

SAT 4pm	March 21	March 28	HOLY WEEK/EASTER ALL VOLUNTEERS – SIGN UP IN THE CRY ROOM					
Servers	Issac Wells Fred Dust Trey Brown	Madalyne Brown Tryston Brown Abby Brown	<b>HOLY THURSDAY-5:30PM</b> All ministries PLUS 12 volunteers for feet washing.					
Lector	Doug Brown	Christy Brown Mike Holland	<b>GOOD FRIDAY—5:30PM AT GREEN CREEK</b>					
Usher	Jason Wells Mike Holland	Doug Brown Justin Miller	<b>HOLY SATURDAY-EASTER VIGIL – 8:00PM</b> All ministries with extra servers and lectors.					
Ministers of Holy Communion	Donna Davis Kathy Brown Rosemary Holland	Mike Holland Sara Roepke Don Brown	<b>EASTER SUNDAY- 8:00 AM</b> All ministries as usual.					
Gift Bearers	Jesse Davis Family	Jason Wells Family	Please sign up as soon as possible.					
<b>SUN 8am</b>	<b>March 22 Families in Faith</b>	<b>March 29 Families in Faith</b>	I will be calling on ministers after Mass on March 29 for any ministry that is not filled.					
Servers	Wylie Miller Daisy Miller Jacob Vonderheide	Wade Conder Olivia Vonderheide Zoey Conder						
Lector	Terry Hoene	Donna Davis Terry Hoene						
Ushers	Josh Miller Justin Conder	John Neu Don Antrim						
Ministers of Holy Communion	Shawn Buehler Trevor Floyd Vanessa Floyd	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Leslie Kemme						
Gift Bearers	Dan Angela Woods	Barb Vonderheide						
Greeters	Don Marcella Antrim	George Diana Conder						
Money Counters	Stremming Conder	Doedtman Shadwell						
<b>WED. 8am Lectors</b>	<b>March 4</b> Linda Doedtman	<b>March 11</b> Mike Holland				<b>March 18</b> Alice Richards	<b>March 25</b> Irene Koester	<b>April 1</b> Linda Doedtman

Please remember to sign in in the sacristy before mass so we know all ministries are covered.

Sacrament of Marriage-Please contact our parish office (1-844-536-6514) at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation.

Sacrament of Baptism - A family must be registered & actively living their faith. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office (1-844-536-6514).



+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki  
[www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org)

## Annunciation Church of B.V.M.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Shumway, IL

Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor

[aprichard@dio.org](mailto:aprichard@dio.org)

PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461

1-844-536-6514

Website: [www.stmaryshumway.org](http://www.stmaryshumway.org)

Email: [parishoffice@stmaryshumway.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryshumway.org)



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent—March 22, 2026

### MISSION

*Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.*

### VISION

*Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.*

### Shumway Mass Times:

Tuesday – 5:15 pm

Adoration 4-5 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Reconciliation-3pm

Sunday 8:00 am

### Green Creek Mass Times:

Thursday – 5:15 pm

Adoration 4-5 pm

Friday – 8 am

Saturday – 6 pm

Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

### March Committee:

Wanda Ohnesorge,  
Vanessa Kessler, Patty Kessler,  
Vanessa Floyd, Alice Richards,  
Irene Koester

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on life, resurrection, and faith in God's power. The readings remind us of God's promise to bring new life and His power over death.

**Resurrection and New Life:** God promises to raise His people from their graves and give them new life. Jesus fulfills this by raising Lazarus, showing His power over death and pointing to His own resurrection.

**Power of the Spirit:** The Spirit of God brings life and renewal. The second reading reminds us that the same Spirit that raised Jesus will give life to our mortal bodies.

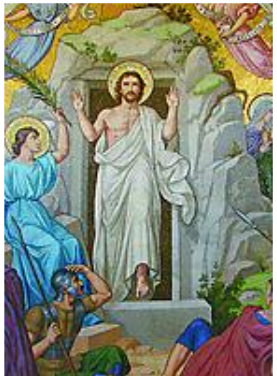
**Faith and Trust in Jesus:** Martha shows faith in Jesus even in her grief. Jesus calls her and all believers to trust in Him as the resurrection and the life.

**God's Glory Revealed:** Jesus explains that Lazarus's death will glorify God. The miracle strengthens the faith of those who witness it, showing Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

**Hope Beyond Death:** The readings remind us that death is not the end. God's promise of resurrection gives hope and calls us to live with faith and courage.

**Jesus' Compassion and Humanity:** Jesus is deeply moved by the grief of Mary and Martha. His tears show His compassion and His sharing in human suffering.

