

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. ●



RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

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



FAUSTO RENDA / 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

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



I Am the Resurrection

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.

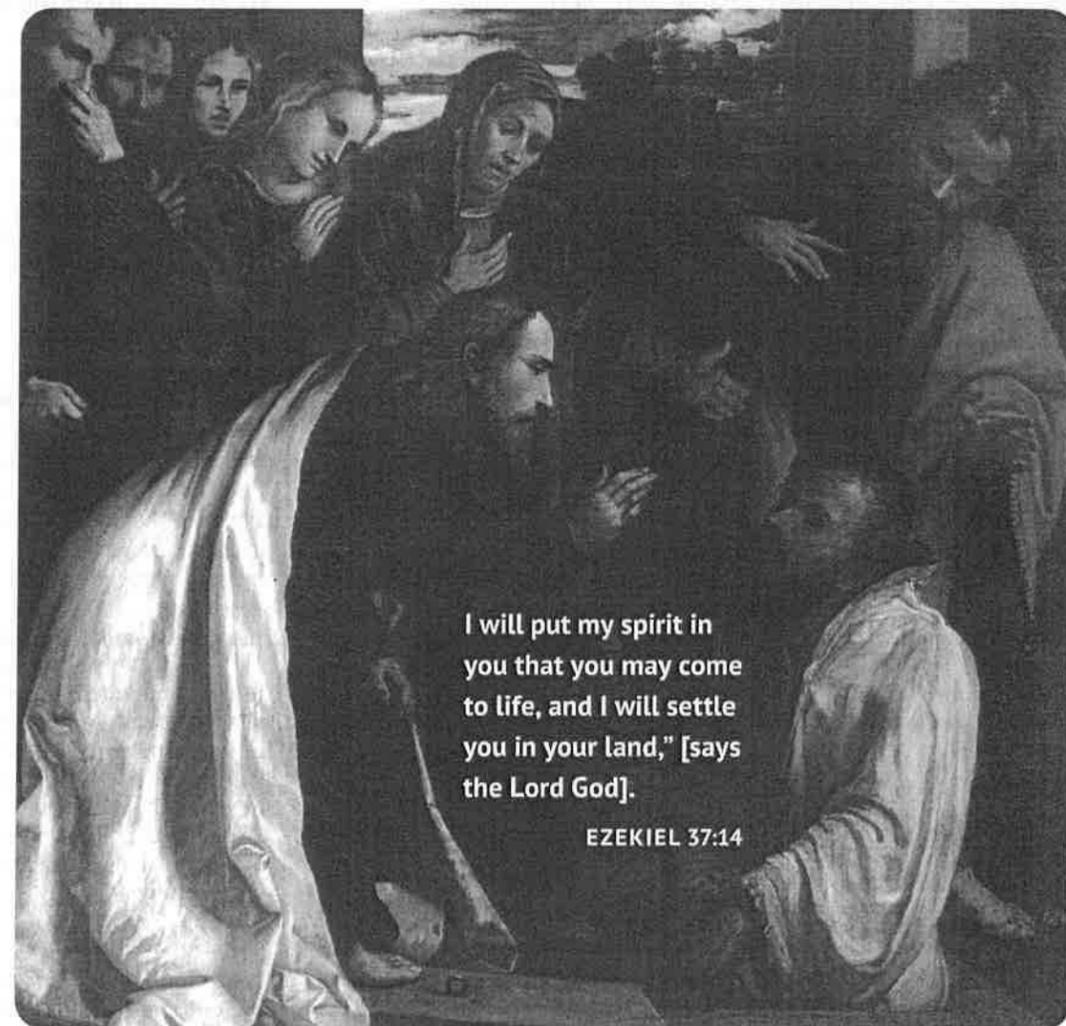
We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." ●

Reflect

Where do I see signs or snapshots of the kingdom of God?



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land," [says the Lord God].

EZEKIEL 37:14

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

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-0567 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

Sunday 3/15/26 = \$0.00 NO mass due to Blizzard
Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

03/22/26— Living & Deceased members of John & Frances Short by Nancy Nolan

03/29/26— Remembrance of Bob Letter by Tom & Carol Weyenberg

Mass Servers –

03/22/26— Malachi Gray, Jared Peters, Beau Diemel

03/29/26— Alex & Reagan Krings, Nina Drossart

Ministers of the Word –

03/22/26— Anita Wegner

03/29/26— Sam Krings, Randy Short

Hospitality

03/22/26— Keith Pennings, Charlie Herb, Bernie Weier

03/29/26— Amy Guyette, Anita Wegner, Rene LaFond

Liturgical schedules are available at each entrance of the church and also on our website under Trumpet. Thank you for all you do for our parish.

