

Dear Brothers,

I want to share a reflection from the heart, inspired by the desire to grow closer to God each day. As the Lord reminds us, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Each of us is called to serve with love in God's work. Along this path, feelings like envy or the desire for a higher position can sometimes arise. This is natural, but it is also an opportunity to pause, reflect, and fully trust in God's plan.

God reminds us that He does not give us a burden greater than we can bear. He knows our hearts, our struggles, and our weaknesses. When the work feels heavy or our responsibilities seem too much, we can place our burdens in His hands. Doing so lightens our load and allows us to serve with love, patience, and faithfulness, focusing on doing God's work rather than seeking recognition. Jesus taught that His Kingdom works differently from the world. In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, some labored all day while others arrived at the end, yet all received the same reward. Some were upset, feeling they deserved more, but the vineyard owner reminded them that he is just and generous. This reminds us that in God's plan, each person has their time and place. We should not compare ourselves to others or let envy take root; instead, we are called to serve with humility and trust.

Being a servant means helping, supporting, and working for the good of others without seeking praise. True leadership, as Jesus taught, is measured by our willingness to serve with love and simplicity. We also must guard our hearts, because even small negative feelings can grow. Jesus warned about yeast, which, though small, can leaven the whole batch. Likewise, envy, pride, or the desire for power can quietly harm our hearts and our service. This is why we must pray, trust God, and remain humble.

We can look at Saint Francis of Assisi as an example. He lived with great humility and sought to be an instrument of God's peace—bringing love where there is hatred, forgiveness where there is offense, and hope where there is despair. Like him, we are called to let God act through us, spreading His peace and love to others. In a similar way, Moses led the people of Israel toward freedom but was told by God that he would not see the Promised Land (**Numbers 20:12**). As servants, we too may not see the full fruits of our work. Yet our faithfulness and effort are always part of God's plan, even if the results are unseen. Our task is to sow with love and humility, trusting that God will bring the harvest in His perfect timing.

It is also important to rejoice in the gifts God has given others. Each person has a unique mission within the Church and within God's plan. When we set aside envy and recognize the good in others, God's love grows more fully in our hearts. To end, let us remember a simple teaching: the story of a hen who found a snake full of thorns and was gravely wounded. Moved by compassion, the hen carefully removed the thorns one by one, even though some hurt her as well. Once freed, the snake left. This story reminds us that serving others can involve sacrifice or discomfort, but when we act with love and a humble heart, we are fulfilling God's will. Even if we never see the full results of our service, our sincere efforts benefit others and bring joy to the Lord.

Let us ask the Lord to give us humble hearts, capable of serving without seeking to be greater than anyone. May we trust Him, place our burdens in His hands, and walk always in simplicity. In the end, what matters most is not the position we hold, but the love with which we serve and the faithfulness with which we follow God. May God always bless you and fill your life with peace, wisdom, and humility.

With love,

Your Brother & Sister in Christ

We are very excited and pleased to announce that Joshua Wagner, St Mary's Music Director, has successfully procured, at minimal cost, a brass quartet to join with our choir at the Easter Sunday 8:30 Mass to joyfully proclaim Jesus' resurrection. Please join us and invite your friends to attend this celebration of Easter joy - giving thanks for our risen Lord!

— Your Administration & Finance Committee"

The Living Way of the Cross (bilingual) will be held outdoors (weather dependent) on Palm Sunday March 29 at 4:00 pm. All are welcome.

You are invited to join us on Sunday March 22 at 4:00 pm for a Seder Meal. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this re-enactment of God's saving actions from the Book of Exodus in which the Jewish people still celebrate as their Passover Meal today. Please sign up by March 15. For more information contact Fr. Tom Buckman

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 21-22, 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman tom.buckman@pastoral.org

stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com

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Music Director: Joshua Wagner

Erin Denny- Office Administrator [email: stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)

Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org



Saturday, March 21	5:00 PM	5 th Sunday of Lent– Intentions: For the Soul of Elizabeth Stoll
Sunday March 22	8:30 AM	5 th Sunday of Lent –Intentions: For the Boone Family
4:00 PM Seder Meal		
Sunday Marzo 22	6:00 PM	5 th Domingo de Cuaresma- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, March 23	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Julia Keim
Tuesday, March 24	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Andy Garrett
Wednesday, March 25	6:00 PM	Intentions: Honoring the McGonagle Family
Thursday, March 26	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Jesus Echipare
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, March 27	8:00AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Basil & Hilda Trouten
Saturday, March 28	5:00 PM	Palm Sunday– Intentions: For the Soul of Patrick Collins
Sunday March 29	8:30 AM	Palm Sunday –Intentions: For the Soul of Jimmy Boone
Sunday Marzo 29	6:00 PM	Domingo de la Ramos- Para la gente de la parroquia

The deadline for Calendar submissions for the April Calendar Bulletin is 3/25/2026

If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.

Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass.

When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1).

The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese's efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers.

Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers.

Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: Regina Cozzy and Family, Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, Gail Briley, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan

Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers:

Patrick Collins, Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O'Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Maretta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgaux and Rose Vogt.

Mission Statement

We, the people of St Mary Catholic Church, are a welcoming Catholic community called to live our faith by celebrating Mass, Sacraments, and Prayers; proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ; seeking life-long faith and formation; sharing our time; talents and reaching out in compassionate service to others.

If you have palms from previous years please bring them and place them into the basket under the mail table for proper disposal by Fr Tom.

The Dedication of the New Altar will be at the 5:00 pm Mass on April 11 by Bishop Medley. All are welcome to attend this special Ritual. Reception to follow.

Office Hours at St Mary: Erin is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00). Fr Tom's office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.
Building and Grounds Committee: Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera
Administration & Finance Committee Meets 3rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter , John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm
Ladies Guild: President-Sheila Jeffers , Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney
Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark , Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, and Kateri Edwards.
Music Director- Joshua Wagner stmaryccmusic@gmail.com Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter
Worship/Liturgy Committee: Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
Evangelization and Outreach Ministry: Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair) , Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, and Robert Loza
Librarian- Kathleen Kaapcke
Archivist- Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm

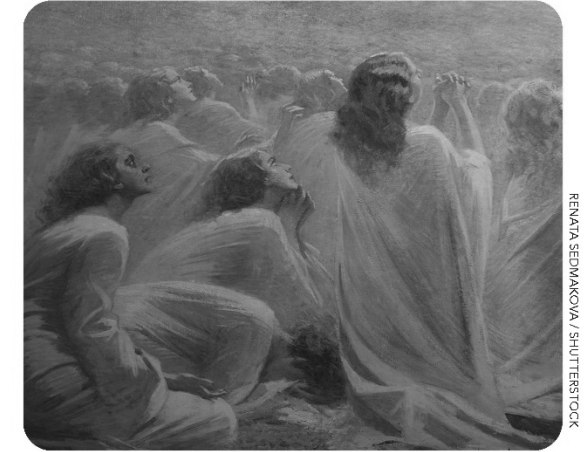
We want to give a big shout out and THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Lenton K of C Fish Fry this past Friday!

As of 03/19/2026						
Budget Needs 2025-26 Weekly	\$ 4,038	Budget YTD Needs	\$ 150,726			
Received last week	\$ 2,233	Received YTD	\$ 143,208			
Difference	\$ (- 1,805)		\$ (- 7,518)			
On Going Projects Last Week	\$ 73	YTD	\$ 3,728			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22nd 5th Sunday of Lent 8:30 AM Mass	23 8:00 AM Mass	24 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	25 6:00 PM Mass 6:30 Religious Ed	26 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration	27 8:00 AM Mass 2:30 Stations of the Cross in English	28 Noon Baptisms 3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass 6:30- Baby Shower for Erika and Eli Gantt
4:00 PM Seder Meal	6:30 PM Lenten Penance Service at St Mary	Lenten Penance Service at CTK at 5:30 PM		5:00 PNM SVDP Meeting 6:00 PM OCIA	7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in Spanish	
Mass Attendance— 03/14 5:00 PM-79 3/15 8:30 AM-93 3/15 6:00 PM-131						
Please pray for our military: Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL. Please call the office to add a name						

Looking Ahead- SAVE THE DATE	
Every Friday during Lent	2:30 Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent	7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in Spanish
March 23	Penance Service at St Mary
March 31	Chrism Mass- Owensboro
April 2 6:00 PM	Holy Thursday
April 3 5:00 PM	Good Friday Service
April 4 8:00 PM <i>at Christ the King</i>	Easter Vigil Mass

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. ●

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



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

Monday MARCH 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	Thursday MARCH 26 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	Saturday MARCH 28 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56
Tuesday MARCH 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	Friday MARCH 27 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	Sunday MARCH 29 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54
Wednesday MARCH 25 <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38		

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.