

SAINT ANNE PARISH

20 Boston Road Southborough, MA 01772

ST. ANNE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Anne Parish, Southborough, in the Diocese of Worcester are called through Baptism to become one faith family. We commit ourselves to embody the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament; by using our ministries to welcome all who are seeking Jesus and to share in the life and work of our Catholic faith. In the spirit and truth of the Holy Trinity, we will use our time, talents and treasure to answer God's command to love one another as He has loved us, in holy worship, prayer, Catechetical formation for all, evangelization and service to others.

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A March 26, 2023

Lord's Day Mass Schedule:

Saturday ~ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday ~ 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.
Fridays during Lent: 9:00 a.m.

Healing Mass:

First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 4:15 p.m., between Sunday morning Masses, weekdays at 9:30 a.m., First Wednesday of each month ~ 6:30 - 7:00 p.m., or anytime on request

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. during Lent

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated during a scheduled Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements with a priest required at least one year prior to the wedding date.

Visitation of the Sick

Fr. Albert is pleased to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to join us for weekly worship. Call the Parish Office to arrange a time.

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'"

(John 11:40)

Many of us say that we believe in God.

We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events.

But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe?

Do we really put our trust in the Lord?

When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs.

Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday ~ 9:30 a.m. to noon
Telephone 508-485-0141
Fax 508-460-0181

E-mail: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Web: www.stannesouthborough.org

Pastor: Fr. Albert Irudayasamy
fralbert@stannesouthborough.org

Parish Council: Nancy Denardo ~ Chair

Finance Committee: Rich Flathers ~ Chair

Director of Religious Education: Rachelle Carmony
rachelle@stannesouthborough.org

• Office hours available, by appointment

Parish Office Manager: George Stagno
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Denardo
nancy@stannesouthborough.org

Music Ministry

Choir Director: Paul Crivello 508-366-0821
pcrivello04@gmail.com

- Saturday 5:00: John Arnold
- Sunday 8:30 and 10:30: Paul Crivello
- Sunday 5:30: Kathy & Matt Bernier

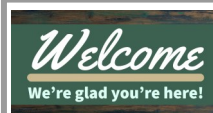
Maintenance: Matt Bernier
mbern@stannesouthborough.org

Webmaster: Amy Buttiglieri
webmaster@stannesouthborough.org

PARISH
CONTACT
INFORMATION

Would you like to receive a copy of the bulletin via email every week?

Please send an email to: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org with "St. Anne Bulletin List" in the subject line.



We welcome all visitors to St. Anne Parish. If you would like to join our faith community, please call the Parish Office to register: 508-485-0141

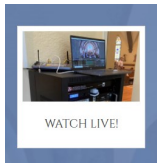
PARISH MASS INFORMATION AND MINISTRIES

St. Anne Parish Livestreamed Daily and Weekend Masses

Livestreamed St. Anne Masses (subject to change):

ALL St. Anne Mass offerings will now be livestreamed:
5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, and 9:00 a.m. daily Masses through website!

- Go to parish webpage:
www.stannesouthborough.org.
- Scroll down and click on "Watch Live!" box.
- Scroll down to "eCatholic Live" box.
- Click on the arrow in the middle of the logo at 5:00 p.m. for Saturday evening Mass, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. for Sunday Mass, and 9:00 a.m. for daily Masses Monday through Friday during Lent.



SC LIVE

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

with MASS INTENTIONS (March 25 through April 2)

SATURDAY 25	5:00 pm	For St. Anne parishioners celebrating a March birthday
SUNDAY 26	8:30 am	For St. Anne parishioners
	10:30 am	For Elizabeth and Alfred Connell by family
	5:30 pm	For the children and families of St. Anne Church
MONDAY 27	9:00 am	For Jennifer Garden (birthday) by Garden family
TUESDAY 28	9:00 am	For Slawek Family (Healing) by family
WEDNESDAY 29	9:00 am	For Michael Philbin-Pelland
THURSDAY 30	9:00 am	For Elisabeth Borreani
FRIDAY 31	9:00 am	For Arockia Mary by family
SATURDAY 1	5:00 pm	For St. Anne parishioners
SUNDAY 2	8:30 am	For St. Anne parishioners
	10:30 am	For Tom Livingstone by Garden family
	5:30 pm	For St. Anne parishioners

Lenten Penance Service

Prepare Your Hearts!

