

March 22, 2026
5th Sunday in Lent



Mass Intentions

Saturday Mar. 21 - 5:00pm

† Helen Dudlek

Sunday Mar. 22 - 9:00am

◇ Mass for the People

Monday Mar. 23 - 8:30am

† Helen & Stephen Sefcik

Tuesday Mar. 24 - 8:30am

† Olinda Pires

Friday Mar. 27 - 8:30am

† Margaret Townsend

Saturday Mar. 28 - 5:00pm

◇ Mass for the People

Sunday Mar. 29 - 9:00am

† Margaret Townsend

Sanctuary Candle
Charles & Pauline
Van Wasshenova

Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palm will be blessed at the entrance of the church before Mass.

On Holy Thursday, we will have Mass at 7pm. During Mass the newly consecrated Holy Oils will be carried in the entrance processing. We will have the washing of feet after the Homily. At the end of Mass, the Holy Eucharist is transferred to the Altar of Repose. The Church will remain open for prayer until 8:30pm.

Good Friday is the only day of the year that Mass is not celebrated. Our Good Friday Liturgy will begin at 3pm (note that this is a change from past years). During this Liturgy we will have the reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion. At 7pm on Good Friday we will have Evening Prayer followed by Adoration of the Cross.

On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil Mass will begin at 7:30pm. The Easter Vigil Mass begins with the lighting of the Easter Fire and the Easter Candle. This year we will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for our three Elect and for our three Candidates for Full Communion. Mass on Easter Sunday will be at 9am.

Thank You!

Many thanks for your overwhelming support of our second collection last week to help offset our winter utility expenses. Soon I will have a report regarding our Faith and Charity Appeal.

Fr. Dave

Reconciliation Monday - March 30th – Confessions will be available at the **Rectory from 3pm to 6pm** (face-to-face only and requires the ability to walk up steps) and in the **Church from 6pm to 8pm**.

The **Palm Sunday Annual Bake Sale** will take place next weekend (March 28 & 29) after Mass. Any questions, call Joann at 302.420.1291.

Rice Bowl Donations – Donations for the Lenten Rice Bowl can be placed in the box by the statue of St. Joseph in the church. By donating to CRS Rice Bowl, you help provide lifesaving support to people around the world. Twenty-five percent of every donation stays in our diocese, while 75% supports vital Catholic Relief Services programs around the world.

Dear Padre

March 22, 2026

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. ●

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

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