

# Welcome

To our communities of faith

## Our Divine Saviour Catholic Church

12<sup>th</sup> Street and Love Avenue  
Tifton, GA

And

St. William Catholic Church  
807 S. Merrimac Dr.  
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 22, 2026**

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*Pastor*

*Rev. Peter Oyenugba, MSP*

*Deacon*

*J. Brian Bergeron*

***With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.  
Psalm 130***



*The story of Lazarus is a drama that plays between two understandings of life and death.*

*Jesus announces that he himself is the Resurrection. Lazarus, though raised, will die again.*

*Lazarus rises again to this present earthly life. This miracle is a sign of the greatest miracle of all, resurrection.*

**Our Divine Savior**

Office phone: 229-382-4600  
 Fax: 229- 382-7611

Email: [ods@friendlycity.net](mailto:ods@friendlycity.net)  
 Website: [odstifton.org](http://odstifton.org)

Office Address: 211 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Church Address: 1205 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 212, Tifton, GA 31793

**Office Hours**

**Monday – Thursday.....10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday.....Closed**

**Any new parishioners who would like to register,  
 Please call the parish office**

Pastor	Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP <a href="mailto:poyenugba@dio.sav">poyenugba@dio.sav</a> <a href="mailto:ods@friendlycity.net">ods@friendlycity.net</a>	382-4600 X109
Deacon J. Brian Bergeron	<a href="mailto:Jbb@jesusrocksministry.com">Jbb@jesusrocksministry.com</a>	
Parish Secretary	Nayelly Balderas	382-4600
Parish Secretary	Joann Prostko <a href="mailto:ods@friendlycity.net">ods@friendlycity.net</a>	382-4600 X101
Bookkeeper	Kevin Frizzell	
Finance Committee	John Wyatt	
Knights of Columbus	Gary Burtle	386-4330
Council of Catholic Women	Carolyn Slade	238-2510
CCW Cabinet Merchandise	Diana Balderas Carolyn Slade	472-3819 457-0873
Liturgical (liturgy)	Margo Martin	402-0741
Grupo Guadalupano	Margarita Zermeño	326-5352
CCD Coordinator	Jackie Beals & Mayra Moreno	
EDGE Youth Ministry	Jackie Beals	382-4600
Hispanic CCD Coordinator	Mayra Moreno	382-4600
Parish Activity Center rental	Office	382-4600
Choir Contact	Clare Jarboe	

**Parish Council**

Claudia Mejia	<a href="mailto:Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com">Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com</a>
Martha Solis	<a href="mailto:marlettfol@gmail.com">marlettfol@gmail.com</a>
Tania Bautista	<a href="mailto:Tbautista122898@gmail.com">Tbautista122898@gmail.com</a>
Debbie Blakey	<a href="mailto:deborahblakey@hotmail.com">deborahblakey@hotmail.com</a>
Juan Carlos Diaz	
Gary Burtle	<a href="mailto:gburtle@uga.edu">gburtle@uga.edu</a>
Bob Kemerait	<a href="mailto:pkemerait@gmail.com">pkemerait@gmail.com</a>
Amalia Ramirez Silos	<a href="mailto:Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com">Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com</a>

**Requests for Prayers**

Please pray for the sick and those who have requested our prayers:

Maria Alanis, Allison Brannan, Rachel Brantley, James Brown, Mary Brown, Brady, Patricia Busby, Erica Carroll, Mary Carroll, Tommy Carroll, Sean Winn Carampatan, Laurie Creel, Margarie D’Souva, Tina DeWees, Lela Dillehay, Curtis Esmel, Carlos & Carrie Fletcher, Lauren Judy Fraelich, Rodolfo Herandez-Labastida, Chloe Kendrick, David LaForest, Isaac Lindsey, Randy Long, LaVonia Mathis, Raeleigh Jane McCartha, Bob McDuffie, Andrew Meredith, Susana Melgar, Butch Parker, Charles Phenicie, John Potlanus, Katy Podagrosi, Miller Blake Prostko, Nancy Quynn, Marian Robinson, Jaxen Roberts, Rosalie Rohrer, Arlene Ruse, Josephine Sehranski, Marlana Smith, Sterling Saunders, Robbi Scarbrough, Wayne Scarbrough, John B. Sherlock, James Smith, Kaylon Spurlock, Jamie Thompson, Jennifer Unis, Dowson Bedore, Debra Vazquez, Sonia Webb, James Wyatt