There will be a communal Lenten Penance Service on **Tuesday, April 4** at 7:00 p.m. in the church. #priests will be available for the hearing of confessions. Be Not Afraid to receiving the loving gift of God's mercy.



March 18 & 19, 2023

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.	40	Mass Attendance
Sunday - 8:30 a.m.	42	
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.	82	
Sunday - 5:30 p.m.	33	
Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Streamed	5	
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Streamed	11	
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Streamed	13	
Sunday - 5:30 p.m. Streamed	4	

Liturgical Minister Schedule

To be trained, please call the Parish Office

March 25 & 26 - Fifth Sunday of Lent, A

Sat 5:00 pm	Lector	Deborah Sanford
	Communion Minister	MaryBeth Philbin
Sun 8:30 am	Lector	Nick Paganella
	Communion Minister	Fran Schiebe
Sun 10:30 am	Lector	Joe Cruciani
	Communion Minister	Joanne Flathers
Sun 5:30 pm	Lector	RE Students
	Communion Minister	RE Students
	Collection Counting	Draper/Raymond

April 1 & 2 - Palm Sunday, A

Sat 5:00 pm	Lector	Laura Schroeder
	Communion Minister	MaryBeth Philbin
Sun 8:30 am	Lector	Ellen Kluge
		Elaine Yetman
	Communion Minister	Nancy Denardo
Sun 10:30 am	Lector	Jim Garden
		Janice Brown
	Communion Minister	Joanne Flathers
Sun 5:30 pm	Lector	RE Students
	Communion Minister	RE Students
	Collection Counting	Draper/Raymond



LECTORS

Procedural Changes for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

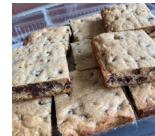
An email was sent to all lectors and Eucharistic ministers detailing procedural changes. Please check your email or click [here](#) to read about the changes.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

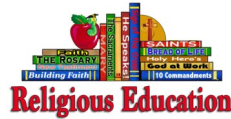
Our Father's Table - March Meal - Thank You

Thank you to all the St. Anne parishioners who helped provide a hot meal to the patrons of Our Father's Table on **Thursday, March 23** by sponsoring a ready-to-go meal, contributing a dessert, or volunteering to distribute the meals. The next St. Anne OFT meal date is Thursday, May 25.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

St. Anne Parish Pre-K through Grade 10+ Religious Education Classes March/April RE Classes



Pre-K through Grade 5

March 26, April 2* & 30 in the Parish Hall
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

*First Communion Retreat - April 2, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Grades 6 through Confirmation (Grades 9-10)

March 26, April 2 & 30 in the Parish Hall
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

First Communion Retreat

There will be a retreat for First Communion students and their parents on **Sunday, April 2** from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.



Confirmation Mass

St. Anne Confirmandi will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, March 30** at St. Paul's Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be offered at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Masses.

For more information, please contact
rachelle@stannesouthborough.org

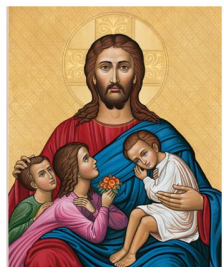


Youth Stations of the Cross

St. Anne's Parish will host a youth Stations of the Cross on **Good Friday, April 7**, at 3:00 p.m. in the church, featuring youth-oriented reflections at each station.

All are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact:
rachelle@stannesouthborough.org



2023 St. Anne Parish High School Graduate Award

St. Anne Parish will be awarding two (2) scholarships for \$750 each. Parishioners who will be graduating high school or an equivalent program in Spring 2023 are eligible to apply to receive one of these scholarships.

The 2023 St Anne Parish Scholarship Application Form is now available in the church foyers, in the digital bulletin, or on our Parish website (click [here](#)).