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A challenges us to believe in Jesus as the source of life and hope. It invites us to trust in God's promise of resurrection and live in faith.



Greetings everyone,

So how is everyone's Lent going? We are nearing the end of the journey, with Easter almost in sight. If your lent has not been as fruitful as you had hoped, don't despair, use this time to refocus your efforts and finish the journey well. The Lenten practice reminds me of a time years ago when our track team was in the weight room working on conditioning for the upcoming season, and, of course, the guys hit the weight bench to see how much we could bench press and whether we could outdo the guy before us. Our coach came in and told us to take off the heavy weights and to put on lighter, more manageable weights. He told us that it did no good to start off trying to lift as much weight as we could and only lift 1 or 2 reps. He said that we would only end up hurting ourselves by pulling or straining our muscles. He explained that we are here to condition our bodies. Less weight over several repetitions was better, it allowed our muscles to warm up and to stretch slowly. At the end of that set of reps, the lighter weight would begin to feel heavy, but with continued work for many weeks, we found that we could do even more reps. As it became easier, we could then add weight and continue to condition our bodies.

This is precisely how lent works. Many people choose something hard, and although it may be a pious practice, if it's too hard or impractical, all we end up doing is quitting and abandoning the practice and feeling bad about how we failed. It's better to start slowly with small things that we can do and do many times with focus and attention. Remember, we are conditioning ourselves to turn away from harmful things and turn to the good. Self-mastery is necessary in the spiritual life. We must look at ourselves and know where we need to grow and to let go of what may be holding us back from a closer relationship with our Blessed Lord.

This Sunday, in the scripture readings, we hear about God's plan to have us rise from our graves and how he will put his spirit within us. We also see Jesus raise Lazarus from the grave. This theme of death to life, this is what we are working toward in Lent. The death to our old sinful selves and rising to new life in Christ Jesus. We who are baptized have the Holy Spirit within us; this should give us strength to continue our journey this Lent.

So, if your Lenten practice has died, resurrect it; if it was too big, adjust and stay the course. Finish the journey well and come to the end with a more fit spiritual life and a clearer vision of God's love for each of us.

In service to Christ, in service to You,  
Deacon Candidate,  
Jesse R Davis



**PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!**



- |                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dan Miller         | Tom Laue        | Steve Moore     |
| Travis Vonderheide | Jerry Worman    | Pat Kuhns       |
| Bob Frese          | Mardell Sheehan | Bill Hamilton   |
| Elsie McKay        | Hans Kollinger  | Christie Dust   |
| Don Clark          | Kathy Miller    | Helen Kollinger |
| Kelly Myers Kocher | David Brown     | Bill Nuxoll     |
| Roger Thomas       | Beth Hewing     | Cinda Held      |
| Ron Harris         | Jim Gordon      | Kathy Wakefield |
| Lottie McCormick   | Don Kemme       |                 |
| Kenny Hille        | Tony Bierman    |                 |
| Trevor Roy         | Tori Schairbaum |                 |

Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

**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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**Weekly Offering..... March 15, 2026**

Adult.....	\$1719.00
Loose.....	396.00
Catholic Relief.....	185.00
Easter Flowers.....	135.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2435.00</b>
<b>Parish Hall update</b>	<b>\$156,843.47</b>
<b>Masses</b>	<b>\$30</b>



EVERY weekend, we will be collecting food for local food pantries. You can find the donation tote in the cry room.

**To reserve the church basement** please call 1-844-536-6514.

**Cemetery Committee**

John Adams 618-322-2874

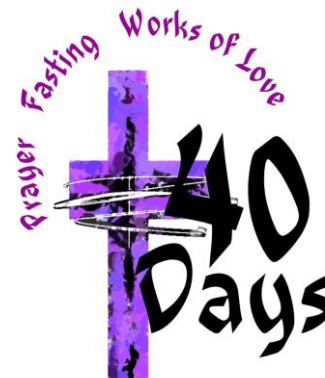
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896

Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

**Funeral Meal Coordinators**

Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399

Dot Thomas 217-259-8560



To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE


- MONDAY**  
MARCH 23  
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62  
Jn 8:1–11
- TUESDAY**  
MARCH 24  
Nm 21:4–9  
Jn 8:21–30
- WEDNESDAY**  
MARCH 25  
The Annunciation of the Lord  
Is 7:10–14; 8:10  
Heb 10:4–10  
Lk 1:26–38
- THURSDAY**  
MARCH 26  
Gn 17:3–9  
Jn 8:51–59
- FRIDAY**  
MARCH 27  
Jer 20:10–13  
Jn 10:31–42
- SATURDAY**  
MARCH 28  
Ez 37:21–28  
Jn 11:45–56
- SUNDAY**  
MARCH 29  
Palm Sunday of the Lord  
Mt 21:1–11  
Is 50:4–7  
Phil 2:6–11  
Mt 26:14–27:66  
or  
27:11–54

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*St. Isidore Parish & St. Francis Parish*  
**Totus Tuus at ST. FRANCIS**

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Stephanie at 217-821-5970.

