



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.

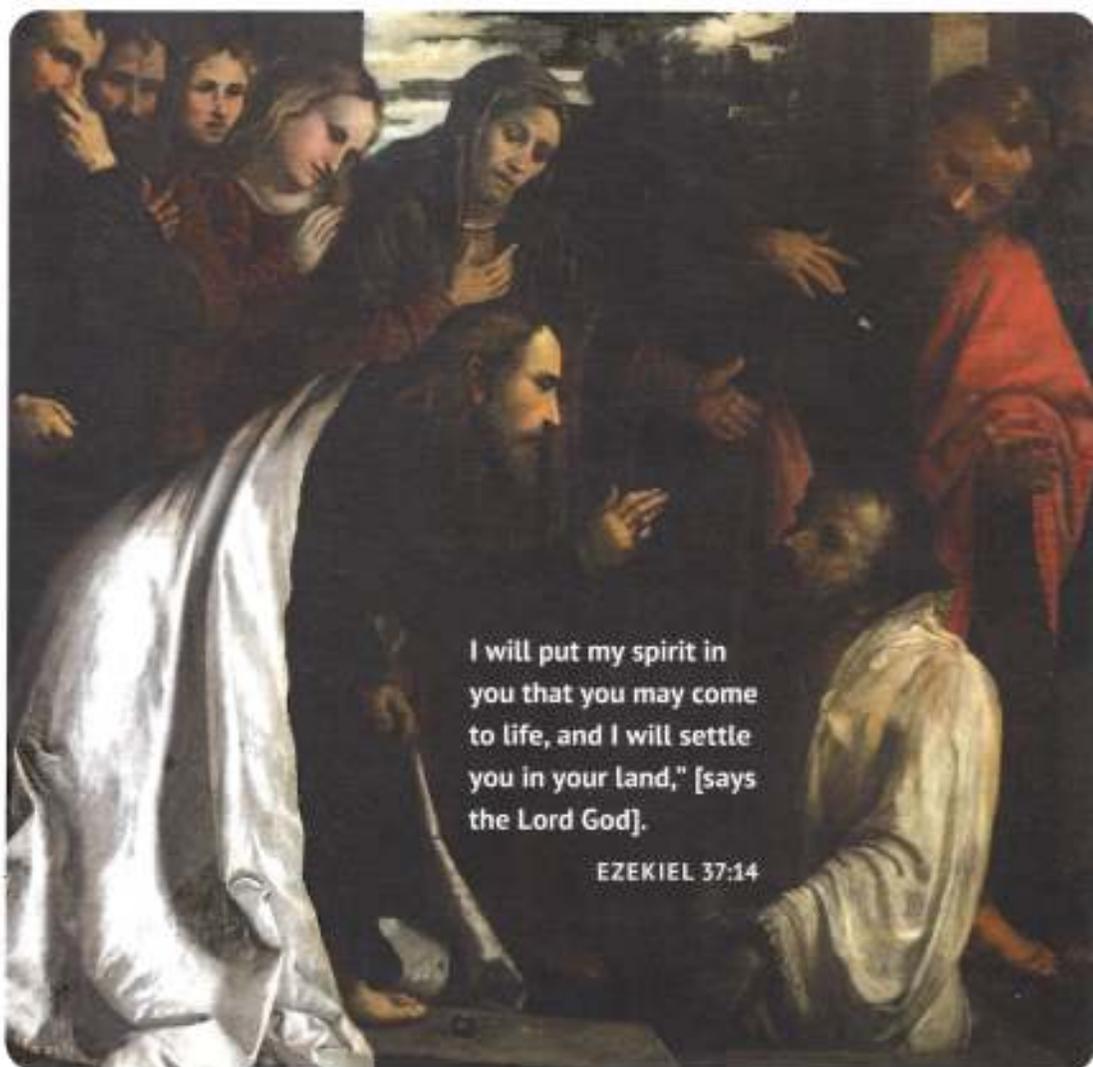
In today's gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets' hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." In other words, Martha believes in the coming "kingdom of God." But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: "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?



