

# Dear Padre,

*I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?*

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALPHONSO / CATHOLIC

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

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

### Tuesday

MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

### Wednesday

MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30

### Thursday

MARCH 19

St. Joseph, Spouse

of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a,

12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18,

22

Mt 1:16, 18-21,

24a or Lk 2:41-

51a

### Friday

MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

In 7:1-7, 10

### Saturday

MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

### Sunday

MARCH 22

Fifth Sunday

of Lent

Ez 37:12-14

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45 or

11:3-7, 17, 20-27,

33b-45



MARCO JACOBINO/EPF / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

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

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## Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## Reflect

*This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.*



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9

Fifth Sunday in Lent (A) March 22, 2026

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

**Mass Schedule & Intentions**  
For the week of March 23, 2025

Mon.	Mar.	23	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Mar.	24	7:00 AM	SJ	Corbin D. Walz
Wed.	Mar.	25	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Mar.	26	4:00 PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Mar.	27	8:30 AM	SJ	Traci Lee
Sat.	Mar.	28	6:00 PM	SA	Liz (Beshaler) Romano †
Sun.	Mar.	29	8:00 AM	SJ	Vernon Brosius †
Sun.	Mar.	29	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish

**Quotes for Today**

**Blessed Maria Karłowska (1865-1935)**  
**Feast Day March 24**

**“Make Christ more visible than we ourselves.”**



- Magdalene Brogan March 23rd
- Mary Andre March 24th
- Kristie Walz March 24th
- Bria Boeser March 26th
- Pam Long March 27th
- Everly Opela March 27th
- Cody Sierks March 28th
- Edie Kennedy March 28th



**Ministry Schedule**

Date: March 28-29	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
<b>Time</b>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Saturday 6:00 PM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Kaman & Klara D.	Ned & Jenny P.	Dan & Jo Trumbull
<b>Lector</b>	Tara B. & Jon W.	John B.	Mike P. & Rod B.
<b>Server</b>	Gregory W. & Tate B		Rudy K. & Olivia F.
<b>EMHC</b>	Jason & Jenny J.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Seth & Tristan P.
	<b>Music:</b>		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> Kristen B.

**St. John's**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
March 15, 2026  
Total Collection: \$1288.00

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

CCD Wed, Mar 25  
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM  
6th -12th Supper 6:30  
Class Begins 7:00 PM

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

Confessions Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 AM Mass at 8 AM

Holy Thursday April 2nd 6:30 PM  
Good Friday April 3rd 3:00 PM  
Easter Vigil Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> 7 PM

**St. Agnes**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
March 15, 2026  
Total Collection: \$164.00

Diocesan Appeal  
Dollar Goal the GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store  
Open March 27 9AM to 4PM  
CCD Wed Mar 25  
Elementary 3:40 PM  
High School 7:30 PM  
Stations of the Cross 4:40 PM

March 27<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry in Parish Hall starting at 5:30 PM

Confessions Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 PM with mass at 6 PM

Holy Thursday April 2nd 5:00 PM  
Good Friday April 3rd 5:00 PM  
Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM

**St. Boniface**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
March 15, 2026  
Total Collection: \$1198.00

Diocesan Appeal  
Dollar Goal the GOAL is MET!!!

CCD Wed. Mar 25  
PreK to 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-5 PM  
Supper 6:10  
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM  
Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM

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

Confessions Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM Mass at 11 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.

Holy Thursday April 2nd 6:30 PM  
Good Friday April 3rd 6:30 PM  
Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM

Totus Tuus registration opened Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> 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