

Dear Padre,

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALFONSO / CATHOPIC

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday MARCH 16 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54	Thursday MARCH 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	Saturday MARCH 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53
Tuesday MARCH 17 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	Friday MARCH 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Sunday MARCH 22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Wednesday MARCH 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30		



MARCO IACOBUCCI/EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

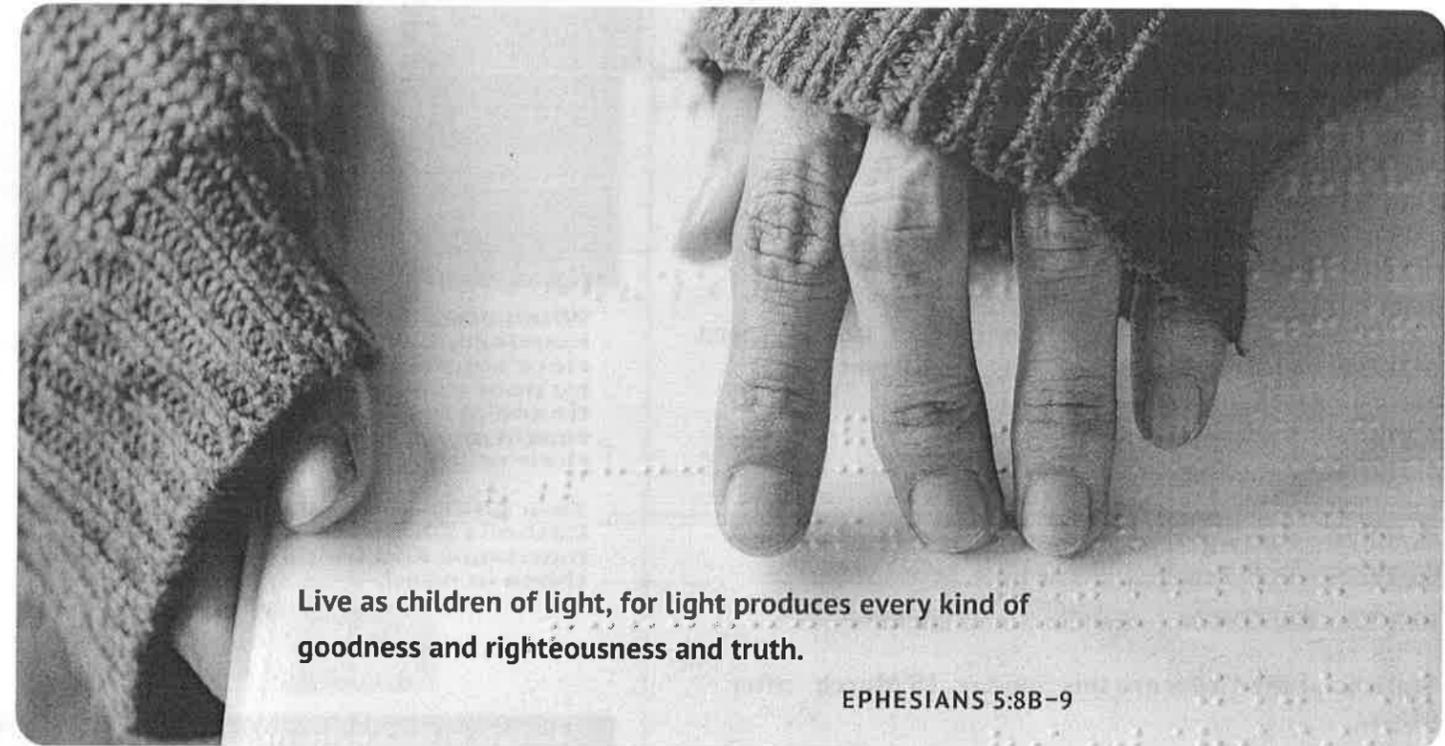
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 /
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9

Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.

Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-2109 or Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM, Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak—Administrator
Sunday 3/08/26 = \$945.00 Attendance = 91
Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions
03/15/26— Memory of Kathryn Tubbs by Barb Erb
03/22/26— Open

Mass Servers –
03/15/26— Alex & Reagan Krings, Nina Drossart, Jamesen Boerst
03/22/26— Malachi Gray, Beau Diemel, Jared Peters

Ministers of the Word –
03/15/26— Kevin Peeters
03/22/26— Anita Wegner

Hospitality
03/15/26— Pam Wetts, Rene LaFond, Anita Wegner
03/22/26— Keith Pennings, Charlie Herb, Bernie Weier

Holy Saturday April 04 - open for a mass intention

Stations of the Cross are this Sunday, 15 March after Mass.

Meetings

March 26 Parish Council meeting @ 6 PM following Finance Meeting @ 7 PM

March 26 Social Concern Meeting @ 6:30 PM

RE NEWS:

Sun. Mar. 15th 10am Mass. Confirmation Student Sponsor Meeting in Church Hall after Mass.

Wed. Mar. 18th 6:30pm. Grades 3-11 Lenten Reconciliation Service.

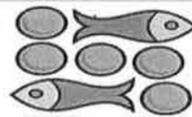
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday March 18 4—6 PM

Saturday, March 21 9—11 AM

Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!

Feb. Report—40 Families, 110 Individuals, 24 Kids, 3 new families



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026: April 4; September 20,(Picnic); October 18, 25; November 19 Deer Hunter's Mass, Thanksgiving; December 20, Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact the office.

Happy Birthday!