Completed forms must be returned via mail (20 Boston Road, Southborough, MA 01772) or email (stanne403@stannesouthborough.org) by **Sunday, April 30**.

Applications will be reviewed by a Parish Council subcommittee and then approved by the whole Parish Council.



Capital Campaign Update Phase One



Total Goal: \$2,000,000.00
Total Pledges to Date: \$2,045,601.95
Payments Received to Date: \$ 980,205.59
Number of Families Pledging: 162 families (35%)

Thank you again for your ongoing support!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORTS FOR Through March 19, 2023

Regular Weekly Offering: \$3,227.00
Capital Improvement: \$ 25.00
Easter Flowers: \$ 20.00
Easter Offering: \$ 100.00
Catholic Relief: \$ 25.00
Our Father's Table: \$ 50.00
Blue Pay: Regular thru 3/19: \$1,070.00
WeShare: Regular thru 3/19: \$ 75.00

Online Giving: WeShare allows both onetime gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org for the link to WeShare.com or call 1-800-950-9952 and use option 1 to answer any questions.

St. Anne's Website: We have an **additional resource for online giving and online CE registration.** St. Anne Parish partners with eCatholic and BluePay for easy on-line giving.

Our one-step on-line form allows both one-time gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations.

Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org and select the Quick Link to the BluePay On-Line Giving page.

Thank you for your generous support!



Partners in Charity Appeal 2023-2024

2023-24 Parish Goal: \$76,000.00

Amount Raised As of 3/23/23: \$13,775.00

(7.04% of amount goal - 24 donors)

*Can we reach the goal of 100 donors?
No gift too big or too small...*



Collection Counting Ministry

Collection Counting follows the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

If interested in participating in this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.



Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Prayer Shawl meets Mondays from 10:00 to noon **in the Parish Hall** to knit/crochet/weave for anyone who is ill or suffering who might welcome a blessed prayer shawl.

Do you or someone you know need a prayer shawl? Stop by the Parish Office during office hours to select a shawl.

Free will donations collected for shawls are sent to our sister parish in Haiti to aid their rebuilding.

The Rosary portion of the Prayer Shawl meetings is live streamed via the parish website starting at 10:30 a.m.

Password: shawls



PARISH RELIGIOUS NEWS AND EVENTS

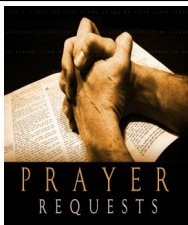
Altar Servers Need



Both students (Grade 4 and higher) and adults are welcome to serve.

If you are interested in being an altar server, please call the Parish Office.

Training is provided and scheduling of service is determined by server based on their availability.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Yvette, Fr. Thirburs F. Millot, Bob Seariac, Thomas Chemmanur, Janet Mattioli, Tim and Diane Higgins, Dave Lemoine, Laval "Val" Provencher; Father Conrad Pecevich, Stephen Gelman, Michael Philbin-Pelland, Jamie Farley, Jim Garden, Brookie Sullivan, Beth Stephens, Susane Crioppa, Peter Bradstreet, Rob Germeroth, Michael, George Stagno, Steve Buttiglieri, Kevin Sanford

To have a name placed on or removed from the prayer list, contact the Parish Office.

United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry

c/o Pilgrim Church

P.O. Box 281, 15 Common Street

Southborough, MA 01772

southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com

508-485-4847

Food Items

- Coffee (regular & decaf - unflavored)
- Tea
- Cranberry juice
- Capri Sun juice pouches
- Pasta sauce in jars
- Chunky peanut butter

Health and Household Items

- Cleaning products
- Sponges
- Feminine care products
- ZipLock bags (all sizes)

A big THANK YOU for all Food Pantry donations.

As most food items are date sensitive, please be sure that your donation is not out of date. Donations may be left in the foyer of the parish hall. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Food Pantry, please encourage them to come. Pantry hours (located at Pilgrim Church) are Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.



Holy Week 2023

April 2: Palm Sunday

April 4 Chrism Mass at 10:30 a.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, Worcester. Everyone is welcome to attend.

