

March 8, 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent



Mass Intentions

Saturday Mar. 7- 5:00pm

† Marty Lucatamo

Sunday Mar. 8 - 9:00am

♦ Mass for the People

Monday Mar. 9 - 8:30am

† Louise Meli

Tuesday Mar. 10 - 8:30am

† Dr. Joseph Makarewicz OFS

Friday Mar. 13 - 8:30am

† James Rodek Jr.

Saturday Mar. 14 - 5:00pm

♦ Mass for the People

Sunday Mar. 15 - 9:00am

† Margaret Townsend

Sanctuary Candle

Leo McNulty & Family
Moore Family

From the Pastor

The second collection for next week will be for our utility expenses. In the past years we usually had a utilities collection four times a year. This year I changed this to only two times a year with one for our winter utilities and one for our summer utilities. **Our winter utilities for this year totaled \$5,699.92 for the church, hall and rectory.** Please consider helping us meet this expense for our parish.

Please remember in your prayers Donald Witte Sr. who passed away this week. His Funeral Mass was this past Friday.

Fr. Dave

From Deacon Mike

During the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, our parish will be celebrating the Scrutinies with our OCIA Elect as they enter a deeper phase of preparation for the Easter Sacraments. These special rites, held during the 9:00 AM Mass, allow our community to pray for the Elect, that they may be strengthened by Christ and healed of all that might hinder their journey of faith. Please join us in supporting these new members of our Parish family through your prayers and presence.

THIRD Sunday in Lent



Faith and Charity Appeal – Many thanks to all who returned a pledge envelope for this annual appeal for the ministries in our Diocese. If you were unable to take a pledge envelope last week, please know that we still have them available in the Church.

Part-Time Caregiver Needed - A family in our Parish is seeking a compassionate, dependable caregiver to assist an elderly woman in her home two to three days per week, approximately two to three hours per day. Duties include light meal preparation, companionship, medication reminders and light household assistance. Flexible schedule. Please contact Michael at 240.784.7700 or mikezart12@verizon.net for more information.

Dear Padre

March 8, 2026

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). ●

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

© 2026 Liguori Publications. *Ingrimi Potest*: Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9321.