

Dear Padre,

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. ●



RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



FAUSTO RENDI / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face. And so, we switch off, we fall asleep.... But reality has to be faced.... Let us go to Jesus: he can heal us; he can revive us. Jesus is our hope!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 25, 2025

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday MARCH 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62 Jn 8:1–11 | Thursday MARCH 26 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3–9 Jn 8:51–59 | Saturday MARCH 28 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21–28 Jn 11:45–56 |
| Tuesday MARCH 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Nm 21:4–9 Jn 8:21–30 | Friday MARCH 27 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10–13 Jn 10:31–42 | Sunday MARCH 29 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mt 21:1–11 Is 50:4–7 Phil 2:6–11 Mt 26:14–27:66 or 27:11–54 |
| Wednesday MARCH 25 <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10–14; 8:10 Heb 10:4–10 Lk 1:26–38 | | |

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

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



I Am the Resurrection

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.

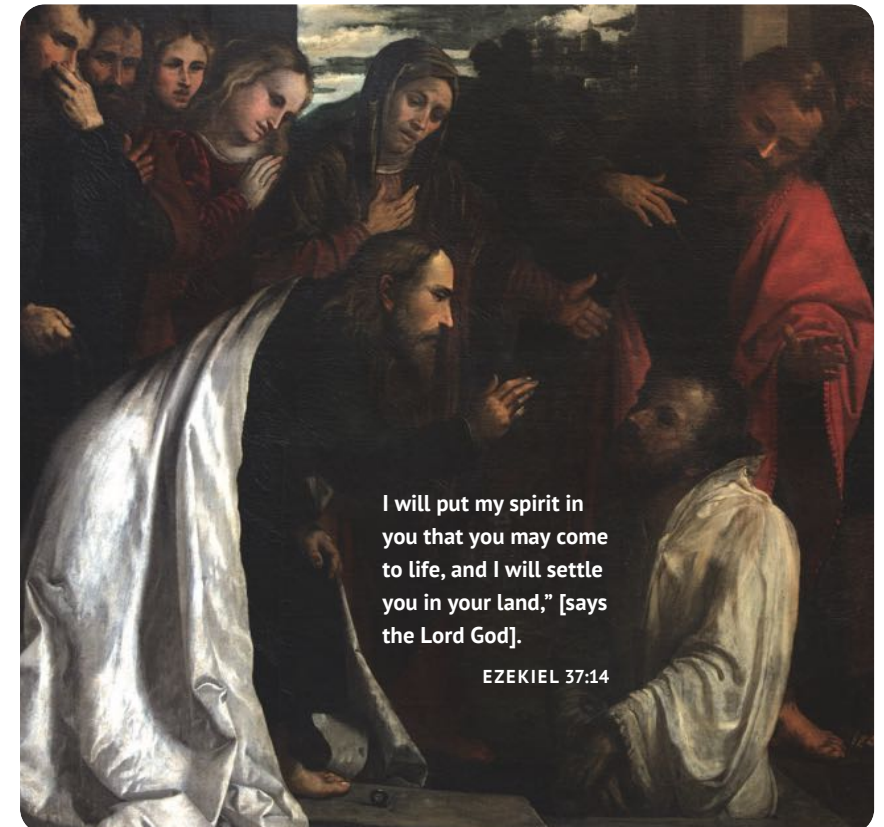
We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." ●

Reflect

Where do I see signs or snapshots of the kingdom of God?



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land," [says the Lord God].

EZEKIEL 37:14

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Telluride, CO

Church & Office Address:

301 North Spruce St.
Telluride, CO 81435

Mailing Address:

PO Box 398
Telluride, CO 81435

Phone: 970-728-3387

e-mail: SPCTelluride@gmail.com

website: stpatrickstelluride.com

Facebook: facebook.com/StPatricksTelluride

Please visit our website & Facebook page for the most up-to-date information on Holy Mass times and other important announcements.

Pastoral Information:

Pastor: Rev. Mariusz Wirkowski

Bookkeeper: Cindy Wyszynski

DRE: Katrina Aumiller

Holy Mass & Confession Schedule:

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Tuesday - 7:00 PM; Wednesday – Friday: 8:00 AM

Holy Day of Obligation - Vigil - 5:30 PM and 8:00 AM

Confessions: 30min. prior to each Holy Mass (or by appointment)

Holy Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Mission, Nucla.

