

Dear Padre,

When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, "Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church's focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ's ultimate sacrifice. It represents our "fasting" from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who "bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). ●



CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 9	MARCH 10	MARCH 11	MARCH 12	MARCH 13	MARCH 14	MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Lk 4:24-30	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025



MARCO JACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK



Annunciation
Catholic Church
CALIFORNIA, MO

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Exodus 17:3-7 / Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



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Gloria Heinen
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Emilio Juarez
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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.

Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God's voice. The challenge is not in responding "yes" to the invitation of the Lord but rather in "hearing" his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the "Beautiful Noise" of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God's voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

ROMANS 5:5

Reflect

Do I need more silence?
Do I find silence difficult?

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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 Church Motto is JOY
JESUS First
OTHERS Second
YOURSELF Third

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LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, March 7th, 4:00 PM

Mass Coord: Elaine Anderson
 Lector: Elaine Anderson
 Server: Jerry Hoback
 Song Leader: Rosemary Bardwell
 Greeters: Jim & Irene Hoback
 Rosary: Rosemary Bardwell
 Gift Bearers: Arturo & Maria Arellano

Sunday, March 8th, 9:45 AM

Mass Coord: Eric Schroeter
 Lector: Mary Jo Ballenger
 Server: Henry Collier & Seth Bax
 Song Leader: Marian Fleischmann
 Greeters: Steve & Kristie Glenn
 Rosary: Charlie Roll
 Gift Bearers: Clayton Reynolds Family

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

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. John Paul T. McGuire

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.

Carlos Hoback; Anjanette Volkart; Bruce Senior (Vicki Glenn's brother); Cliff Ives (Pamela Hill's brother); Larry Dahler; Maggie Lawson; Mary Ann Wasser; Tom Jones; 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 7	4:00 P.M.	*Lenard Elliott
Sunday, March 8	9:45 A.M.	*Jo Wolken
Prayer Service	11:15 A.M.	
Tuesday, March 10	8:00 A.M.	Anna Mae & Elmer Holterman
Thursday, March 12	8:00 A.M.	*Joseph & Patricia Viviano
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

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

We'd like to thank Connor McGill, Rodney Henley, members of our Knights of Columbus & Ladies Sodality, and all other parishioners who assisted with removal of the pews, placement of folding chairs and arranging the church basement for Mass.

We will be celebrating Mass in the Church basement for approximately the next 12 weeks. With seating being limited, we are blessed to have neighboring Catholic communities where we may gather for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Surrounding Mass times are as follows:

St. Andrew's: Saturday - 5:30 P.M.; Sunday - 8:00 A.M.
 St. Martin's: Saturday - 5:30 P.M.; Sunday - 7:30 A.M & 10:30 A.M.
 St. Michael's: Sunday - 9 A.M.

WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES⁵

SUNDAY, March 8 PSR CLASSES 8:15-9:30 A.M.

MONDAY, March 9 5:45 P.M. Rosary
 6:15 P.M. Choir Practice
 8:00 P.M. AA-ALNON

TUESDAY, March 10 Mass at 8 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, March 11 Bible Study at 6:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, March 12 Mass at 8 A.M.
 Quilting after Mass
 Hispanic Holy Hour at 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, March 13 Annunciation Fish Fry 4-6:30 P.M.
 Stations of the Cross at 6:30 P.M.
 Hispanic Stations at 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, March 15 PSR CLASSES 8:15-9:30 A.M.

AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICES

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

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our parish family mourns the loss of Helen Heinen who passed away on February 28th. We are grateful for the many ways Helen shared her faith & friendship within our community. Please join us in praying for the repose of Helen's soul & for strength & consolation to her family.



MARRIAGE

FOUNDATIONS FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE

RETREAT

MARCH 13-14, 2026

Join us for

- Inspiring talks led by couples from the Marianist Retreat Center
- Prayer experiences
- Quality reflection time with your spouse
- Explore the spirituality of your relationship

Register:

Cost \$30, food included
 Scholarships are available

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE:
 \$10/FAMILY

Meet our presenters:
 Lisa & Paul Masck have been married for over 35 years, have 4 adult children, and enjoy hiking, traveling, snuggling, and laughing.
 Liz & Dominic Lozano have been married for 22 years; have two teenage daughters at home and one in heaven, and enjoy playing music together.



Register now at
diojeffcity.org/marriage-retreat



WEEKLY COLLECTIONS - March 2026

1st Week: \$4,714.80	3rd Week: \$
2nd Week: \$	4th Week: \$
Building Fund: \$515.00	5th Week:
Mustard Seed: \$116.00	Candles: \$22.00
Easter Lilies: \$80.00	

Financial Statement for February 2026	
Receipts	
Weekend Collections:	\$35,653.96
Additional Income: Reimbursements, stipends, candles, Mustard Seed, Building Fund, vocation collection, donations, other	\$ 3,145.47
Total Receipts	\$38,799.43
Expenses	
Salary, FICA	\$ 8,471.64
Liturgy & Worship Exp.	\$ 1,146.09
Repairs, Utilities, Grounds Upkeep, (supplies)	\$ 3,152.72
Renovation	\$ 103,419.07
School Tuition & PSR Expenses	\$ 6,839.02
Mustard Seed, Diocese Reimb., parish software, envelopes, misc.	\$ 4,700.78
Total Expenses	\$127,729.32
Overall Total	\$ -88,929.89

FISH FRY EVENTS

Annunciation Catholic Church

March 13th, from 4-6:30 P.M.

Dine In: 0-5yrs free; 6-11yrs \$7; age 13 and up \$14

Drive Thru: \$13

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

St. Martin's Lenten Fish Fry 4:30 - 7 P.M.

March 13th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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.

Plastic bags are needed for the To-Go orders at our upcoming Fish Fry Dinner on March 13th. If you have any to spare, please bring them in.