2026-'27 7-HS  
 Sunday-Thursday  
 June 14-18

2026-'27 K-6  
 Monday-Friday  
 June 15-19



**Registration extended for World Youth Day 2027 Pilgrimage** – Are you interested in attending World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea July 28 – Aug. 30, 2027? The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is organizing a pilgrimage for young people (ages 16–35) to join this global celebration of faith with the Holy Father. The pilgrimage includes World Youth Day events in Seoul, visits to the Myungnygre Shrine and other sites in Busan, South Korea, and Catholic sites in Nagasaki, Japan.

Estimated Cost: \$6,098: A \$500 deposit is due May 15, 2026, with a quarterly payment schedule. Price is estimated based on current market, currency exchange, and travel conditions. For more information, contact: Fr. Zach Samples, Pilgrimage Spiritual Director (217) 698-8500 | [wyd@dio.org](mailto:wyd@dio.org) | [dio.org/wyd](http://dio.org/wyd)

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE January 12-21, 2027**

Join Fr. Dean Probst and Fr. Charles Delano on a trip to the Holy Land, visiting the area of the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, Enjoy celebrating Masses and Prayer Services at the places of Jesus' birth, preaching, miracles and crucifixion and resurrection. Cost is \$4099/person from St. Louis airport. Contact Fr. Dean at 217-494-6326 or email [rdprobst@gmail.com](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com) for brochure.

Singles Late 50s and Above: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing RENEW weekend retreat at the Pallottine Retreat Center (30 min from downtown St. Louis), on April 10-12, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Visit [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), e-mail [renewretreat.stl@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.stl@gmail.com), or call (314) 703-1002 for details.

**Sacred Marian Shrines Pilgrimage** – Join Msgr. David Hoefler of the Diocese of Springfield on a pilgrimage to the Sacred Marian Shrines of France, Portugal, and Spain, traveling September 28–October 9, 2026. This spiritually rich journey will include visits to some of the most beloved Marian sites in the world. Space is limited. To learn more and register online, go to [go.dio.org/786](http://go.dio.org/786)

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Newton, IL**

**Job Postings:** Middle School Math Teacher Starting: 2026-2027 School Year  
 St. Thomas is accepting credentials for the position of Middle School Math teacher/6th Grade Homeroom. Practicing Catholics preferred, but not required. All interested individuals should submit resume', application (found at [stthomassaints.com](http://stthomassaints.com)), copy of license(s), letter(s) of reference and transcripts to:  
**St. Thomas School**  
 Attn: Mrs. Jill Bierman, Principal  
 306 W. Jourdan St. - Newton, IL 62448  
 Or [jillbierman@stthomassaints.com](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com) Please feel free to email or call Mrs. Bierman (618) 783-3517, if you have any questions. Deadline to apply: April 24th, 2026



† This symbol denotes-deceased.

Saturday, March 21 –Parishioners of St. Mary's  
 Sunday, March 22 →Merita Elson by George & Diana Conder  
 Wednesday, March 25– 8am - +Marita Kemme by Family  
 -6pm- +Sally Wakefield by Tim & Deborah Thoele  
 Saturday, March 28- +Merita Elson by Family  
 Sunday, March 29- +Sally Wakefield by Duane Joyce Shadwell  
 Wednesday, April 1- +Sally Wakefield by Connie Mullens  
 Thursday, April 2-(5:30pm) - +Judy Willenborg by Gene & Linda Doedtman  
 Saturday, April 4-(8pm)- +Sally Wakefield by Tim & Deborah Thoele  
 Sunday, April 5 -Parishioners of St. Mary's Annunciation Parish




**Tuesday, March 24  
 5-7 pm**

**Adoration & Reconciliation**


**Families in Faith  
 Next classes March 22 & 29**

*The parish family extends its deepest sympathies to  
 Christie Dust and family  
 on the passing of her father,  
 James McLean.  
 May he rest in peace.*



*The parish family extends its deepest sympathies to  
 Bob Bugger and family  
 on the passing of his wife,  
 Nancy.  
 May she rest in peace.*

**ANNUNCIATION  
 OF THE LORD**



**Wednesday, March 25**

We will celebrate our Feast Day with Mass at 6pm followed by a meal.