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



LEARN
ABOUT THE
AUTHORS OF
OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

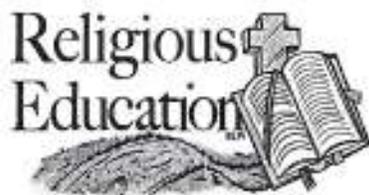
Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

CCD Classes

Sunday, March 22th— K- 5th Grade CCD Class

Sunday, March 29th — NO CCD Class



St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 23, 2026

Monday	03/23			† No Mass
Tuesday	03/24	9:00 am	STM Site	† Helen Buerkle
Wednesday	03/25	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Wes & Rita Hoscheid
Thursday	03/26	9:00 am	HT Site	† Daisy Kopek
Friday	03/27	9:00 am	STM Site	† Phil Maggio
		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross / HT	

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 28 - 29, 2026

Saturday	03/28	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More Site	† Julie Taliani
Sunday	03/29	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

We are all familiar with the miracle of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. This story from the 11th chapter of John's Gospel is frequently chosen for funeral Masses. It is good when we commend our deceased brothers and sisters to the Lord that we hear the words of Jesus to Lazarus' sister Martha, words that give us comfort and hope: "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."



We can only imagine the surprise, maybe even consternation, of those who heard Jesus say those words. Martha believed Jesus' words. A short time later, all were able to see the truth of Jesus' words when, at His command, Lazarus (who had already been in the tomb for four days) came forth alive. The truth of Jesus' proclamation that He is the resurrection and the life would become even more apparent on Easter Sunday morning with His own resurrection, the final victory over evil and death.

The raising of Lazarus was a sign of Christ's power over death. He is "the life" who pulls down that wall that can seem so impenetrable to us: the wall of death. It shows us Christ's lordship over death. Christ gives us a trustworthy hope of life beyond death. We need Martha's faith in the midst of the doubts and fears we might encounter in the face of tragedies, especially in the face of death. When Jesus asked Martha if she believed He was the resurrection and the life, she replied: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

We express this faith in the resurrection in the beautiful prayer in the Roman Missal, part of the Preface at Funeral Masses: "Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven."

(excerpted from: todayscatholic.org)

Church Announcements

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Please review your Holy Week bulletin schedule for Mass and service times and locations.

Used Palms

A reminder: the old palms have been blessed and need to be disposed of properly. They must not be put in the trash. The proper way is to have them burned and to bury the ashes underground. If uncertain what to do, please bring your old palm to the church.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower envelopes are now available at the back of each church. Please donate \$20 for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate in remembrance of. Names will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to donate to the Easter flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Catholic Charities

Join diocesan Catholic Charities for a "Cereal Drive," and help ensure needy people don't start their day hungry. If you like to help, please bring unopened boxes of cereal to donate to families in need. Collection date is March 31.

Latest Offering's

March 15th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,113.25

Catholic Relief

\$578.00

Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. March 28th

10:30am-11:15am

HT in the Confessional

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?

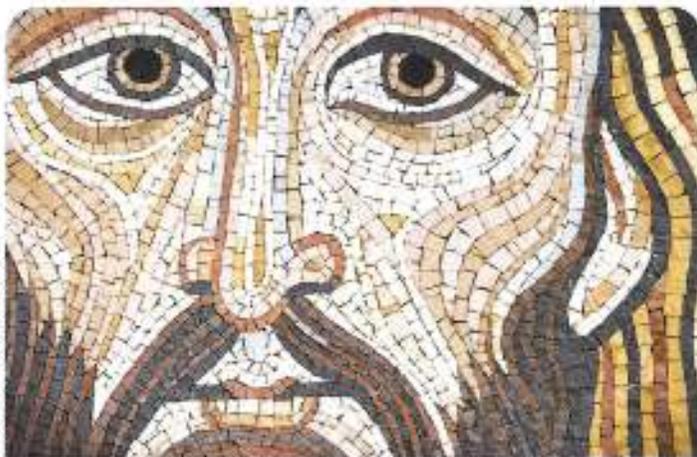
It has been a long- and well-established expression of Catholic faith and practice to pray for the departed. Our prayers help us as we grieve and mourn the passing of the people we love. Our prayers help us keep their passing in perspective—not as the end of something, but rather as the beginning of 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. ●



RENEA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



FAUSTO RENDA / 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

Lenten Weekday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Nm 21:4-9
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday

MARCH 25

*The Annunciation
of the Lord*

Is 7:10-14; 8:10
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Gn 17:3-9
Jn 8:51-59

Friday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10-13
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Ez 37:21-28
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday

MARCH 29

*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord*

Mt 21:1-11
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mt 26:14-27:66 or
27:11-54

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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