April 6: Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30 p.m.: The Washing of the Feet

Twelve (12) people are needed for the washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Mass. A wide representation of our parish is sought. Participants are called up together, are seated facing the assembly, remove one shoe and sock/stocking, have their foot washed and dried by Father Albert before returning to their pew. All are invited to participate.

If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.

April 7 Good Friday

3:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross (youth especially invited)

7:30 p.m.: Veneration of the Cross

April 8 Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.

April 9 Easter Day (Regular Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.) *No evening Mass at 5:30 p.m.*



Fasting and Abstinence Guidelines

- * Abstinence from meat is to be observed by Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Lenten Fridays.
- Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Those who fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.



Soup and Stations: Soup and Stations will be held every Wednesday during Lent. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church at noon followed by soup in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. If able, please sign up to contribute a soup or a dessert on signup sheets located in the Parish Hall foyer. (Stations of the Cross (without shared meal) will also be prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

Mass on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. throughout Lent

Confessions: Confessions will be heard between Sunday Masses (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.), Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and by appointment from Monday to Thursday.

Please Note Date Correction for Lenten Penance Service!

Communal Confessions: There will be a Communal Penance Service on **Tuesday, April 4** at 7:00 p.m.

Adoration: Adoration will also be held on **Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** As of now, we have the Blessed Sacrament exposed on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Adoration will be live streamed on our website page for all those parishioners who are unable to be in person.



PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

2023-24 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team Sign-ups

The application period for the 2023-2024 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team is now OPEN!

This program is open to all 9-12th grade youth (as of August 2023). If you are a high schooler or know of one in your parish or school who is interested in diving deeper into the Catholic Faith, looking to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, and interested in Christian leadership and evangelization opportunities, then this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Complete details as well as the online application can be found at www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Diocesan Youth Retreat

All high school youth and current 8th graders are invited to sign up for the Diocesan Youth Retreat on **May 19-21** at Anna Maria College!

The theme for the retreat is *Mysterium Fidei* (Mystery of Faith). Join for a relaxing and recharging weekend that will include fun & games (with prizes!), music, guest speakers, breakout sessions, ample free time, and an experience into the ultimate mystery of Christ in the Sacraments through Eucharistic Adoration, confession, and Mass!

The retreat will start Friday evening and will conclude Sunday around noon. **Cost is \$125/person.**

Deadline to register is Tuesday, April 25th. To sign up or to get more information, go to neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-retreat.

If you have any questions contact Tim Messenger at 508-929-4360 or at tmessenger@worcesterdiocese.org.



Weekly Adult Discussion Group

A weekly Discussion Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:05 to 7:00 p.m. in the St. Anne Parish Hall. Discussion is on ***The Catechism in a Year (with Father Mike Schmitz)***

[Spotify](#) [Amazon Music](#) [YouTube](#) [Apple Podcasts](#) [Google Podcasts](#)

Attend any Wednesday you are available.

The discussion group will be facilitated by the following members of the *Three Hearts Apostolate* who are available to answer any questions about this group:

Gerry Levins, gerard@levinstaxlaw.com

MaryBeth Philbin-Hannigan, mbphilbin@gmail.com

Debbie Simon, dsimoninc@gmail.com



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church.

God will shed light into your relationship. Have faith and allow the Holy Spirit to transform your relationship.

Apply for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience:
June 23-25, 2023 in Huntington, NY (Long Island)
(Other dates are found on web site.)

Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatelle at 978-870-5646 or <https://www.wmema.org/>.



New Local Catholic Magazine

A beautiful new monthly color Catholic magazine for local Southborough parishioners called ***Marlborough & Southborough Parish Neighbors*** is available for free home delivery.

It includes St. Anne Parish news, local events, Gospel readings, pastor letters, and more.

If you would like to be on the mailing list or would like your local business to become a sponsor, please call Cindy R. Dorsey at 774-222-2566 or email cdorsey@decidedexcellence.com.



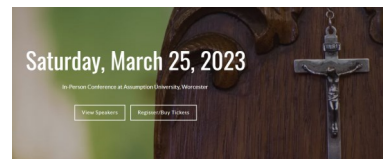
Annual Worcester Men's Conference

The Annual Worcester Men's Conference will be on **Saturday, March 25** this year at Assumption University.

