

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

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

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
 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 ods@friendlycity.net	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	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 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 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.

The CCW wishes to thank all parishioners who supported the Rummage Sale on March 7th. 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 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.

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 4th 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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EVENTS of the WEEK

Saturday, March 21

- Mass at ODS [+Lawrence Steffel]5:00 pm
(CCW)]
- Spanish CCD 5:45 pm
- Spanish Mass at ODS [+Familia Manriquez Ramirez]
..... 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 22

- Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners) 9:00 am
- 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 23

NO Mass at ODS

Tuesday, March 24

Mass at ODS 5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 25

Mass at ODS 8:00 am

Thursday, March 26

Mass at ODS 8:00 am

Friday, March 27

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 28

Mass at ODS [+Charles Dillehay] 5:00 pm
(Wyatt Family)]

NO Spanish CCD

Spanish Mass at ODS [+Familia Manriquez Ramirez]
..... 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 29

Mass at ODS [+Charles Dillehay] 9:00 am
(Wyatt Family)]

NO CCD at ODS

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

Spanish Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners) ... 2:00 pm

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 LITURGY TEAM

Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 5:00 pm

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

Sunday, March 29, 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

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE:

April 2nd HOLY THURSDAY:

6:00 pm ODS English Mass
8:00 pm ODS Spanish Mass

April 3rd GOOD FRIDAY:

6:00 pm Good Friday Services at St. William
5:30 pm ODS Stations of the Cross (English)
6:00 pm ODS Good Friday Services (English)
7:00 pm ODS Stations of the Cross (Spanish)
8:00 pm ODS Good Friday Services (Spanish)

April 4th HOLY SATURDAY:

8:00 pm Bilingual Mass

April 5th EASTER SUNDAY:

9:00 am ODS English Mass
11:30 am Mass at St. William
2:00 pm ODS Spanish Mass

ODS Weekly Offertory	(3/15/26):	\$5,422
ODS Offertory collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$219,043
ODS Building Fund	(3/15/26):	\$65
ODS Building Fund collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$20,999
St. William Offertory	(3/15/26):	\$621
St. William Collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$19,740