**Please sign up!! There are sheets at each entrance of the church**



The sign ups can be found in the cry room. Father would also like volunteers to sign up to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday.

**Holy Thursday** – April 2 -Shumway @5:30pm

**Good Friday** – April 3 – Green Creek @ 5:30pm

**Easter Vigil – Holy Saturday** – April 4- Shumway @ 8:00pm

**Easter Sunday** – April 5 – 8 am Shumway  
10am Green Creek

**The Triumph of Mercy**

We all are in need of Christ’s mercy and the way we encounter God is through his Mercy. St. John Paul II says that divine mercy will illuminate the way for the men and women of the third millennium. Come find out how this practically, yet supernaturally, takes place for us in this world. This week promises to help all increase their trust in God.

Join us Friday for SonRise Men's Breakfast, 6:30 - 7:30 AM, at the St. Anthony Parish Center. All Men are welcomed.

Day of Prayer for Life – Save the Date! Please mark your calendars for the deanery wide annual Day of Prayer for Life to be held Wednesday, June 17th, at St Francis Church. Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration will be held throughout the day, with the closing Mass at 7:30 PM.

**Happy Birthday**



Charlotte Kessler 3-22  
Carla Wakefield 3-24  
Michael Buehler 3-24  
Hannah Wells 3-25

**Happy Anniversary**

Jason & Joyce Wells 3-23-2002  
24 years

Don & Carolyn Clark 3-26-1994  
32 years

**Bible Study @ St. Mary’s, Shumway**

“A Journey Through Church History.”

Next Meetings @ 6:30pm

Thurs. March 26  
Mon. March 30  
Wed. April 8

**Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life**

St. Michael's church in Sigel Tuesday March 24th. Rosary 6:00 pm.  
Fr Hyland Smith will celebrate Mass @ 6:30 pm. A business meeting will follow in the school gym.

**FORMED-Catholic Streaming Service** To sign up follow these directions.

1. Go to Formed.org
2. Click on Find your Parish Subscription
3. Enter 62461 in the find your parish box
4. Click on St. Mary’s and Next and create your account

**The Sacred Heart CCW** would like to invite all ladies from St. Anthony and St. Mary Parishes to our Annual Salad Supper on Tuesday, April 7, at 6:00pm, in our parish center (405 S. Henrietta St, Effingham). A special program will be presented by Vicki Walker, sharing her bread-baking recipes and talent. Please join us for a fun night out!

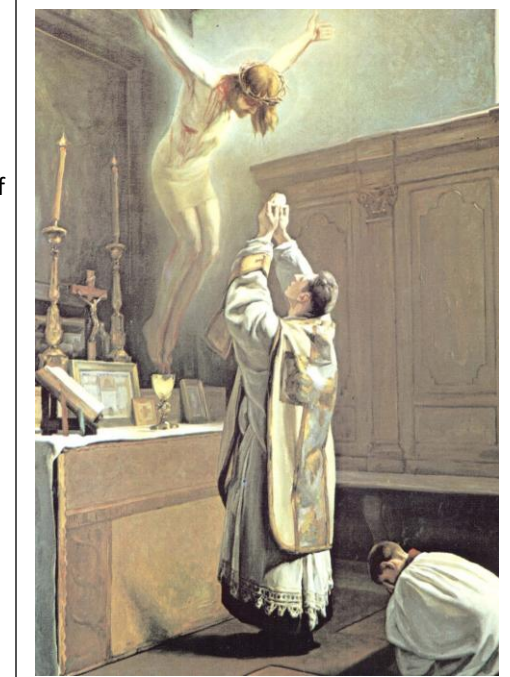
**Help Connect Students with Campus Ministry** - Adult leaders are needed in each parish to be “ambassadors” for a new initiative from Newman Connection that connects students and young adults directly to their college Catholic campus ministry or military chaplain before they leave your community. Called “Faith Forward,” I need local parents and leaders to help invite young people to enthusiastically sign up to learn more about the Catholic community that is waiting to welcome them in their next chapter in life! Click here <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/470/responses/new> to sign up as an ambassador for your parish or school!

