa Peña by Rosie Felan

### 8:30 AM

✠ In loving memory of Deyanira Tello by your loving sister Erika  
✠ Máximo, ✠ Raquel y Rafaela Villegas de parte de Oliva Cisneros  
✠ Manuel, ✠ Carmen y ✠ Rafael Soria de parte de Josefina García

### 10:30 AM

✠ Eileen Emley by Herbert Bludeau & family  
Special Intention for Claire Palmer on her birthday by Judy Crawford  
✠ Philip Jacobs by Marion & Charles Jeffers

### 12:30 PM

✠ For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Pamela Jumbo Cueva

CONTRIBUTING IS EASY WITH



!!

VISIT

[stanthonydepadua.org](http://stanthonydepadua.org),

CLICK



And **Sign-Up TODAY!**  
Or **SCAN** the  
**QR CODE BELOW**



<p><b>March 15, 2026:</b>  <b>Offertory: \$17,004.00</b>  <b>Online: \$4,348.31</b>  <b>TOTAL: \$21,352.31</b></p>
<p><b>March 22, 2025</b>  <b>Offertory: \$21,477.97</b></p>





THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, March 22nd

- 7:00 AM Mass—Church
7:00 AM KOC Taco Breakfast—Parish Hall
8:30 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
9:00 AM RE Classes (1st-5th)—FFC
10:30 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
11:00 AM RE Classes (MS & Conf I)—FFC
11:30 AM Eucharistic Ministry Training—Library
12:30 PM Mass—Church
4:00 PM IMPACT—Banquet Hall

Monday, March 23rd

- 9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Tuesday, March 24th

- 9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Wednesday, March 25th

- 9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Thursday, March 26th

- 9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
9:30 AM Confessions—Parlor

Friday, March 27th

- 9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Saturday, March 28th

- 3:30 PM Confessions—Parlor
5:00 PM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Sunday, March 29th

- 7:00 AM Mass—Church
7:30 AM RE Arts & Crafts Fair—Parish Hall
8:30 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
9:00 AM RE Classes (1st-5th)—FFC
10:30 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
11:00 AM RE Classes (MS & Conf I)—FFC
12:30 PM Mass—Church

ESTA SEMANA EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA

Domingo, 22 de marzo

- 7:00 AM Misa—Iglesia
7:00 AM KOC Taco Breakfast—Parish Hall
8:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
9:00 AM RE Classes (1st-5th)—FFC
10:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
11:00 AM RE Classes (MS & Conf I)—FFC
11:30 AM Formación para el ministerio eucarístico—Biblioteca
12:30 PM Misa—Iglesia
4:00 PM IMPACT—Salón de banquetes

Lunes, 23 de marzo

- 9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Martes, 24 de marzo

- 9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Miércoles, 25 de marzo

- 9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Jueves, 26 de marzo

- 9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
9:30 AM Confesiones—Parlor

Viernes, 27 de marzo

- 9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Sábado, 28 de marzo

- 3:30 PM Confesiones (en inglés)
5:00 PM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Domingo, 29 de marzo

- 7:00 AM Misa—Iglesia
7:30 AM Feria de artesanía—Salón de banquetes
8:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
9:00 AM RE Classes (1st-5th)—FFC
10:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
11:00 AM RE Classes (MS & Conf I)—FFC
12:30 PM Misa—Iglesia

Blessing for New Life

God, in Your goodness, restore our hope.
Where we feel imprisoned, break our chains.
Where we feel discouraged, bring us light.
Where the ground feels dry,
break through with life anew. Amen.

Bendición para una Nueva Vida

Dios, en tu bondad, restaura nuestra esperanza.
Donde nos sentimos prisioneros, rompe
nuestras cadenas.
Donde nos sentimos desanimados, tráenos luz.
Donde el suelo se siente seco,
Abre paso con vida nueva. Amén.

