

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. ●



RENEGA SEBASTIANOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



PALESTO BERGATA / 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

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*.

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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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.

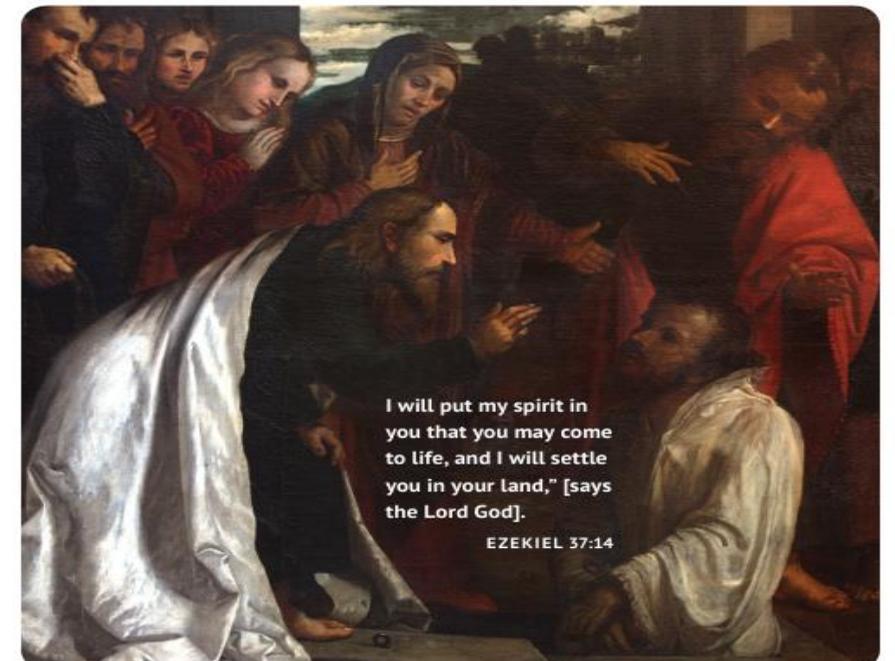
We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." ●

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



Totus Tuus QR Code

Fr. James Janovec's family would like to host a card shower for Fr. Janovec's 88th birthday on March 26th, 2026!

Fr. James Janovec
Good Samaritan Society
4075 Timberline Street, Rm. 410
Grand Island, NE 68803

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

**Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of March 9, 2025**

Mon.	Mar.	16	7:00 AM	SJ	Molly E. Walz
Tues.	Mar.	17	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Mar.	18	5:30 PM	SA	Neal Aunts and Uncles
Thurs.	Mar.	19	4:00 PM	SB	Aidan Koperski Nursing Home
Fri.	Mar.	20	8:30 AM	SJ	Rain
Sun.	Mar.	22	5:30 PM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Mar.	22	9:30 AM	SA	Betty Larson †
Sun.	Mar.	22	11:00 AM	SB	Lana Phelps



Taygen Boeser March 16th
Rylee Trumbull March 18th
Olivia Doggett March 19th
Emily Pandorf March 20th
Angela Ortiz March 20th
Julie Bailar March 22nd
Emma Stallbaumer March 22nd



Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Pandorf
March 22nd

Congratulation on your 1st Reconciliation

Bexley DeLosh – Conner Pelster – Lainey Pelster –
Macey Pelster – Adriel Rivera – Kaedyn Weinman

Ministry Schedule

Date: Mar 22	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Jim & Kennetha A.	Sue D. & Pam L.	Seth & Tristan P.
Lector	Toby K.	Pam L.	Molly P.
Server	Cotter J. & Leo W.		Emmett P. & Emma S.
EMHC	Jon & Molly W.	Sue D. & Pam L.	David P. & Diane P.
	Music: Jenny J.		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> David P.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
March 8, 2026
Total Collection: \$115.00

Diocesan Appeal
\$1029 left of \$5179
with 11 of 15 Donors

CCD Wed, Mar 18
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM
6th -12th Supper 6:30
Class Begins 7:00 PM

Fish Fry March 20th 5:30 PM at the Community Center
If your last name starts with A-H bring a dessert last names J-Z bring a salad.

March 29th after mass the CCD students will be performing the living Stations of the Cross with Coffee and Rolls to follow

Confessions Sunday March 29th starting at 7 AM Mass at 8 AM

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
March 8, 2026
Total Collection: \$832.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open March 13 9AM to 4PM

CCD Wed Mar 18
Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM
Stations of the Cross 4:40 PM

Coffee and Rolls Mar 15

March 27th Fish Fry in Parish Hall starting at 5:30 PM

Confessions Saturday March 28th starting at 5 PM with mass at 6 PM

**Our Gifts to God & Church
March 8, 2026**

Total Collection: \$1461.00

Diocesan Appeal
\$452 left of \$7452 with 15 of 17 Donors

CCD Wed. Mar 18
PreK to 2nd 4-5 PM
Supper 6:10

Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM

Soup Supper with Reconciliation
March 18th 6:00pm

St. Boniface will host the Callaway Community Lenten Service March 31st 7:00pm

**Confessions Sunday
March 29th starting at 7 AM Mass at 8 AM**

Maundy Thursday Coffee April 2 at 9:00 AM Callaway United Methodist Church All women are invited to join us for a light breakfast and devotions.

Totus Tuus registration opens Monday March 16th Click on the link here : [Totus Tuus](#) . Arnold will be hosting it June 21-26. For anyone who have completed grades K-12 by the summer of 2026