March 26 Parish Council Meeting @ 6 PM, Finance @ 7 PM

Stations of the Cross are this Sunday, 22 March after Mass.

RE NEWS:

Wed Mar. 25th 6:30pm RE Class

Wed Apr. 1st 6:30pm RE Class

Wed Apr. 8th 6:30pm LAST RE Class

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday April 15 4—6 PM

Saturday, April 18 9—11 AM

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



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:

April 4; October 18, 25; November 26 Deer Hunter's Mass; December 20, 25 Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact Corinne at the office to reserve your dates.

Happy Birthday!

March 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 April 02 Jamie Diemel; 04 Andrew Evensen; 05 Benjamin Diemel; 08 Makayla Gray, John Carpenter, David Patza; 10 Thomas Pionek; 11 Carrie Rasmussen, Austin Strayer; 12 Wyatt Erb, Joey Krings; 13 Darlene Pionek; 14 Gabrielle Seefeldt, Linda Reif, Harper Hill; 16 Jim Hackel, Mary Herb; 17 Isaac Guyette; 18 Aubrey Hartleben; 19 Aaron Peeters, Cloe Zuleger; 20 Mellissa Hutter; 29 Sandy Heinemeyer, Steve Short



2026 Bishop's Appeal

"Be the Light"



Helping children discover Jesus is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. This happens every day in our parishes and in our Catholic schools.

Your support of the Bishop's Appeal funds the tools and training for youth ministers and faith formation leaders across northeastern Wisconsin.



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 17 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.

World's Poor Collection

Because of the blizzard last Sunday, we will have a second collection for the World's Poor next Sunday, 29 March. 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.

A note from AI Overview on why images are veiled during the last two weeks of Lent

Statues and images are veiled in Catholic churches during the last two weeks of Lent (Passiontide) to create a visual "fasting of the eyes," focusing attention on the Passion narrative rather than artistic beauty. This practice signals a somber time of mourning, longing, and immediate preparation for Easter. The purple cloths represent mourning and penitence, hiding the glory of the saints and Christ to focus on His Passion and imminent death.

Palm Sunday

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palms will be available at the entrances of the church. Please feel free to take one and then take your seat in the pew for the start of Mass.

Reflection on the 5th Sunday of Lent

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "5th Sunday of Lent Year A: Sunday March 22, 2026" found on the "Young Catholics" website—young-catholics.com:

Life, Death, and Resurrection

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on life, death, and resurrection. In the Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, showing his power over death. This miracle points to his own resurrection and gives us hope for eternal life. Jesus tells Martha that he is the resurrection and the life...

This story shows that death is not the end. Just as Lazarus was called out of the tomb, we are called to new life in Christ. Jesus' words and actions reveal his authority over life and death, affirming our hope in the resurrection. This hope helps us face our own mortality with faith and courage. The raising of Lazarus also shows Jesus' compassion and humanity. He weeps with Mary and Martha, sharing in their grief. This reminds us that Jesus understands our pain and walks with us in our sorrow. He is...close to us in our struggles...

Women of Faith

The 5th Sunday of Lent...highlights the faith of Martha and Mary, two women who were close friends of Jesus. When Lazarus dies, both sisters show their faith in Jesus, though in different ways. Martha meets Jesus and speaks with confidence about the resurrection. She expresses her belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Martha's faith is rooted in understanding and knowledge. She listens to Jesus' words and responds with conviction. Her faith is strong even in her grief, showing trust in Jesus' power over death. She believes that even now, Jesus can do something remarkable. Mary responds differently. She is overcome with emotion and weeps at Jesus' feet. Her faith is expressed through her sorrow and vulnerability. Jesus is moved by her tears and weeps with her, showing his compassion and sharing her pain. Both women show great faith but in their own ways...

The 5th Sunday of Lent...invites us to reflect on our own faith. Whether we are like Martha with strong convictions or like Mary with deep emotions, Jesus meets us with love and understanding. We are called to trust in him and to find hope in his promise of resurrection.

Hope and Renewal

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A brings a message of hope and renewal. In the first reading, God promises to open the graves of His people and bring them back to life. He vows to put His Spirit within them, giving them new life and returning them to their homeland. This promise of resurrection and renewal points to God's power to restore what is lost.

This theme continues in the Gospel, where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. By calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus shows his authority over death. This miracle is a sign of the new life that Jesus offers to all who believe in him. It also foreshadows his own resurrection, which brings hope and salvation to the world. The 5th Sunday of Lent...challenges us to believe in God's power to renew our lives. In times of loss or sorrow, we are called to hope in the resurrection. We are also invited to live as witnesses of this hope, sharing the good news of Christ's victory over death.

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.