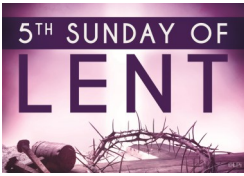
Weekday Readings

- 3/22 Sun: John 11:1-45
3/23 Mon: John 8:1-11
3/24 Tue: John 8:21-30
3/25 Wed: Luke 1:26-38
3/26 Thu: John 8:51-59
3/27 Fri: John 10:31-42
3/28 Sat: John 11:45-56

Lecturas de los días laborables

- Dom. 22 de marzo: Juan 11:1-45
Lun. 23 de marzo: Juan 8:1-11
Mar. 24 de marzo: Juan 8:21-30
Mié. 25 de marzo: Lucas 1:26-38
Jue. 26 de marzo: Juan 8:51-59
Vie. 27 de marzo: Juan 10:31-42
Sab. 28 de marzo: Juan 11:45-56





March 22, 2026

IN THE PARISH

**HOLY WEEK**  
SCHEDULE

**PALM SUNDAY MASS**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>: 5:00 PM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>: 7:00AM, 8:30AM (SPANISH), 10:30AM, 12:30PM

**PARISH RECONCILIATION**  
MONDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>: 7:00 PM

**HOLY THURSDAY - MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER & FOOTWASHING, ALTAR OF REPOSE**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>: 7:00PM  
*(THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS & NO CONFESSIONS)*

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>: STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 12:00PM,  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, 3:00PM  
*(THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS)*

**EASTER VIGIL**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>: 5:00PM  
*(NO CONFESSIONS)*

**EASTER SUNDAY - MASS OF THE RESURRECTION**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>: 7:00AM, 8:30AM (SPANISH),  
10:30AM, 10:30AM (BANQUET HALL), 12:30PM



MOST SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON ON FACEBOOK @STANTHONYDEPADUASA OR ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.STANTHONYDEPADUA.ORG

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Annual**  
**EA<sup>ST</sup>ER EGG Hunt**

SPECIAL GUEST "THE EASTER BUNNY" WILL BE VISITING AND THERE WILL BE LOTS OF EASTER EGGS, CANDY, AND BASKET PRIZES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND SEPARATE DESIGNATED EGG HUNTS FOR UNDER FIVE AND OVER FIVE

LOCATION: FIELD NEXT TO ADORATION CHAPEL

TIMES: AFTER 8:30AM & 10:30AM MASS

**Virtues, Explained! — Faith—Mini Explanation**

The virtue of faith is "man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man." (CCC 26). Faith is encouraged by the complementary virtues of hope and love, and through the gift of understanding our faith grows and strengthens.

**ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD BOX REPORT TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026**



HELPED: 41 FAMILIES (94 TOTAL PEOPLE)  
GAVE: \$2,050.00 HEB GIFT CARDS FOR PERISHABLE FOOD

**FOOD WE CAN USE: CEREAL • CANNED FRUIT  
GREEN BEANS • CANNED SOUP • CANNED CORN • RICE**

*-Thank you for your continued support!*

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK!**

Remember in your prayers the members of our parish who are seriously ill. If you know a parishioner who is sick, in need of prayer, or bedridden and needs Eucharist, contact the parish office.

*After 4 weeks, names will be removed.*

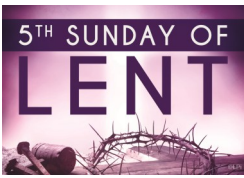
DEACON JOE BORREGO, JACKSON, DANE URBAN, MARGARET COLLAZO, DAVID JUDE, SCARLETT, MICHAEL PENA, MICHAEL CRAWFORD, WAYNE KYRISH, PAT GARZA, ARNULFO RUIZ JR., MARIA E. OLIVAREZ, JENNIFER BLOHM, MEGHAN LOGEAS, MITCH LOGEAS, ROSALINDA CROSBY, MEGAN CORPUS, STAN BONEWITZ

**PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED!**

Please remember those who are deployed in your daily prayers. Call the parish office if you would like someone added to this list or if you have a loved one who has returned home.

*After 9 months, names will be removed.*

ADAM SIFUENTES, ALLEN ESCOBEDO, CHRISTIAN CHÁVEZ, CODY GRANBY, CODY SWIERC, CONNOR HALLORAN, DAVID RAMIREZ, ISABEL ESCOBEDO, JAMES LOWE, JOHN BOUCHARD, JOHN L. QUINLAN IV, JOSHUA PALOS, JUAN CARLOS RIVERA CEDEÑO, LARRY WILLIAM JR., ROGER GONZALES, WILLIAM PALOS, & PATRICK YZNAGA JR.



IN THE PARISH

Renewal of Wedding Vows

Renewal of wedding vows for couples married in the

months of:

March & April

will be at all masses

this weekend:

March 21st & 22nd



Holy Week is just around the corner! Our music ministry is in need of Cantors for the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday).



JOIN THE CHOIR

If you like to sing, please, come and share your talent with the community here at St. Anthony de Padua.

