

# Dear Padre,

*When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?*

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, “Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church’s focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ’s ultimate sacrifice. It represents our “fasting” from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who “bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). ●



CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>MARCH 9</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>MARCH 12</b>	<b>MARCH 13</b>	<b>MARCH 14</b>	<b>MARCH 15</b>
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab Lk 4:24–30	Dn 3:25, 34–43 Mt 18:21–35	Dt 4:1, 5–9 Mt 5:17–19	Jer 7:23–28 Lk 11:14–23	Hos 14:2–10 Mk 12:28–34	Hos 6:1–6 Lk 18:9–14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a Eph 5:8–14 Jn 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

### 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*.



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.*

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 8, 2026

*Third Sunday of Lent (A)*

Exodus 17:3–7 / Romans 5:1–2, 5–8 / John 4:5–42 or 4:5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42



## Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

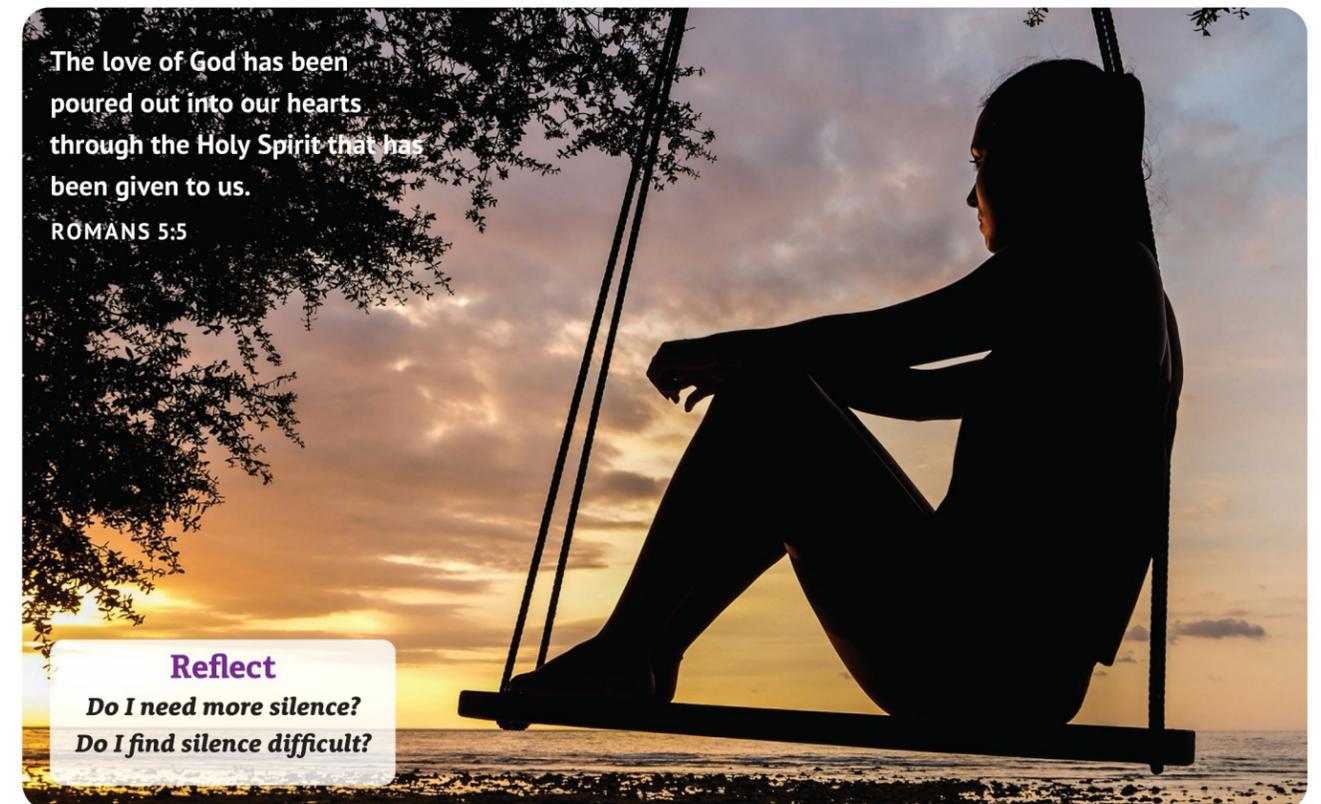
“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God’s voice. The challenge is not in responding “yes” to the invitation of the Lord but rather in “hearing” his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the “Beautiful Noise” of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God’s voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

ROMANS 5:5

### Reflect

Do I need more silence?  
Do I find silence difficult?



# St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET  
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 7 & 8, 2026



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## Parish Announcements

### Prayers for our future Deacon

Please join us in offering our prayers and best wishes to Gerardo Velazquez and his wife Vivian as Gerardo begins his journey toward becoming a deacon. May God bless and guide them during this formation, discernment, and service.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to David & Connie Hosemann and to Hayden Bell for receiving the Bishop Chanche Service Award. We thank them for their faithful service and dedication to our parish.

