

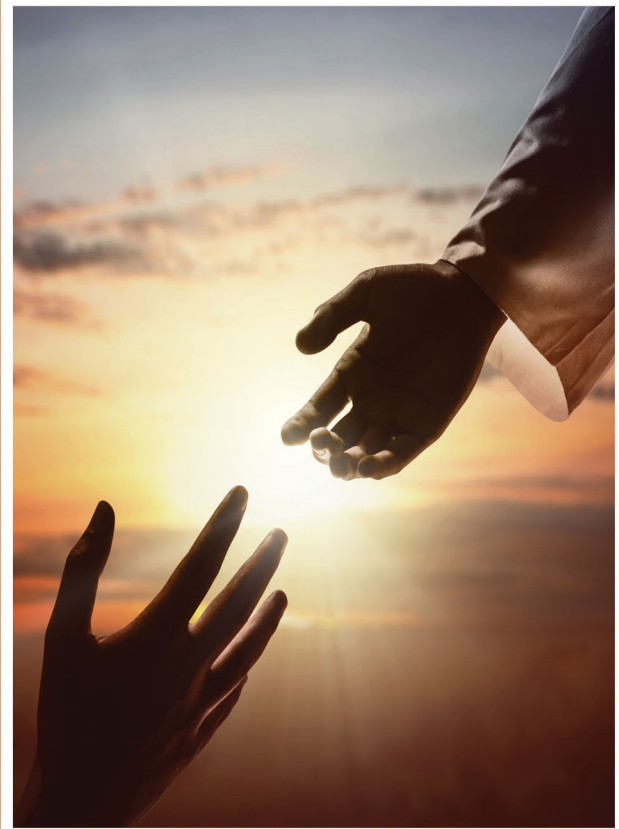
Fifth

Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me,
even if they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26



St. Rita Catholic Parish

A Faith Community Since 1908

MARCH 29, 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS: Sat. 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon

WEEKDAYS: Mon., Tues., Fri., and Sat. 8 am
(Wed. & Thurs. 8 am Communion Service)

HOLY DAYS: (eve of) 5:30 pm; (day of) 8 am & 6:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Confession) Saturdays 4 – 5 pm or by appointment

DEVOTIONS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Saturday 7:50 am

ADORATION

First Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm, Rectory Oratory

Rev. Thomas Baker — Pastor

Deacon Manuel Valencia • Deacon Chuck McDaniels

318 North Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre

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Fr. Chris Thiel, OFM Cap., *Weekend Supply Priest*

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SACRAMENTS**Baptisms**

First Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass. Registration and Catechesis are prerequisites. Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriages

Contact the Parish Office upon engagement; at least six months is needed for preparation of this joyous sacrament!

Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Preparation for children who have attained the age of reason (usually during 2nd grade) is arranged either through the Religious Education Program or St. Rita Elementary School.

Confirmation

A two-year program for freshman/sophomore age teens. Please apply through the Youth Ministry Program.

Communion for the Sick and Homebound

St. Rita Eucharistic Ministers provide Communion home visits. Contact the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick and Funeral Liturgies

Please notify us for the Anointing of the Sick, the sacrament intended for the seriously ill or dying which brings Our Lord's special presence and companionship in serious time of need. If someone should die without anointing, remember that the desire to receive is sufficient.

If your loved one has passed, we will assist in making arrangements with your chosen funeral director; refer you to our Bereavement Ministry and Music Ministry; and offer you helpful guidelines that will aid in the selection of readings for a Mass or Memorial Service. We know this can be a tough time and we want you to know that your parish is here for you. Please understand we only have one resident priest; sometimes arrangements for another priest may be needed.



Rising to New Life

Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

Today's Gospel is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus to new life. Back in 1994 I had the awesome privilege of going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group of priests. While there, each priest placed a request to be the main celebrant at a sacred site. I chose the tomb of Lazarus for the site to be the main celebrant amongst this group of priests. What an honor and a remarkable place to celebrate Mass, the place where Jesus brought Lazarus forth from death.

Lent is our time to allow Jesus to bring us back to life, for we each fall into sin and away from our true nature as sons and daughters of God. Even today, well into the Lenten season, we are given the opportunity to allow Jesus to call us forth from whatever entombs us.

Sometimes I feel entombed by all the responsibilities I have as a pastor. Fortunately, I am not completely alone in this task. I am blessed to be ministering with wonderful disciples on staff, in our school and in the many devoted volunteers. Truly, I am proud to serve here at St. Rita Parish and amazed by the "life-giving" people who are part of this parish community.