Rehearsal Schedule for Holy week are on the following Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, March 25th. Then Thursday, March 26 @ 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. For more information, please contact José Castillo at 210-723-9586.

St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church
102 Lorenz, San Antonio, Texas 78209
210/824-1743

Arts & Crafts Fair

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
7:30AM - 2:00PM



HOLY HOUR WITH CHRIST



Holy Hour becomes a time to thank God for His countless blessings and acknowledge our dependency upon Him. "What do you possess that you did not receive?" Cor 4:7

The spiritual benefits of Eucharistic Adoration are:

- 1. Growth in humility and gratitude
2. Increased peace of mind
3. Recognition of God's gifts
4. A humble heart

Join Deacon Joe Borrego in the church at 2:45 p.m. on the last Sunday of this month, March 29, 2026

Would you like to memorialize a loved one with a plaque in the area surrounding the St. Francis of Assisi statue?

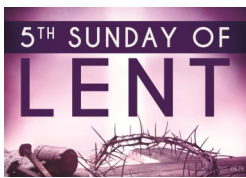


There is limited availability for the parish community to purchase a memorial plaque. The inscribed plaque, bearing the name of a loved one, is a wonderful way to remember and honor the person, living or deceased.



This cast aluminum plaque has a raised double border in silver and a recessed area for your personalization plate. It is a perfect way to honor those you love and respect. This plaque is outdoor durable, creating a permanent tribute. Space is limited, get yours today!

Memorial Plaque applications are available in the back of the church, parish office or st.anthonydepadua.org !



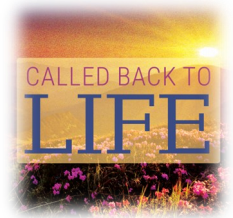
March 22, 2026

## IN THE PARISH

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

March 22, 2026—Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45



A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: **“Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43)** The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, **“Untie him and let him go” (John 11:44)**.

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

**Lenten challenge:** Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

—Father John Muir



### WHAT LAZARUS WANTED

“It must be so crazy, being God,” one of my friends said in high school. “Does it feel like playing The Sims all day? Just making people do stuff because you want to see what happens?”

I think we all sometimes fall into this warped manner of thinking about God's omnipotence. It's understandable, to a degree. The flimsiness of our own agency in this world, our real ability to impact or change anything ... well, it all feels especially puny when you put it next to the power of the Creator. “Oh God, thy sea is so great,” goes the old fisherman's prayer.

“And my boat is so small.”

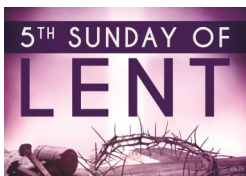
But today, in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, we are reminded that God is all about giving us agency.

Jesus could have raised any random person from the dead on this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. His intention was clear: to foreshadow his own passion, death and resurrection, and to exhibit the closeness of God to those who mourn. “This illness is not to end in death,” he tells his companions. “But is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (John 11:4)

So, if it could have been anyone, why was it Lazarus?

I think the answer has to be that this was something Lazarus agreed to. Perhaps not in an explicit way, for he didn't know the mind or the plans of God. But in his friendship with Jesus, in the strength of his faith and the depth of his devotion to God, in every prayer he ever uttered — “Lord, let your will be done” — he was agreeing to it. Over and over, in what he said and what he did, Lazarus, beloved friend of Christ, said, “Lord, I love you. Lord, use me.”

In this last full week of Lent, let us say it with him: “Lord, I love you. Lord, use me.”



March 22, 2026

## EN LA PARROQUIA

### MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

22 de marzo de 2026: V Domingo de Cuaresma

Juan 11:1-45



Está por terminar la Cuaresma; un domingo más y estaremos celebrando el Domingo de Ramos. Cuarenta días de preparación para la Pascua están por concluir. Hemos acompañado a Jesús que pasó por las tentaciones en el desierto; luego subimos con Él al monte de la Transfiguración; fuimos al pozo de Jacob con la mujer samaritana y encontramos el Agua Viva; llegamos a la piscina de Siloé y fuimos curados de nuestras cegueras. Y hoy, celebramos el domingo en el que resucitaremos junto con Lázaro. La resurrección de Lázaro es un triunfo sobre la muerte. Pero antes de este milagro, Marta, la hermana de Lázaro, sale al encuentro de Jesús y, en su diálogo, Él le dice: *"Yo soy la resurrección y la vida. El que cree en mí, aunque muera, vivirá"* (Juan 11:26). Jesús nos hace hoy la misma pregunta que le hizo a Marta: *"¿Crees esto?"* ¿Qué le respondes tú? ¿Has experimentado algún cambio en tu corazón durante esta Cuaresma?

