

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



*Let Us Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters:*



Ruth Word, Diane Millsaps, Joan Culp, Allen Junk, Juana Calzada, Anita Andres, Daniel Guldner, Mike Niehues, Casey Moore, Concepcion Ramirez, Olivia Ramirez, Janna Alves, and for those with health complications, the homeless, for all those who serve and their family. For all the intentions of the families not listed.

*We Pray to the Lord.*

If you or someone you know needs prayer please contact the Parish office at (530)934-3314.

## St. Monica Parish News & Announcements:

-We will continue to update Parishioners on any news by using our Facebook page, My ParishApp and our website [stmonicawillows.com](http://stmonicawillows.com).

-Live Mass will be celebrated via Facebook live Monday-Saturday at 8:00am and Sunday's regular Mass scheduled times 9:00am (English) 12:00pm (Spanish). If for any reason we are not able to go live at the exact times listed we will inform you via media. Follow us on Facebook at St Monica Catholic Church. Confessions will be held every Sunday at the Church from 10:15-11:45am and from 4:00-5:00pm. Reminder to Parishioners please maintain social distancing—minimum 6 Feet from eachother.

## HOMILY FOR THE V SUNDAY OF LENT

BY FR. CIRILO CERVANTES

St. Monica Parish, Willows, Ca

I TRUST IN THE LORD, OH MY SOUL TRUST IN HIS WORD.

On March 27, Pope Francis had the extraordinary moments of prayer at St. Peter's to pray for the end of this pandemic which is inflicting a lot of death and suffering throughout the world and he gave his blessing of Urbi et Orbi - to the city and to the world. A passage of Scripture from St. Mark 4:35ff, was proclaimed and he gave a reflection "For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm"... The story in the gospel ends at Jesus rebuking the storm and calming the surging sea. His disciples saw right there the power of God.

In today's readings we are called to trust in God, because He is faithful to his word. Jesus said that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life and He indeed is all what we need. Mary and Martha are afflicted by the death of their brother Lazarus, they had sent word to Jesus about his condition: "Lord, your dear friend is sick"; the natural response to a message like this would be that immediately the one receiving such a message would make everything in their power to do something. But Jesus as when he was in the boat and the waves began to spill over it and about to fill it with water, the astonishing disciples saw Him sleeping with his head on a pillow then they woke him up and said: "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" Martha as well would put her disappointment towards her friend: "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died!" The Psalm for today is a cry in the midst of a great need: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication". Trust in the Lord is abandoning ourselves in his care and knowing as well that He will answer our needs. The final outcome of the events in the gospels, the storm at the sea and the death of Lazarus; Jesus shows his power and his care for those who believe in him. He will show us his trust in his Father when he is brought to the tomb where Lazarus was buried, he then makes a prayer full of trust and love: "I Thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me". Then with a loud voice he said: "Lazarus, come out!", and he came out.

We are the Lord's we are his possession and nothing can harm us anymore, St. Paul tells the Romans that "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness". He has won for us this righteousness through his very death and Resurrection. The raising of Lazarus was very well the sign that Jesus is the Resurrection. So let us make our own the words of the Psalmist:

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.

I continue to pray for each one of you. Let us not lose hope despite the present situation in which we are living. Let us keep the hope that we always have professed. Let us be singers and witnesses of Jesus love of all those who need our help and prayers. See who might need of your help and if you can do something in the Name of God, do it. Likewise if you can continue to support the Parish with your offertory you can either mail it or bring it to the mailbox of the office. I appreciate and give thanks to those who have done so already, this is the sign that you love our Parish and want to continue to support it. May God bless you always and keep you safe.



Pope Francis has asked the Virgin Mary to watch over the world in this current moment of crisis. "O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen."

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

*Thank you for your generosity and your contribution to Saint Monica Parish!*

**March 22, 2020:**  
Weekend Mass Offerings:  
\$1850.00

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

**"With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption."**

#### -First Reading

*Ezekiel 37: 12-14*

The prophet Ezekiel spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon, six centuries before Christ. In today's passage, the prophet (using the image of death and resurrection) assures the people that God will one day bring them back to their homeland.

#### -Second Reading

*Romans 8:8-11*

Paul's letter to the Romans is his most detailed and important theological work. Throughout the letter, he teaches that Jesus overcame sin and the effects of sin. In today's passage, Paul stresses that through the Spirit, this saving power of Jesus is present and active in Christians of all times and places.

*The beloved of the love of God came through the fountain of life to nourish us back to life and to help us in our dangerous state. The Word is the deepest and the sweetest love preparing us for repentance.*

### Mass Schedule & Intentions:

Date	Time	Int	Name
Sat. 3/28	9:00am (Stonyford)		-All Souls
	5:00pm		-All Souls
Sun. 3/29	9:00am	+	
	12:00pm		<b>Ruben Vasquez Neva+</b>
Mon. 3/30	7:30am		<b>Birthday: Milagros Lara</b>
Tues. 3/31	7:30am		-Liturgy
Wed. 4/1	4:00pm		-All Souls
Thurs 4/2	7:30am		-All Souls
Fri. 4/3	7:30am	+	<b>Adolfo Gonzalez Alvarez+</b>
Sat. 4/4	5:00pm		-All Souls

Do you have a Mass intention?

Call the parish office when you need a Mass celebrated (530)934-3314.

During this time, we would like to inform parishioners that even though we are not celebrating public Masses, Father will be celebrating his private Mass and will continue offering Mass Intentions listed.

