

Dear Padre,

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALFONSO / CATHOLIC

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

<p>Monday MARCH 16 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54</p>	<p>Thursday MARCH 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a</p>	<p>Saturday MARCH 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53</p>
<p>Tuesday MARCH 17 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16</p>	<p>Friday MARCH 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</p>	<p>Sunday MARCH 22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45</p>
<p>Wednesday MARCH 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30</p>		



MARCO IACOBUECCIP / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025



Annunciation
Catholic Church
CALIFORNIA, MO

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MASS TIMES:
SAT. 4:00 PM
SUN. 9:45 AM
Spanish Mass/ Communion Service:
SUN. 11:15 AM

Our Mission:
We, the family of Annunciation Parish, desire to build a community of love and service to our community and those in need as we bear witness to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

PARISH EMAIL:
annunciationcaliforniamo@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://annunciation.diojeffcity.org>

RECONCILIATION:
Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 PM, and by appointment.

BAPTISMS:
By appointment. Contact Father Viviano

WEDDINGS:
Please contact at least 6 months in advance.

ANointing OF THE SICK:
Please call any time, or by appointment.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 /
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9

Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.

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Our Church Motto is JOY
JESUS First
OTHERS Second
YOURSELF Third

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LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, March 14th, 4:00 PM

Mass Coord: Russ & Lisa Anderson
 Lector: Paulette Fischer
 Server: Russ Anderson
 Song Leader: Larry Dahler
 Greeters: Paul & Becky Bloch
 Rosary: John Higgins
 Gift Bearers: John Higgins & Camelia Castro

Sunday, March 15th, 9:45 AM

Mass Coord: Elise Arnold
 Lector: Elise Arnold
 Server: Henry Collier & Gabe McCumber
 Song Leader: Alicia Taube
 Greeters: Bob & Lynn Bookout
 Rosary: Rita Henley
 Gift Bearers: Tyle Silvey Family

Saturday, March 21st, 4:00 PM

Mass Coord: Tim & Pauline Forck
 Lector: Dale Glenn
 Server: Tim Forck
 Song Leader: Alicia Taube
 Greeters: Cliff & Patty Sampson
 Rosary: Vickie Schroeder
 Gift Bearers: Joyce Ziehmer & Denise Gerlt

Sunday, March 22nd, 9:45 AM

Mass Coord: Joann Frank
 Lector: Preslee Marriott
 Server: Henry Collier & Hezekiah Frank
 Song Leader: Bev Kleffner
 Greeters: Bradley & Julie Berendzen
 Rosary: David Bax
 Gift Bearers: Connor McGill Family

VOCATIONS

Please pray for the men who are studying and discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. This week, please pray for: Mr. Gabriel Eckstein

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to donate \$20 for Easter Lilies for our Easter Masses, in memory of a loved one, you can place the money in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket, or bring it by the office. We will have limited space during Easter, so only 10 lilies will be ordered.



PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these and all who are in need of prayer.
 To remove or add someone to the prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Gloria Heinen; Carlos Hoback; Anjanette Volkart; Bruce Senior (Vicki Glenn's brother); Cliff Ives (Pamela Hill's brother); Larry Dahler; Maggie Lawson; Mary Ann Wasser; Emma Heise; Wyatt Schmidt; Alex McGill; Ashley Kaplan (daughter of Tricia Brauch); Marian Dorn; Wallace Maynard; Derrick Cleveland (Vickie Schroeder's nephew); David Wilde; Kaitlyn Schlup; Sharon Belt; Cory Bickel (Jim Hoback's nephew); Bill McConkey; Jacobo Garcia; Pam Block; Shawn Bax; Suzy Allee; Robert Garner; Lisa Anderson; Paula Volkmer; Tracy Davis; John Michael McCoy; J. Gattermeir; Sally Schepers; Janice Howard; Sharon (Imhoff) Dresel; Linda Reichel; Steve Gerlt; Mark Bardwell; Dylann Henley; Lanny Wingate; Barb Glenn; Peggy Borgmeyer; Carol Baker; Gary Fleischmann; Barbara Reichl (mother of Bill Reichl); Louis Forck (grandson of Tim & Pauline Forck); Terry Carlson; Rachel Frank; Andrea Tilbury; Keith Connell; Alfred Rhodus