**Protect Your Kids Online** – Do you wish that someone had told you early on about the dangers of pornography? Do you ever wonder how to introduce the topic to your kids and when? The average age of first exposure to porn is 8 to 10 years old. When girls internalize the harmful images in porn, they are likely to have issues with self-esteem, body image, and relationships, and 58% of girls have seen porn by age 12. The resources at [go.dio.org/2XY](http://go.dio.org/2XY) will help your children learn about healthy intimacy and understand healthy sexuality as well as protect them from the damage that pornography can do to their brain and to their relationships. Questions? Contact Gracie at 217-321-1124 or [gortiz@dio.org](mailto:gortiz@dio.org)

**What Really Happens at Mass movie** –

The Real Presence: The Mass is a 28-minute film that reveals the unseen spiritual world of the Catholic Mass through a combination of beautiful liturgical imagery and artistic augmented reality. At the heart of the film is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist—not symbolically, but in reality. With alarming statistics showing that many Catholics no longer believe in this foundational truth, the film seeks to reawaken faith and offer compelling insights into what the Church teaches about the Real Presence.

Watch for free: [therealpresence.com](http://therealpresence.com).



## Life, Death, and Resurrection

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on life, raises Lazarus from the dead, showing his power over death. This miracle points to his own resurrection and gives us hope for eternal life. Jesus tells Martha that he is the resurrection and the life, calling us to believe in him for new life.

This story shows that death is not the end. Just as Lazarus was called out of the tomb, we are called to new life in Christ. Jesus' words and actions reveal his authority over life and death, affirming our hope in the resurrection. This hope helps us face our own mortality with faith and courage.

The raising of Lazarus also shows Jesus' compassion and humanity. He weeps with Mary and Martha, sharing in their grief. This reminds us that Jesus understands our pain and walks with us in our sorrow. He is not distant but close to us in our struggles.

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to trust in Jesus as the source of life and hope. It challenges us to believe in his promise of resurrection and to live with faith, even in the face of death.

## Women of Faith

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A highlights the faith of Martha and Mary, two women who were close friends of Jesus. When Lazarus dies, both sisters show their faith in Jesus, though in different ways. Martha meets Jesus and speaks with confidence about the resurrection. She expresses her belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Martha's faith is rooted in understanding and knowledge. She listens to Jesus' words and responds with conviction. Her faith is strong even in her grief, showing trust in Jesus' power over death. She believes that even now, Jesus can do something remarkable.

Mary responds differently. She is overcome with emotion and weeps at Jesus' feet. Her faith is expressed through her sorrow and vulnerability. Jesus is moved by her tears and weeps with her, showing his compassion and sharing her pain.

Both women show great faith but in their own ways. Jesus meets each of them where they are, responding to Martha with words of hope and to Mary with shared grief. This shows that Jesus understands and honors our different ways of believing and feeling.

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on our own faith. Whether we are like Martha with strong convictions or like Mary with deep emotions, Jesus meets us with love and understanding. We are called to trust in him and to find hope in his promise of resurrection.

## Hope and Renewal

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A brings a message of hope and renewal. In the first reading, God promises to open the graves of His people and bring them back to life. He vows to put His Spirit within them, giving them new life and returning them to their homeland. This promise of resurrection and renewal points to God's power to restore what is lost.

This theme continues in the Gospel, where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. By calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus shows his authority over death. This miracle is a sign of the new life that Jesus offers to all who believe in him. It also foreshadows his own resurrection, which brings hope and salvation to the world.

Both readings remind us that God has the power to bring life from death. No matter how hopeless a situation seems, God can restore and renew. Just as Lazarus was unbound and set free, we are invited to let go of fear and despair, trusting in God's promise of new life.

The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A challenges us to believe in God's power to renew our lives. In times of loss or sorrow, we are called to hope in the resurrection. We are also invited to live as witnesses of this hope, sharing the good news of Christ's victory over death.



The 5th Sunday of Lent Year A challenges us to believe in God's promise of resurrection and to live with hope and courage. It invites us to grow in faith, trusting in Jesus' power over death and His love for us. May these reflections inspire us to live as witnesses of hope and new life.

## Prayer

Lord, you are the resurrection and the life. Help us to trust in your promise of new life. Give us courage in times of sorrow and hope in the face of death. Guide us to live in faith and to share your love with others. Amen.

## Reflection Questions for the 5th Sunday of Lent Year A

- How does the promise of resurrection bring hope to your life?
- What fears about death or loss do you need to bring to Jesus?
- How can you trust in God's power to bring new life and renewal?
- In what ways are you called to live as a witness of hope?
- How do Martha and Mary's faith inspire you?
- Do you relate more to Martha's confident faith or Mary's emotional response?
- How does Jesus' compassion in this story bring you comfort?
- What does it mean for you that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
- How can you live in hope and courage, even in difficult times?
- Who in your life needs to hear the message of hope and new life?

<https://young-catholics.com/2568/5th-sunday-of-lent-year-a/>

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



Check out this website. Lots of great reflections.

<https://thewordthisweek.net/bible-study-5th-sunday-of-lent-a/>