

Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 22, 2026

Holy Father's Intention for March: For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations:

* **All Fridays in Lent** are days of *abstinence* from meat. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, this obligation would not apply.

* We should strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer and penance.

As the Holy Father noted in his address, "I invite everyone to make next Feb 18, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

Stations Of The Cross:

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis, commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary, usually through sacred art, prayers, and reflections. The practice began as pious pilgrims traced his path through Jerusalem on the Via Dolorosa. Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every church throughout the world. Similarly, the 150 Hail Marys that were recited for the rosary were an adaptation of the medieval monastic practice of reciting the 150 psalms in the Psalter.

Rice Bowl: CRS Rice Bowl begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026, 75 percent of Rice Bowl donations support CRS's humanitarian relief programs in more than 100 different countries. Additionally, Catholic Relief Services allows each diocese that participates to keep 25% of the collection in the local community to be used for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, these funds support food pantries and other programs.

Second Collection:

* We have a Second Collection on this Sunday for Easter Flowers. **Please be generous!**

* Next Sunday, March 29, 2026, we'll have a second Collection on for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. **Please be Prepare!**

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Today's Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died? So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.



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Raising from Death to Life

In today's Gospel we encounter the great mystery of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This apparent death of Lazarus was not in vain for Jesus says it occurred so "that the Son of God may be glorified through it." After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus instructs the crowd to "unbind him, and let him go"

This "unbinding" signifies that Jesus doesn't just raise him from the dead but also sets him free. So too, through God's great gift of forgiveness, He raises us from the death of sin and leads us to interior freedom. This Lent, let us seek God's forgiveness by availing ourselves to the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. The Catechism says that "the sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true "spiritual resurrection," restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God".

Moreover, after Lazarus was freed it says that many people believed in Jesus. Likewise, after we receive God's forgiveness and live in freedom and friendship with God, we should be true stewards of God's gifts and evangelize those around us. Through the grace of the sacrament we will have the necessary strength to offer our time and talents to our parish community. So this Lent let us not remain in the death of sin but turn to Jesus and receive the life and freedom of forgiveness.

Summary: Just as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He raises us from the death of sin and leads us to interior freedom through His forgiveness. This Lent, let us seek God's forgiveness by availing ourselves to the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. Through the grace of the sacrament we will have the necessary strength and grace to offer our time and talents to our parish community.



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Offering for March 15, 2026

Total Sum. Collection \$4,356.00

Advertisement \$ 480.00

Sacramental Fee \$ 50.00

Votive Candles \$ 164.00

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"Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

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Baptism: Arrangements must be made one week in advance.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday from 8:30 am to 9:00 am or by appointment.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to plan date of wedding.

Mass Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sun 3/22: * Peace for family & all souls by 1 person
* Paul, Isave, Ann 2, Joseph all souls by Hung Ha
* John the Baptist and Maria by Lot Uyen

Mon 3/23: * Peace, good health & intention by 1 person

Tues 3/24: * Louis Canh by Holly Le

Wed 3/25: * Ann, John the Baptist and Maria by Lich Ho
* Peace, good health & intention by 1 person

Thus 3/26: * Maria by Thao An family
* Thaddeus, Ann, Paul, Peter, GioaKim & all souls by Hue

Fri 3/27: * Louis Canh by Holly Le
* Paul, Isave, Ann 2, Joseph all souls by Hung Ha

Sat 3/28: * Joseph by 1 person
* Joseph and Maria by Hong Au