This is the 22nd year of this popular conference, the first of its kind in America. Please join a thousand men and enjoy: inspiring talks from outstanding dynamic and Catholic leaders, about 50 relevant exhibitors with free material, important sponsors, beautiful music, old friends, lunch, optional Rosary, Confession, Adoration and Mass by Bishop McManus at 4:00 p.m.

This year's Keynote Speaker at 2:30 p.m. will be **Father Chris Alar**, MIC, the Provincial Superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. He serves as the Director of the Association of Marian Helpers, and is the head of the Marian Press. He is also host of the EWTN show *Living Divine Mercy*, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. and has written several best selling books.

Please see <https://catholicmenworc.com/> for more information, speaker details and to register.



Visiting the Sick

Please call the Parish Office if you wish to have the sacraments of Confession, Anointing of the Sick and Communion. Fr. Albert is willing to visit every week if you wish.

Also please send us your names to place in the prayer list so that the whole parish family can pray with and for you.





**THE UNITED PARISHES OF SOUTHBOROUGH
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE***

Easter Morning
April 9, 2023
6:30 AM
Hopkinton State Park
Marina Area

You are invited
to join with other members of the Southborough Christian Community
In a Celebration of the Resurrection.

*In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at
The First Community Church
137 Southville Road*

**** This service does not fulfill Sunday Mass obligation.***

**Application Form for the
ST. ANNE PARISH OF SOUTHBOROUGH, MA
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AWARD 2023**

Awarded to high school seniors (or equivalent) who are members of St. Anne Parish graduating Spring of 2023. Please include this form with your submission.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Two scholarships awarded each worth: \$750

*Choose and answer at least one of the following questions in a **one page double spaced** response. Please note which question(s) you chose at the top of your essay.*

1. How has your involvement with the Catholic Church changed the lives of yourself and others?
2. Who in your life inspires you to put your Catholic faith into practice and what examples can you provide?
3. How do you plan to serve God and the Catholic Church beyond school?

In addition to the application form and essay, please also submit the following:

- **REQUIRED:** One letter of recommendation from an adult regarding the applicant's character.
- **OPTIONAL:** Provide a summary of any volunteer activities you are or have been involved with, especially Church related activities.

To receive this award the applicant must:

1. Be a registered member of St. Anne Parish in Southborough, MA.
2. Plan to graduate high school or equivalent program in the Spring of 2023.
3. Submit completed application by the deadline below.

*Completed application must be received by **Sunday, April 30th 2023.***

Please mail to: St. Anne Parish Scholarship Committee
20 Boston Rd. Southborough, MA 01772

Or email a scanned copy to: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

READING I Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the First Book of Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,

and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise from
them,

O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;

thus you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

READING II Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh;

on the contrary, you are in the spirit,

if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not
belong to him.

But if Christ is in you,

although the body is dead because of sin,

the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead
dwells in you,

the one who raised Christ from the dead

will give life to your mortal bodies also,

through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Lord, Hear
My Voice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Verse before the Gospel

John 11:25a, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.



GOSPEL FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him saying,

“Master, the one you love is ill.”

When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to his disciples,

“Let us go back to Judea.”

The disciples said to him,

“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?”

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day?

If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

He said this, and then told them,

“Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.”

So the disciples said to him,

“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”

But Jesus was talking about his death,

while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.

So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died.

And I am glad for you that I was

not there, that you may believe.

Let us go to him.”

So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,

“Let us also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary

to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life;

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, “The teacher is here and is asking for you.”

As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him.

For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him.

So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here,

my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.”