Thank you to each of you who help ease my burdens and responsibilities and assist in making this parish a place where God's presence is realized. Many years ago Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of Jesus. Today I am rising to new life through so many of you who are the face and presence of Jesus for me. Thank you so much. Blessings to you all as we near the holiest days of the Church year. Peace.

—Fr. Tom

REFLECTION QUESTION

Each week I will include a reflection question based on a chapter from the Matthew Kelly book: "Rediscover the Saints." Please use this question for reflection and discussion with family, friends and parishioners. **St. Thomas is best known for his doubting and Matthew Kelly wrote: "the greater the faith, the greater the doubt." Have you ever doubted God or aspects of your faith or of the Church? How does St. Thomas' story enable you to embrace your doubts?**

Rediscover
the Saints

TWENTY-FIVE QUESTIONS
THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIMSELF?
MATTHEW KELLY

Keep these intentions in your heart as you make your spiritual communion while Mass restrictions are in place.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 AM Genaro Tan-Torres, Jr. RIP
5:30 PM For all parishioners

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 AM Robert Campbell INT
10:00 AM Walter B. Johnson RIP
12 NOON Mark Stone INT

MONDAY, MARCH 30

8:00 AM Robert & Anna Schrodt RIP

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 AM Paddy Power RIP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 AM Communion Service

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

8:00 AM Communion Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

8:00 AM Tom Robinson RIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

8:00 AM Joan Juenemann INT
5:30 PM Vivian Mary Rull INT

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:30 AM For all parishioners
10:00 AM Sharon Newbold RIP
12 NOON Ana Ptasinski INT

FEAST DAYS & OBSERVANCES

Thursday: St. Francis of Paola

Saturday: St. Isidore

TODAY'S SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (*Ezekiel 37:12-14*).

Psalms — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (*Psalms 130*).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (*Romans 8:8-11*).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (*John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]*).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS:



Joe Hernandez, Michael Joseph Parada, Joan Juenemann, Charles Humphrey, Mark Stone, Joseph & Josephine Gruppie, Eleanor Raleigh, Margaux Viera, Patti Huber, Marsha Joy, Kellie Loera, Charles Baker, Michaelyn Fidone, Gilbert Gonzalez, Genise Tully, Mary Kiss, Lisa Bowman, Susan Devin, Sawtell John, Inez Ybarra, Francesca DiFranco, Charlotte Meyer, Richard Forcione, Mary Kathryn Genzlinger, Toni Baiunco, Jacquie Marshall Martin, Teresa D'Agostaro, Carmen Ruiz, Maria Blust, Daisy Walters, Salvatore Termini, Mary Rodriguez, Pete & Daisy Olson, Margaret Fala, Hannah Waken, Clare Greteman, Lalo Arriaga, Jim Crilly, Trini Marti, Joann Little, Luz Arriaga, Doug Peterson, Sandra Osborne, Evelyn Tres, Gerald Dreaan, Toni Navarro, Tonyja Blakeslee, Edith Olah, Fred Mycroft, Joseph Moore.

Please note: names on the Sick List are published for thirty days unless otherwise requested. To add or remove a name, please contact the Parish Office or email:

bulletin@st-rita.org



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence for all those over the age of 14. Abstinence means you may not eat meat, including chicken or other poultry. Seafood is permitted. In addition, *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday* are days of fasting and abstinence. That means that in addition to abstaining from meat one these two days, one must fast. The minimum Church requirement for fasting is three meals which equal two and no snacking between meals.

Act of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Resources for Prayer During the Pandemic

MASS STREAMING

Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m. from St. Rita:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Rita-Parish-Sierra-Madre-CA-14188335261805/videos/>

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. from Mater Dolorosa:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MaterDolorosaRetreatCenter/videos/>

Mass with Pope Francis:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.html>

Masses at the LA Cathedral:

<http://www.olacathedral.org/live/index.html>

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Daily Readings in English and Spanish:

<http://www.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm?showLit=1&action=month>

Daily Reflections, Prayer & Music from St. Rita:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Rita-Parish-Sierra-Madre-CA-114188335261805/>

Daily Reflections for Lent:

<https://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201403/weekly-reflections-lent-28558>

Lent & Easter Reflections:

<https://www.chausa.org/prayers/lent-reflections>

Fr. Jim McDermott, SJ (Ignatian prayer):

<https://littlespiritualexercises.substack.com/>

Bishop Robert Baron:

www.wordonfire.org

DEVOTIONS

Liturgy of the Hours:

<http://www.universalis.com/-700/today.htm>

Pray the Rosary:

<https://therosary.online>

Light a virtual candle:

<https://stjohnneumann.org/faith-miracles/light-a-candle-online/>

USCCB RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.*

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!*

— *Psalm 130:1*