**Please Pray for our Military:**

Andrew Byrd, Anthony Caucci, Jonathan Elder, Clayton F. Gibbs, Terry Jones, James Olands, Angel Olivos, Bong Tanesco, Aurelio Tovar, Gregory Camargo, Michael Gibbons, Jackson Bergeron

*March 22, 2026  
 Fifth Sunday of  
 Lent*

**Readings:**  
 Ezekiel 37:12-14  
 Romans 8:8-11  
 John 11:1-45

**Theme:**  
*New life in Christ  
 Jesus.*

**Question of the week:**  
*What keeps you  
 from fully being  
 your own most true  
 self in Christ?*

*March 29, 2026  
 Palm Sunday*

**Readings:**  
 Matthew 21:1-11  
 Phillip. 2:6-11  
 Matthew 26:14-27

**Theme:**  
*Holy Week – the  
 mystery of our  
 faith.*

**Question of the week:**  
*Name one specific  
 way that you live  
 your baptismal  
 call?*

# Announcements: March 21 & 22

## Activity Center Rental Fee:

As of January 1, 2025 the fee to rent the Activity Center will be \$800 plus a \$200 deposit which will be returned if there is no damaged to the property.

## CCW News:

The CCW is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery fundraiser effective immediately. RADA sells reasonably priced cutlery items, along with soup mixes, dips, cheese ball mixes, gourmet popcorn, cookbooks and more. Catalogs will be available in the Church vestibule. You may also order on-line at: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5276229.0684f0>. This will take you right to the ODS site. 40% of the proceeds are paid to the OCS CCW. Thank you

Attention High School Seniors: The college scholarship application packets will be available for students starting January 27<sup>th</sup> for the "Joe and Martha Day AND the Jared A. Gibbs Scholarships. You can pick up your application packet from Mr. Guzman in the Guidance office. Please consider applying for these scholarships. If you have any questions, please call Janet Vanags at 229-392-6770 or Mary Anne Gibbs at 229-392-7676.

The CCW wishes to thank all parishioners who supported the Rummage Sale on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, we give special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for providing breakfast at the sale. The sale was a huge success.

## Harvest of Hope Campaign:

If you are writing a check to the Harvest of Hope Campaign, please make your check out to Harvest of Hope and not Our Divine Saviour. Thanks for your generosity.

## OUR DIVINE SAVIOUR:

Thank you to all who continue to pledge and contribute to the Harvest of Hope campaign. Currently better than 35% of our parish is participating and we are almost 78% of the way to reaching our suggested goal.  
TOTAL PLEDGED: \$131,895 PLEDGE BALANCE: \$103,282  
ONE-TIME DONATIONS: \$50,002

ST. WILLIAM: There have been 18 donors or 56.25% of registered parishioners.  
TOTAL PLEDGED: \$4,300.00 PLEDGE BALANCE: \$3,890.00 TOTAL GIVEN: \$1,215

## ODS 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Food Festival:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The ODS Eleventh Annual International Food Festival will be held on April 25, 2026. We are always looking for new countries to be represented. For this fund raiser to be successful we need cooks from your native country. Please contact Carolyn Slade, email is [csslade@gmail.com](mailto:csslade@gmail.com) or Priscilla Carpenter, email is [ki4gae@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4gae@yahoo.com) or phone 229-848-6699 with the authentic dish from your native country. We also have ad space on our t-shirt available.

## 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal:

The 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal *Faith, Hope Charity* will begin this weekend. Our Divine Saviour Parish Goal is \$24,014 and St. William is \$2,707. With your help, we can assure the continued support of many important programs that help thousands in our diocese each year; education, of our children and seminary students, evangelization and Christian initiation, ongoing formation for our clergy, and more. We are blessed with much; let us be a blessing to others.