And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

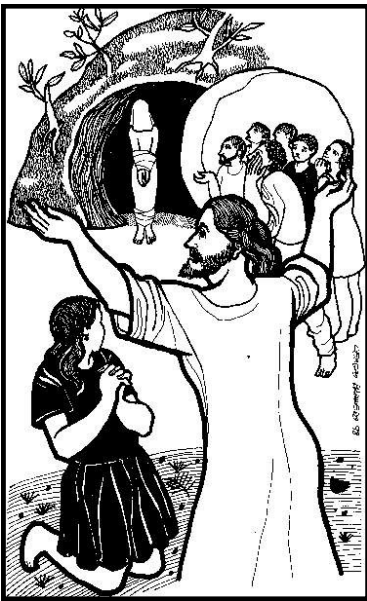
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to them,

“Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Mysteries

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, A

March 26, 2023

Reading I: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Reading II: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The first reading from Ezekiel is perfectly paired with the Gospel reading of the raising of Lazarus. Ezekiel hears God say very clearly that God will raise his people from the dead, animating them with the spirit that will bring them back to life. The second reading from St. Paul also addresses the Jewish and Christian theological question, “Is death the end of everything?” Paul is as emphatic as

Ezekiel. No. “The One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also.”

Of course, it might seem easy to believe in life after death until we have had a loved one die. Martha and Mary might have believed in an afterlife because, as Jews, they would have been familiar with the promise from Ezekiel. Yet when their brother died and the reality of him being gone for four days sank in, they doubted too. Not only did they doubt, but they grieved deeply, and even got angry at Jesus. Martha told Jesus she believes Lazarus “will rise, in the resurrection on the last day,” but believing that didn’t lessen her other perfectly normal human emotions.

Even after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, mysteries remain. Why didn’t Jesus go to Lazarus immediately when the sisters summoned him? Why did he let them experience heart-breaking sadness for four days? Why did Jesus cry if he knew he would raise Lazarus from the dead? Why did Jesus raise Lazarus but not others who died during his lifetime? Why do some people today get to experience healing miracles, but others don’t? Why do we have to wait for the resurrection of the dead to see our loved ones again?

These readings today don’t solve any mysteries of our faith. They don’t give us answers about God, but they point to the complete conviction of three different biblical writers who do not doubt that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life.”

Questions of the Week

1. What most stands out to you when you hear the Gospel reading today? Why?
2. If you have lost a loved one(s), did that affect on what you believe about the afterlife? How so?



Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus. He told them to take away the stone that closed the entrance. He prayed to God and then said, "Lazarus, come out!" What happened next?

Color the spaces to find the answer.

Row 1: C E G H I	Row 5: C E G H I	Row 11: A C F I K
2: C E G	8: A B E F G I J	12: A B E F G I J
3: C D E G H	9: A C F I K	
4: C E G	10: A C F I K	

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
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Ages 7+

March 26, 2023 • John 11:1-45

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Read about Jesus' trip to Bethany.



Fill in the blanks with these letters in the order given.
a a u a i i i e a a a a e o o o e o e o u e i e u
a e e e e a o o e a a e e a i o i i i e e u o O i a i a e u
o u a a a u a a e e e i e o o u a

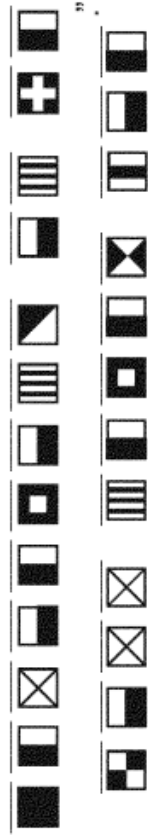
L _ z _ r _ s w _ s s _ ck. H _ s
s _ st _ rs, M _ ry _ nd M _ rth _ ,
s _ nt w _ rd t _ J _ s _ s, "L _ rd,
th _ _ n _ Y _ _ l _ v _ _ s s _ ck."
J _ s _ s st _ y _ d wh _ r _ H _ w _ s
tw _ _ m _ r _ d _ ys, _ nd th _ n H _
s _ _ d t _ H _ s d _ sc _ pl _ s, "L _ t _ s
g _ ." _ n H _ s _ rr _ v _ l, J _ s _ s f _ nd
th _ t L _ z _ r _ s h _ d _ lr _ _ dy
b _ _ n _ n th _ t _ mb f _ _ r d _ ys.

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What did Jesus say to Martha?

Use the code to find John 11:25-26.