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

*Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 14	4:00 P.M.	*Annunciation & St. Andrew's Parishioners
Sunday, March 15	9:45 A.M.	*Living & Deceased Members of the Viviano Family
Spanish Mass	11:15 A.M.	*Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, March 17	8:00 A.M.	*Roger Borgmeyer
Thursday, March 19	8:00 A.M.	*Earl & Margaret Scheidt
Saturday, March 21	4:00 P.M.	*Dustin Struempf
Sunday, March 22	9:45 A.M.	*Mickie Bolinger
Spanish Mass	11:15 A.M.	*Holy Souls in Purgatory

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flower arrangement this weekend is from Jake Bolinger in memory of his and Mickie's wedding anniversary.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our parish family extends heartfelt sympathy to the family of Tom Jones who recently passed away. May the Lord welcome Tom into His eternal kingdom & bring comfort to those who mourn.

Work on the renovation inside the church is continuing and is now expected to be completed by mid May, rather than within a set # of weeks. We appreciate your patience during this time.

WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES⁵

SUNDAY, March 15 PSR CLASSES 8:15-9:30 A.M.
MONDAY, March 16 5:45 P.M. Rosary
 6:15 P.M. Choir Practice
 Immediately following Rosary
 8:00 P.M. AA-ALNON
TUESDAY, March 17 Mass at 8 A.M.
 Knights Meeting 6 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, March 18 **NO BIBLE STUDY**
THURSDAY, March 19 Mass at 8 A.M.
 Quilting after Mass
 Hispanic Holy Hour at 7 P.M.
FRIDAY, March 20 Stations of the Cross at 6:30 P.M.
 Hispanic Stations at 7 P.M.
SUNDAY, March 22 PSR CLASSES 8:15-9:30 A.M.

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

We congratulate Jerry & Deanna Hoback on their 35th Wedding Anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless their marriage and the beautiful example of love & commitment they share.

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Bible Study is being canceled until further notice.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter.

During the remodeling of our church, Fr. will continue to be available for confessions on Saturdays from 3:15 to 3:45 P.M. Fr. asks that while you wait your turn at entering the confessional, to please wait in the foyer of church.

Area Communal Reconciliation Services:

St. Martin's: Sunday, March 15th at 3 pm, St. Martin's Church
 Versailles: Sunday, March 15th at 1 pm, Mission of St. Philip Benizi
 Sedalia: Sunday, March 22nd at 4 pm, St. Patrick's Chapel

FISH FRY EVENTS

K of C at St. Joseph's Cathedral Cana Hall 4:30 - 7 P.M.
 March 20th
Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church (Chamois)
 Seafood Buffet 4 - 7:30 P.M.
 March 20th

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS - March 2026

1st Week: \$4,714.80	3rd Week: \$
2nd Week: \$4,728.93	4th Week: \$
Building Fund: \$120.00	5th Week:
Mustard Seed: \$413.00	Candles: \$18.00
Easter Lilies: \$40.00	

Altar Society Tea and Brunch Supporting Loving Hearts Pregnancy Center

Ladies of all ages are invited to a special Tea and Brunch as we gather for fellowship and to support Loving Hearts. Join us for tea, light refreshments, and encouragement as we learn more about the important work being done to support mothers and families in our community.

Date: March 21st
 Time: 10:00 am
 Location: St Andrew school cafeteria

If you would like to participate, please consider bringing a donation of baby items listed in the bulletin. Invite a friend and come enjoy a lovely time of fellowship while supporting a meaningful cause!

Please RSVP to Melissa Wolf by March 18th

The Ladies Altar & Rosary Sodality extends a big THANK YOU to everyone that brought items and/or made monetary donations for our Birthright Shower. We received many wonderful items. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Blessings to all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Diocesan Celebration & Bilingual Mass Honoring St. Oscar Romero

On March 21st, a Diocesan Mass and Celebration will be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph from 9 AM to 2 PM. Bishop O'Donnell will be celebrating a bilingual Mass. Present at the event will be a first class Relic of St. Oscar Romero. Before the Mass, there will be time for veneration of the relic, a presentation about the life of St. Oscar Romero, and confessions. A reception will follow.

Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Annual Pro-Life Event

Thursday, March 26, 2026, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri.
 The luncheon and program are from noon to 1:30 p.m., the dinner and program are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$50/person for lunch, and \$100/person for dinner. To register, please visit vitaefoundation.org/events or call 573-634-4316.