Sunday: 12:00 Noon
Saturday 5:30 pm
Holy Days of Obligation - 6:00 PM

March 22nd, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Holy Mass Intentions:

Saturday, March 21st

5:30 PM - Rafaela Gutierrez Valtierra

Sunday, March 22nd

9:00 AM - Missa Pro Populo

Tuesday, March 24th

7:00 PM - NO HOLY MASS

Wednesday, March 25th

5:00 PM - +Morgan Bell

Thursday, March 26th

8:00 AM - +Frank & Sonia Frankowski

Friday, March 27th

8:00 AM - Stefanie Balm

Saturday, March 28th

5:30 PM - +Christopher McHale

Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday

9:00 AM - Missa Pro Populo

If you would like to have a Holy Mass intention for your loved ones, living or deceased, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 970-728-3387 or place your request in the collection basket near the entrance of the church.
- Suggested donation for each mass is \$10.

Healing Prayers - Rezoz Por Tus Curaciones

Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers...

Kevin Kiernan, Bob Kammer, Cody Couture, Dakota Couture, Eric Block, Judy Donnelly, Mike Napolitano, Mary E. Lynch, Liz Bradley, Care Bear, Carl Carson, Joshua Nault, Phil Couture, Jose Cuaron, Kim Lynch, Allison Myer, Marianne Edward, CarolAnn O'Dea, Juan Esparza, Martha Gagliano, Stanislaw Kowalczyk, Susan Martin Smith

Upcoming Events: *All Are Welcome!*

First Fridays of the month - Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Holy Mass and Adoration - 8:00 AM.

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM- Holy Adoration. 7:00 PM – Holy Mass

Second Tuesdays of month: 7:30 PM – Men's Group

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM

Women's Group Faith Fun Fellowship – Church

Thursdays: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Mass - Church

First Sunday of the month - Holy Adoration 30 minutes before each Holy Mass.

Each Sunday during Summer- Coffee and donuts after 9:00 AM Holy Mass.

Last Saturday of the month - Bilingual Holy Mass

“So also we, being many, are one body in Christ, and each one is a part, the one of the other.”
Romans 12:5

Parish Announcements:

We would like to welcome all Visitors who are with us celebrating the Holy Mass this weekend.

Please check our **Parish Website /Calendar** for updated schedule of events.

Please join us for praying the Holy Rosary on Sundays before 9:00 AM Holy Mass. It starts at 8:30 AM.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays during Lent at 5:30 PM.

No Holy Mass this Tuesday, March 24th.

Holy Mass on **Wednesday, March 25th** at 5:00 PM. This is a **Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord.**

Last Week's Collection: \$ 1,881.00

Please visit: stpatrickstelluride.com/donate to offer your financial support.

“For where your treasure is, there also is your heart.”
Mathew 6:21

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

During Holy Time of Lent, we are reflecting on three Lenten practices: Fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer. Today we reflect on Prayer.

“But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you”. (Matthew 6:6)

One of the most important parts of true prayer is that it takes place deep in the inner room of your soul. It is there in the inner depths of your being that you will meet God. Saint Teresa of Ávila, one of the greatest spiritual writers in the history of our Church, describes the soul as a castle in which God dwells. Meeting Him, praying to Him and communing with Him requires that we enter into the deepest and innermost chamber within this castle of our soul. It is there, in the innermost dwelling, that the full glory and beauty of God is discovered.

God is not just a God who is “out there” far away in Heaven. He is a God Who is closer and more intimate than we could ever imagine. Lent is a time, more than any other time of the year, when we must strive to make that journey inward so as to discover the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity. Prayer, of course, is much more than saying prayers. It's not only saying the rosary, or meditating upon Scripture, or reciting beautifully composed prayers. Prayer is ultimately a relationship with God. It's an encounter with the Triune God Who dwells within you. True prayer is an act of love between you and your Beloved. It's an exchange of persons: your life for God's. Prayer is an act of union and communion by which we become one with God and God becomes one with us.

Commit yourself to the discovery of God in prayer. There is no limit and no end to the depth to which God wants to draw you through prayer. True prayer is never boring. When you discover true prayer, you discover the infinite mystery of God. And this discovery is more glorious than anything you could ever imagine in life.

Viva Cristo Rey!