									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
		<							

Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Connect the dots.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Ages 3+

March 26, 2023 • John 11:1-45

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Lazarus was a friend of Jesus.
He became very sick and died.

Circle the hidden objects.

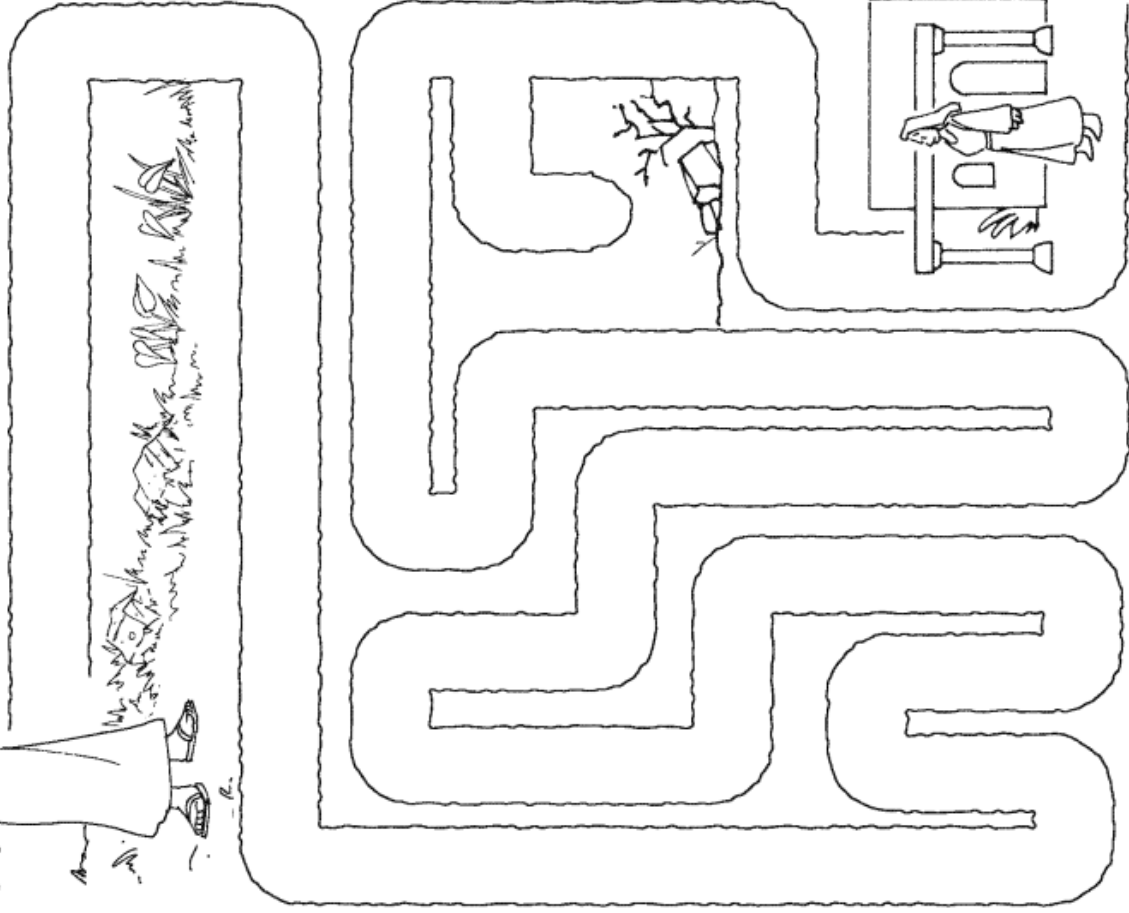


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2.

Jesus went to Lazarus' house.

Help Jesus get to Lazarus' house.



3.

Jesus said, "Lazarus will rise again."

What did Jesus do?

Use the code to fill in the vowels.

☹ = A ☀ = E ☼ = I ☹ = O ☹ = U

H _____ ☀

PR _____ Y _____ D _____ T _____ ☹ ☀ ☹

H _____ S _____ ☼

F _____ TH _____ R. ☹ ☀