## Help Needed:

*"In the readings, the table of God's Word is spread before the faithful, and the treasures of the Bible are opened to them."* (GIRM #57)

Are you ready to be a bit more active in your parish? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of Scripture? We have excellent lectors in our parish, and they need help! Our parish needs more lectors to serve at weekend English-language Masses. The only requirements for this ministry are the lectors must already be Confirmed and in full Communion. Once trained, lectors give 1-2 hours of time throughout the month in the preparation of their assigned readings. Experienced lectors also help with training novice lectors. For more information about training for this ministry, please contact Deborah Blakey at 229-339-0986. Thank you for your support in this ministry.

## Book Club:

The next selection for the Book Club is "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver. You are invited to obtain a copy of the book, read it and meet us for the discussion on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please contact Margo Martin (229-402-0741) for the location of the meeting.

# 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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# Good News!

March 22, 2026

***Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)***

Ezekiel 37:12–14 / Romans 8:8–11 / John 11:1–45  
or 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45

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." ●

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# Querido Padre

22 de marzo de 2026

**He ofrecido muchas misas por mi esposa y mi familia, pensando que si tal vez están en el Purgatorio, eso ayudaría a acortar su tiempo. ¿Cómo podemos saber si nuestras oraciones y misas son beneficiosas? ¿Cómo lo sabemos?**

Rezar por los difuntos es una expresión de la fe y la práctica católicas muy arraigada y consolidada. Nuestras oraciones nos ayudan a sobrellevar el dolor y el duelo por la pérdida de nuestros seres queridos. Nuestras oraciones nos ayudan a relativizar su fallecimiento, no como el final de algo, sino como el comienzo de una nueva vida en Cristo. Esto es beneficioso y no necesita más pruebas para ilustrar el valor de esta práctica.

Tu pregunta, por otro lado, va más allá de lo que enfatiza la tradición. Parece que buscas algún tipo de garantía o aval, que supones que te tranquilizará. Desafortunadamente, no hay ninguna garantía ni aval, ni prometido ni implícito, en esta práctica espiritual. En la muerte, de hecho en toda la vida cristiana, nos topamos con el misterio, no con la certeza. Se nos invita a entrar en el misterio. A crecer en el misterio. A ser agraciados por el misterio. No es posible nada más. Esperamos porque creemos. Creemos porque practicamos lo que esperamos. ●

P. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR

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# Buenas noticias

22 de marzo de 2026

*Quinto domingo de Cuaresma (A)*

Ezequiel 37, 12-14 / Romanos 8, 8-11 /  
Juan 11, 1-45 o 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

ANN M. GARRIDO

**Los profetas anteriores a Jesús** habían hablado durante mucho tiempo de los sueños de Dios para nuestro mundo. En épocas de oscuridad y desesperación, ofrecían instantáneas de esperanza sobre cómo sería el «reino de Dios». Los ciegos verían. Los que no podían caminar bailarían. Los encarcelados serían libres. Y los que habían muerto volverían a la vida.

En el evangelio de hoy, escuchamos que Marta compartía la esperanza de los profetas. Cuando Jesús le dice que su hermano Lázaro resucitará, ella responde: «Sé que resucitará en la resurrección del último día». En otras palabras, Marta cree en el «reino de Dios» venidero. Pero entonces, Jesús la sorprende con su respuesta: «Yo soy la resurrección y la vida». Es decir, «Yo soy el reino de Dios».

Orígenes de Alejandría, un teólogo del siglo III, se refirió a Jesús como la autobasilea. El término proviene de dos palabras griegas: auto, que significa «yo mismo», y basilea, que significa «reino». Era su forma de expresar que Jesús era el cumplimiento de todo lo que los profetas habían predicado. Él era la manifestación de todos los sueños de Dios para nosotros, no como se había anticipado en un tiempo futuro, sino en una persona viva.

Todavía esperamos que los sueños de Dios se hagan realidad a escala mundial, pero, al igual que Marta, ya hemos visto cómo será esa realización en nuestra experiencia de Jesús. Con Marta, podemos confesar que él es «el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios, el que viene al mundo». ●

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