### Baskets for Believers

The Baskets for Believers tree is located in the vestibule. To participate, select an egg from the tree, fill it with Easter goodies (please include an Easter book or Children's Bible) and return the basket to Vicksburg Family Development located at 1205 Monroe St. (Mon-Fri. 8 AM—5 PM) or to St. Paul Parish office by Monday, March 30 (by 12 PM). Please be sure to attach the egg to the basket.

### Adoration

Please join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 PM for Eucharistic Adoration and Liturgy of the Hours.

### St. Mary's Lenten Mission

St. Mary's will host a Parish Lenten Mission on March 18-19 at 6 PM. The theme for this year's Mission is "Lent: A Season of Discovery" and will be led by Fr. Joshua Munterim. Penance will be available during the Mission.

### K of C Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry each Friday night during Lent from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Dine-in or carryout is available.

### Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be at 5:30 PM each Friday during Lent.

### Hallow

Our Lenten Challenge, Lent Pray40 has started. Join us for this daily reflection if you have not done so already. This is a great way for us all to dive deeper into Lent and begin building community within our parish. <https://hallow.app.link/L3FslwWPOb>

## Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

### Online Giving

Feb 23 - Mar 1 ..... \$1,525

### Weekend Offertory

Feb 28 & Mar 1.....\$4,835

Mar 7 & 8 .....\$ , \_\_\_\_

Mar 14 & 15 .....\$ , \_\_\_\_

Mar 21 & 22.....\$ , \_\_\_\_

Mar 28 & 29.....\$ , \_\_\_\_

## Special Collections

February 22: Black & Indian Missions:.....\$285



Sign up for automatic online giving at [www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church](http://www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church)

## Weekend Mass Schedule†

### Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM

Mass 4:00 PM

### Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM

Mass 10:30 AM

## Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM

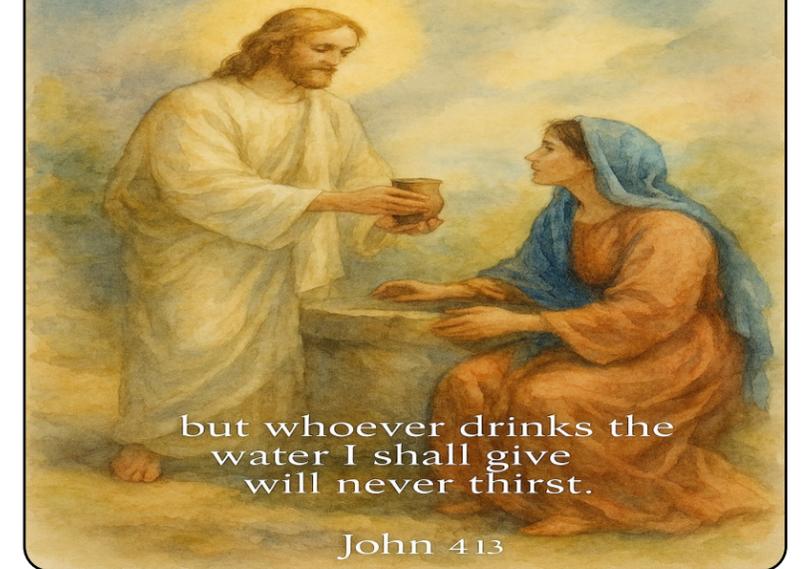
Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;



but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst.

John 4:13

## Today's Readings

Visit [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org) or scan this QR code to find the readings



## Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul Catholic Church

## Sanctuary Flowers

In observance of the Lenten season, no flowers are placed at the Ambo

## Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext 106

## Parish Calendar

MAR 7, SAT	Meals on Wheels
MAR 8, SUN	Children's Church led by: Blair Ashley
MAR 9, MON	Offertory Counters: Elias Arredondo & Lorraine Smithhart
MAR 11, WED	Adoration 5:30 PM. RCIA will meet at 6PM in Glynn Hall
MAR 13, FRI	Stations of the Cross 5:30PM

## Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

[www.ms-kofc.com/898](http://www.ms-kofc.com/898)

Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



MAR 10 Rosary 6:30PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social.

MAR 12 Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting @6 PM.

MAR 13 K of C Fish Fry @ 5:30 PM

## Mass Intentions

MAR 9, MON	Thomas Kelly, Deceased
MAR 10, TUES	Special Intentions
MAR 11, WED	Special Intentions
MAR 12, THUR	Ira Ellis, Deceased
MAR 13, FRI	Ainsley Grace Johnston, Healing
MAR 14, SAT	Hazel Mascarella, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

## St. Paul Parish Staff

<b>Pastor</b> Fr. Rusty Vincent	<b>Office Manager</b> Ashley Roesch	<b>Office Assistant</b> Janis Koestler
<b>Bookkeeper</b> Beverly Connelly	<b>Maintenance</b> Charles Hahn	<b>Organist</b> Karen Harrison

## Leadership & Ministries

<b>Parish Council President</b> Travis Thornell	<b>Finance Council Chair</b> Bill Fulcher	
<b>Bereavement</b> Story Ebersole	<b>RCIA</b> Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole	<b>Meals On Wheels</b> Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry
<b>Altar Flowers</b> Cynthia Montalbano	<b>Homebound</b> Janis Koestler	<b>Children's Church</b> Ashley Lawrence
<b>Baptism Prep</b> Barbara Hill	<b>Confirmation</b> Jordan Amborn	