March 17 Lucas Eggers; 18 Brynn Drossart; 19 Janelle Balthazor, Kyle Malueg; 21 Larry Svetnicka, Cody Wegner; 24 Erik Seefeldt; 26 Steven Stascak; 27 Mary Court, Kevin Peeters, James Letter; 28 Brent Hartleben; 29 Donna Svetnicka; 30 Joseph Renner; 31 Reid Bohm



**2026 Bishop's Appeal
"Be the Light"**



When couples face problems in their marriage, Catholic Charities offers help. Here couples can work on issues caused by poor communication, family issues, financial burdens, infidelity, resentment, and other challenges in their relationship.

Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal helps Catholic Charities promote healthy marriages and funds counseling for those in need.



Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

We invite everyone who is able, to please participate in the Bishop's Appeal. Our parish goal this year is \$14,805.00. As of 3 March we have received 31 gifts of \$7,728.00. Thank you! We are 52% of our way there.

If you have already given, thank you so much. If you haven't given before, please consider making your first gift this year. Every gift makes a difference. Those who are able may want to join the Crozier Society with a gift of \$500 or more, which helps these ministries to reach even more people.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. You may have received a pledge card at home in the mail. If you have not, we have materials at the entrances of the church. You can also visit www.catholicfoundation.org/give.

Thank you for helping St. Lawrence Parish and our Diocese share the light of Christ.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay—catholiccharitiesgb.org can help those in need.

World's Poor Collection

Next weekend—21/22 March, we will have a second collection for the World's Poor. Please feel free to use the envelope attached to the bulletin. Please indicate which fund(s) you would like your donation to go to. If you pay by check please make the check out to St. Lawrence Parish. Thank you for your support.

Reflection on the 4th Sunday of Lent

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "4th Sunday of Lent Year A: Laetare Sunday, Sunday March 15, 2026" found on the "Young Catholics" website—young-catholics.com:

The Significance of the Miracle

... This miracle... points to spiritual renewal. Just as the man's eyes were opened, we are called to open our hearts to God. Some see this as a symbol of baptism, where water washes away sin and brings new life. The man moves from darkness to light, just as we do when we are baptized. Jesus... challenges the belief that suffering is a result of personal sin. He explains that the man's blindness was not a punishment but an opportunity to show God's glory. This reminds us that suffering can have a purpose beyond what we see. This story invites us to reflect on how God works through ordinary things in our lives. It challenges us to see our struggles not as punishments but as ways God's power can be revealed. It calls us to trust in God's purpose and healing.

Seeing as God Sees

The first reading for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that God sees beyond outward appearances. When Samuel is sent to anoint a new king, he expects to choose the strongest and most impressive of Jesse's sons. But God guides him to David, the youngest and least likely choice. God explains that humans see the outside, but He sees the heart. This challenges us to look beyond looks, status, or wealth and to value inner goodness and faithfulness. It also reminds us to trust God's choices, even when they don't match our expectations... By seeing as God sees, we learn to look at others with love and mercy. We are called to see potential and goodness in others, just as God saw greatness in David. We are also called to examine our own hearts and ask if we are living faithfully...

Similarities and Differences Between This Encounter and the Encounter with the Woman at the Well

... Both the woman and the blind man are outcasts in their society. Jesus meets them where they are, breaking social barriers. In both cases, his actions lead to a life-changing transformation. The woman becomes a believer and a witness to her community, while the blind man gains both physical sight and spiritual insight.

Both stories reveal Jesus' identity. To the woman, he speaks of living water, showing himself as the source of eternal life. To the blind man, he reveals himself as the Son of Man. In both encounters, Jesus shows that he is more than a healer—he is the Savior. However, the community's response is very different. The woman's community is open and curious. They come to believe in Jesus because of her testimony. In contrast, the religious leaders reject the blind man's story and refuse to believe in Jesus, showing their spiritual blindness.

These stories challenge us to respond to Jesus with open hearts. The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on our own willingness to see and believe. It asks us if we are open to Jesus' message or if we allow prejudice or fear to cloud our vision.

Tentative Holy Week Schedule

St. Lawrence in Navarino

Confessions—Thursday, 26 March—5:30-6:30 P.M.

Palm Sunday—29 March

Mass: Sunday—10:00 A.M. (Confessions after Mass. No Stations of the Cross.)

Holy Thursday—2 April

Confessions: 4:00-5:00 P.M.

Mass of the Lord's Supper—5:30 P.M. (Adoration at the Altar of Repose to follow.)

(The Washing of the Feet will be an open invitation to the congregation rather than pre-assigned.)

Good Friday—3 April (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Passion of the Lord Service—3:00 P.M. (Confessions afterward.)

Holy Saturday—4 April

Easter Vigil Service—8:30 P.M. (This liturgy will include the Reception of the Elect into the Church through the holy sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.)

Easter Sunday—5 April

Mass—10:00 A.M.

St. Mary's in Black Creek

Palm Sunday—28/29 March

Mass: Saturday—4:00 P.M. (Confessions at 3:00 P.M. and after Mass.); Sunday—8:00 A.M.

Daily Mass

Tuesday and Wednesday, 31 March & 1 April—7:30 A.M. (Confessions after both Masses.)

Wednesday, 1 April, Stations of the Cross—5:00 P.M. (Confessions afterward—5:30-6:30 P.M.)

Holy Thursday—2 April

No 7:30 A.M. Mass

Confessions: 11:00 A.M.—12:00 noon

Mass of the Lord's Supper—7:30 P.M. (Adoration at the Altar of Repose to follow.)

(The Washing of the Feet will be an open invitation to the congregation rather than pre-assigned.)

Good Friday—3 April (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Confessions: 11:00 A.M.—11:45 A.M.

Stations of the Cross—12:00 noon

Passion of the Lord Service—1:00 P.M.

Holy Saturday—4 April

Easter Vigil Service—6:30 P.M.

Easter Sunday—5 April

Mass—8:00 A.M.