Si nuestra fe es madura, viviremos como resucitados desde ahora, no solo al final de nuestra vida. Demos, pues, a Jesús una respuesta profunda y comprometida con nosotros mismos y con quienes nos rodean. Respondamos como Marta y como Pedro: *"Sí, Señor, creo"*. Señor, ayúdanos a ser parte de tu proyecto de vida, a construir un mundo mejor donde reine la paz. Queremos ser testigos de esperanza, donde tu amor exista a través de nuestra vida y nuestro caminar hacia Ti. Jesús nos dice hoy a cada uno de nosotros: *"¡Lázaro, sal fuera!"* (Juan 11:43).

### LO QUE LÁZARO QUERÍA

"Debe ser una locura, ser Dios", dijo uno de mis amigos en la escuela preparatoria. "¿Se siente como jugar a Los Sims todo el día? ¿Simplemente hacer que la gente haga cosas porque quieres ver qué pasa?"

Creo que todos a veces caemos en esta forma retorcida de pensar sobre la omnipotencia de Dios. Es comprensible, hasta cierto punto. La fragilidad de nuestra propia agencia en este mundo, nuestra capacidad real para impactar o cambiar cualquier cosa ... bueno, todo se siente especialmente insignificante cuando lo pones al lado del poder del Creador. "Oh Dios, tu mar es tan grande", dice la oración del viejo pescador. "Y mi bote es tan pequeño".

Pero hoy, al resucitar a Lázaro de entre los muertos, se nos recuerda que Dios quiere darnos albedrío.

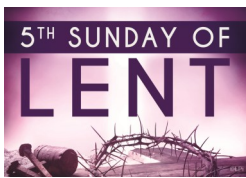
Jesús podría haber resucitado a cualquier persona al azar de entre los muertos en este, el quinto domingo de Cuaresma. Su intención era clara: prefigurar su propia pasión, muerte y resurrección, y exhibir la cercanía de Dios a los que lloran. "Esta enfermedad no va a terminar en la muerte", les dice a sus compañeros. "sino para la gloria de Dios, para que el Hijo de Dios sea glorificado por ella". (Juan 11:4)

Entonces, si pudiese haber sido cualquiera, ¿por qué fue Lázaro?

Creo que la respuesta tiene que ser que esto fue algo con lo que Lázaro estuvo de acuerdo. Quizás no de una manera explícita, porque no conocía la mente ni los planes de Dios. Pero en su amistad con Jesús, en la fuerza de su fe y la profundidad de su devoción a Dios, en cada oración que pronunciaba —"Señor, hágase tu voluntad"— estaba de acuerdo. Una y otra vez, en lo que decía y lo que hacía, Lázaro, amado amigo de Cristo, dijo: "Señor, te amo. Señor, úsame".

En esta última semana completa de Cuaresma, digámoslo con él: "Señor, te amo. Señor, úsame".





March 22, 2026

5th Sunday of Lent – Are you asleep?

Today Jesus is called to the grave of a dear friend who had recently died. Martha cries out that if Jesus were closer, her brother Lazarus would not have died.

Remember from the First Sunday in Lent that death and sin are connected and that life is seen as living a faith-filled life? That is what is happening in this Gospel. Living as a disciple of Christ can give us the ability for a life everlasting in the presence of God.

What in our lives needs to be uncovered, as Lazarus is unwrapped of his burial clothes and returned to live with his loved ones?

As we move closer to Easter Sunday, let us ask God to unwrap or unbind that which needs to be healed so that we may live a life that is pleasing to God.



40 CANS FOR LENT FOOD DRIVE NOW - MARCH 25TH. Includes list of suggested non-perishable food items like canned fruit, chicken, chili, pasta, beans, soups, cereal, oatmeal, hamburger helper, macaroni & cheese, mashed potatoes, fideo, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter/jelly, rice/dry pinto beans, and spam.

FIESTA BUNCO APRIL 10th, 2026. Includes details about doors opening at 5:30 PM, dinner from 6:15 PM to 7 PM, and games starting at 7 PM. Tickets include dinner, drinks, and Bunco Games. \$45 ENTRY.

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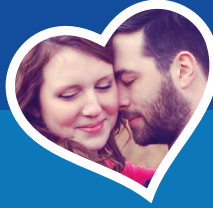


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