

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). ●



CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

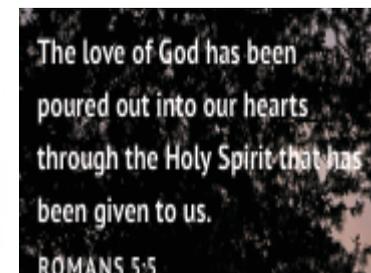
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God's voice. The challenge is not in responding "yes" to the invitation of the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



Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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

Mon.	Mar.	09	No Mass		
Tues.	Mar.	10	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Mar.	11	5:30 PM	SA	Harper & Raylen Neal
Thurs.	Mar.	12	5:30 PM	SB	Special Intention
Fri.	Mar.	13	6:30 PM	SB	Francis Pandorf †
Sun	Mar.	15	5:30 PM	SJ	Gregory J. Walz
Sun.	Mar.	15	9:30 AM	SA	People of the Parish †
Sun.	Mar.	15	11:00 AM	SB	Marge Schneider †

Saint Dominic Savio (1842-1857)
Feast Day March 9

"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God."



William Reiff March 9th
Tonya Welch March 10th
Barton Harris March 11th
Lana Phelps March 12th
Charli Pandorf March 12th
Joyce Brestel March 13th



Mr. & Mrs. Sig Kalinowski
March 11th

Ministry Schedule

Date: Mar 15	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	Youth	Julie B.	Rod & Janel B.
Lector	Youth	Evan B.	Seth P.
Server	Youth		Newt O. & Charli P.
EMHC	Youth	Evan B. & Gary M.	Steve & Kristen B.
	Music: Youth		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> Steve B.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
March 1, 2026
Total Collection: \$982.75

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

CCD Wed, Mar 11

No Class due to Spring
break

March 13 Pasta Supper 6 PM
Stations of the Cross 6:30 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

Congratulations Brewer McVade for winning the Diocese Art Contest.

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
March 1, 2026
Total Collection: \$2584.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the
GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open March 13 9AM to 4PM

CCD Wed Mar 11

Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM
Stations of the Cross 4:50 PM

1st Reconciliation Wednesday.
March 11 at 6 PM

Coffee and Rolls Mar 15

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

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
March 1, 2026
Total Collection: \$1731.00

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

CCD Wed. Mar 11

PreK to 2nd 4-5 PM
Supper 6:10
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM

Adoration Friday March 13
after 6:30 PM Mass to Sunday
March 15 before 11:00 AM
Mass

Soup Supper with Reconciliation
March 18th 6:00pm

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

Pope Saint Gregory the Great (540-604)
Feast Day March 12

When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice."