

Welcome

To our communities of faith

Our Divine Saviour Catholic Church

12th Street and Love Avenue
Tifton, GA

And

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

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2026**

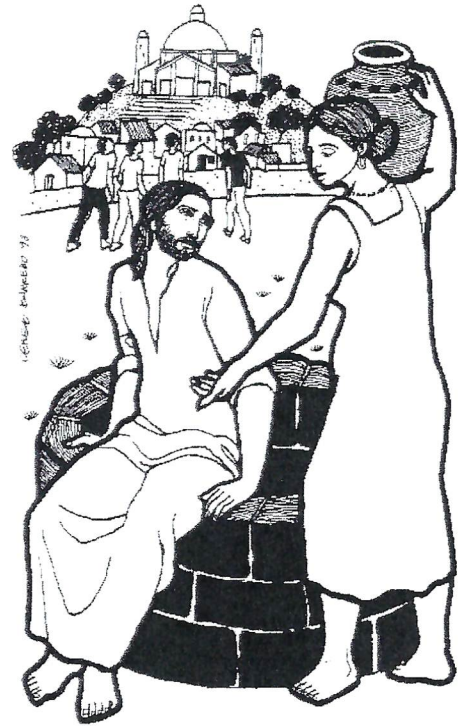
Pastor

Rev. Peter Oyenugba, MSP

Deacon

J. Brian Bergeron

***If today you hear his voice, harden
not your hearts.
Psalm 95***



In the story of the Samaritan woman, Jesus uses water, as a symbol of God's revelation and God's Spirit.

The exchange between Jesus and the woman causes conversion to take place.

The woman identifies Jesus several times, each time with greater understanding. First, he was a Jewish man, then a prophet, and finally she makes a comment about the Messiah.

Our Divine Savior

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

Email: ods@friendlycity.net
Website: odstifton.org

Office Address: 211 E. 12th 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 poyenugba@dio.sav ods@friendlycity.net	382-4600 X109
Deacon J. Brian Bergeron	Jbb@jesusrocksministry.com	
Parish Secretary	Nayelly Balderas	382-4600
Parish Secretary	Joann Prostko	382-4600 X101
	ods@friendlycity.net	
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	472-3819
	Carolyn Slade	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	Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com
Martha Solis	marlettfol@gmail.com
Tania Bautista	Tbautista122898@gmail.com
Debbie Blakey	deborahblakey@hotmail.com
Juan Carlos Diaz	
Gary Burtle	gburtle@uga.edu
Bob Kemerait	pkemerait@gmail.com
Amalia Ramirez Silos	Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com

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 Hernandez-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, Marlena 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 8, 2026
Third Sunday of
Lent*

Readings:

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2
John 4:5-42

Theme:

Jesus is the Living Water.

Question of the week:

Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your Life?

*March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday
of Lent*

Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1-7
Ephes. 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Theme:

We are children of the Light.

Question of the week:

Share how you, as a child of light, produce goodness and truth.

Announcements: March 7 & 8

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

The Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 6:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Parish Activity Center. Please drop off goods to sell on Thursday, March 5th from noon until 4:00 pm. Friday, March 6th from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. No goods will be accepted on the day of the sale, Saturday, March 7th. If you need assistance in transporting your good, call Carolyn Slade at 229-457-0873.

Attention High School Seniors: The college scholarship application packets will be available for students starting January 27th 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.

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

The Lenten Penance Service will be held at ODS on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Fasting an Abstinence Guidelines:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. Fasting is required for Catholics ages 18-59: one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal another full meal. No snacking between meals. Abstinence is required for Catholics ages 14 and older. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for Catholics age 14 and older. Those who are ill, elderly, pregnant, nursing or whose health would be affected are excused from fasting and/or abstinence. These practices help us grow in prayer, repentance, and charity as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Stations of the Cross during Lent:

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent. The schedule is:

- 5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)
- 5:30 pm Mass at ODS
- 6:00 pm 1 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

ODS 11th 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 or Priscilla Carpenter, email is 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.

Knights of Columbus:

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Fish Fry on Friday, March 20th starting at 5:00 pm in the Activity Center. Please come and join us.

Dear Padre

March 8, 2026

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). ●

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

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Good News!

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Exodus 17:3–7 / Romans 5:1–2, 5–8 / John 4:5–42
or 4:5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42

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. ●

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Querido Padre

8 de marzo de 2026

Cuando era joven, mi parroquia cubría todas las estatuas durante parte de la Cuaresma. ¿Qué significaba eso exactamente? ¿Hay alguna iglesia que todavía lo haga?

En 2001, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos aprobó la práctica de cubrir las estatuas y cruces durante las dos últimas semanas de la Cuaresma, a partir del quinto domingo de Cuaresma. Esta práctica es opcional, a discreción del párroco local. Según el Misal Romano, «las cruces permanecen cubiertas hasta el final de la celebración de la Pasión del Señor el Viernes Santo, pero las imágenes permanecen cubiertas hasta el comienzo de la Vigilia Pascual».

Cubrir las cruces y las estatuas con tela morada en las últimas semanas de Cuaresma indica un cambio en el enfoque de la Iglesia, que pasa de Jesús en el desierto (evangelio del primer domingo de Cuaresma) a Cristo durante su Pasión. Al igual que otras disciplinas cuaresmales de penitencia y ayuno que nos alinean en solidaridad con Cristo, la costumbre de cubrir con velos tiene como objetivo profundizar nuestro aprecio por el sacrificio supremo de Cristo. Representa su «ayuno» de las representaciones sagradas de la cruz en la que colgó su salvación y de las imágenes de los santos, que glorifican a Cristo y en quienes él es glorificado. Este ocultamiento crea una ausencia que hace que sus corazones sientan más cariño por el Señor, que «llevó nuestros pecados en su cuerpo sobre la cruz, para que, libres del pecado, vivamos para la justicia. Por sus heridas han sido sanados» (1 Pedro 2, 24). ●

P. Byron J. Miller, CSSR

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Buenas noticias

8 de marzo de 2026

Tercer domingo de Cuaresma (A)

Éxodo 17, 3-7 / Romanos 5, 1-2, 5-8 /
Juan 4, 5-42 o 4, 5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

P. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

«Si hoy escuchas su voz, no endurezcas tu corazón» (véase Salmo 95). Nuestra oración salmódica nos invita a responder a la Palabra de Dios. Una respuesta positiva debería darse por sentada: muy pocos de nosotros ignoraríamos deliberadamente la voz de Dios. El reto no está en responder «sí» a la invitación del Señor, sino en «escuchar» su voz.

Hay tantas voces que compiten diariamente por nuestra atención. Parece que cada momento del día nos bombardea algún tipo de ruido que exige atención y acción. En su momento, Neil Diamond pudo celebrar el «Beautiful Noise» (el hermoso ruido) de la ciudad, pero hoy en día nos resulta mucho más difícil. Francamente, el ruido que nos rodea es ensordecedor, y la mayoría de la gente anhela el silencio verdadero, una ruptura con la rutina, unas vacaciones de la ansiedad frenética que parece estar siempre presente.

Una maravillosa práctica cuaresmal —de hecho, una práctica espiritual que va mucho más allá de la Cuaresma— es elegir libremente desconectarse de las distracciones. Resiste la tentación de conectarte los audífonos. Evita la distracción de los contenidos de las redes sociales. Deja tu celular en la sala, siéntate en el jardín y no prestes atención a nada. «Quédate quieto y reconoce que yo soy Dios» (Salmo 46,10), nos recuerda el salmista. Escucha la voz de Dios, escucha su llamada y responde a la invitación. ●

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EVENTS of the WEEK

Saturday, March 7

CCW Rummage Sale..... 7:00 am
 Mass at ODS [+Loreto Abantao5:00 pm
 (Abantao Family)]

Spanish CCD 5:45 pm
 Spanish Mass at ODS [+Alberto Ramirez 7:00 pm
 (Norma Ramirez)]

Sunday, March 8

Mass at ODS [+Harriet Stolberg 9:00 am
 (Eloise Stone)]

CCD at ODS..... 10:15 am
 Mass at St. William (Catholic Extension)11:30 am
 Spanish Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners) ...2:00 pm

Monday, March 9

NO Mass at ODS

Tuesday, March 10

Mass at ODS 5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 11

Mass at ODS 8:00 am

Thursday, March 12

Mass at ODS8:00 am

Lenten Penance Service.....7:00 pm

Friday, March 13

Stations of the Cross (English) 5:00 pm

Mass at ODS 5:30 pm

1 Hour Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross (Spanish) 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 14

2nd Collection: Catholic Relief Services

First Communion Retreat 7:00 am

Mass at ODS [+Jesus Hizon..... 5:00 pm
 (Abanto Family)]

Spanish CCD 5:45 pm

Spanish Mass at ODS [+Cristina Alejo 7:00 pm
 +Jose Torro]

Sunday, March 15

2nd Collection: Catholic Relief Services

Mass at ODS [+Francisco Agostini 9:00 am
 (Eric & Joann Prostko)]

CCD at ODS 10:15 am

Mass at St. William (Catholic Extension Society) 11:30 am

Spanish Mass at ODS [+Francisco Javier Sanchez Malacate
2:00 pm

ODS LITURGY TEAM

Saturday, March 14, 2026 – 5:00 pm

PRESIDER: Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP
LECTOR :Shawn Thomas
LECTOR Shawn Thomas
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:Jose Abantao
 Jhoy Abantao, Susan Benson
SACRISTAN Pat Stephens

Sunday, March 15, 2026 – 9:00 am

PRESIDER:..... Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP
LECTOR : Debbie Blakey
LECTOR Debbie Blakey
EUCRISTIC MINISTER Veronica Ogolowa,
 Pius Ogolowa, Ben Fraelich,
 Mary Moultrie, Bill McDaniel
SACRISTAN: Olga Montalvo

Protecting Our Youth: Diocesan policy requires all diocesan Adult employees and every volunteer and employee who minister to the youth of the diocese attend VIRTUS (safe environment) awareness training undergo a background check, and read and sign the Diocesan “Code of conduct for working with minors” prior to commencing their ministry. The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People, toll free reporting hotline: (888) 357-5530.



ODS Weekly Offertory	(3/01/26):	\$9,074
ODS Offertory collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$205,859
ODS Building Fund	(3/01/26):	\$1,681
ODS Building Fund collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$20,804
St. William Offertory	(3/01/26):	\$657
St. William Collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$18,810