



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?*

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

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

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

CCD Classes

Sunday, March 8th— K- 5th Grade CCD Class

Sunday, March 15th — NO CCD Class for 6th-8th Grade
Confirmation Retreat March 14th at STM



St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 9, 2026

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 03/09 | | | † No Mass |
| Tuesday | 03/10 | 9:00 am | STM Site | † Clifford Sondgeroth |
| Wednesday | 03/11 | 5:30 pm | HT Site | † Thomas Herman |
| Thursday | 03/12 | 9:00 am | HT Site | † John & Dena Bussa |
| Friday | 03/13 | 9:00 am | STM Site | † John Balma |
| | | 6:00 pm | Stations of the Cross / HT | |

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 14 -15, 2026

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 03/14 | 4:00 pm | ST. Thomas More Site | † Tony Panizzi |
| Sunday | 03/15 | 9:00 am | Holy Trinity Site | † For the Parishioners |

JESUS' LIFE-GIVING WATER

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.



The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

(Excerpted from: LoyolaPress.com)

Church Announcements

2026 Lent Retreat—The Presence of God:

Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., the Dominican order's global promoter of the rosary returns to St. Valentine Church in Peru for a three-day retreat. Come to discover the closeness of God in our Daily Lives, and how to come closer to him. This will be on March 16,17 & 18 -Holy Mass at 6pm and retreat talk at 6:45pm.

ADA Update: As of March 1st, we are grateful to have 43 donors signed up for the ADA pledge. May God Bless their generosity profusely. Again we are asking parishioners to please consider making a donation to this year's ADA. Any pledge, regardless of the amount, will be greatly appreciated.

Pledged: \$9,473

Goal: \$33,541

STM Rav Group: The Rav/Tort Fundraiser will be ending for the year at the end of March. Please place your order by March 23rd to be filled by March 31st.

Latest Offering's

March 1st Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$1,891.00



Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. March 14th

10:30am-11:15am

HT in the Confessional

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). ●



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 |
| <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> |
| 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

