



**LIFE FROM DEATH**

Lent is about Easter, and Easter is about life after death. As we draw closer to Easter, the Sunday readings become more and more explicit about this.

In a rather dry, matter-of-fact way, today’s reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans teaches that our “mortal bodies” will be raised to life. But in a far more gripping way, the Lord shouts at us through the prophet Ezekiel, “O my people, I will open your graves . . . I will put my spirit in you . . . I have promised, and I will do it.” When Jesus saw the people weeping over the death of Lazarus, he was troubled in spirit and moved by the deepest emotions. Approaching the tomb, Jesus himself began to weep. He loved Lazarus.

In fact, Jesus loved Lazarus so much that he snatched him out of his tomb, back to life. That’s how God loves us. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**COMMENT**

Jesus, who has been set before us this Lent as the source of living water and light of the world, is today declared the resurrection and the life. The great signs narrated in John’s Gospel lead up to this last great sign. There are other stories in other Gospels of people being raised from the sleep of death—the soldier’s daughter, the widow’s only son. John does not offer us these miracle stories. He gives us the protracted story of the raising of Lazarus. We may be understandably intrigued by Lazarus, but John keeps our attention focused on Jesus.

The Resurrection suffuses the Gospel narratives. The Gospels are the work of believing communities of the Resurrection. Each Gospel was first proclaimed and passed on through the community’s oral tradition. Only later were they written down. The Gospels contain numerous accounts of persons who came whole and alive in Jesus’ presence.

In this narrative, Jesus declares himself the resurrection and the life. He makes himself abundantly clear. He says that those who believe in him will come to possess life, even though they will physically die.

Physical death is not final. The believer who possesses life in Christ lives with him now and will live with him forever. The person who is one with Christ in life will possess life through and beyond death. Then Jesus pointedly asks Martha, “Do you believe this?” Martha’s response echoes that of the believing community at large. She speaks for us, confessing him as Lord, Messiah, and Son of God.

**REFLECTION**

The other readings today provide the setting for this Gospel, which is surely the jewel in the crown of this Sunday’s readings. The first reading from Ezekiel speaks of the resurrection of the body—the clothing of flesh on bone, the opening of graves. There is nothing God cannot or will not do for the exiled people languishing in Babylon. The knowledge that they brought exile upon themselves is coupled with the humiliation of the exile itself. Over against the people’s despair stands the action of God. When the people think it cannot get any worse than this, Ezekiel goes to great lengths to say what God will do. Ezekiel is the great prophet of hope for the exiled community. The actions of Israel will be trumped by the saving action of God. “I have promised and I will do it,” says the Lord. And this is how Israel in exile will know that God is the Lord. Throughout his book of prophecy, after each amazing act of God, Ezekiel adds the affirmation akin to this one, “You shall know that I am the LORD.”

The new life so evident in the promise of Ezekiel and realized in Jesus is addressed by Paul. The “flesh” he identifies here refers to a life outside of Jesus’ saving resurrection. Jews did not conceive of humans as divided between body and spirit. The division for Paul was between the unredeemed (flesh) and redeemed (spirit). We are expected to live the new, redeemed life that is ours in baptism. More than the physical resuscitation of Lazarus, our new life is a transformation, an entirely new way of being. This is where Christ will lead us, if we let him. Then we can say with Martha, “Yes, Lord, I do believe.” Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

**March 14/15, 2026 COLLECTION DATA**

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3,010.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1,361.01
BUILDING FUND.....	<u>1,039.81</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$5,410.82

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**BLESSED OLIVE WOOD CREATIONS**, a Christian group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will be visiting our parish next weekend, March 28 & 29. The purpose of this visit is to help maintain the existence of the catholic people in the Holy Land. They will be selling beautiful handmade Olive Wood carvings after all Masses.



**Saturday, March 21st -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Maria Morales Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales, Carlos C, Maria and Carlos Guerrero, Sr.; +David Garcia; +Ruben Gutierrez

**Sunday, March 22nd -**

**8:00AM – IHM** +Martina Herrera; +Lorenzo Carlos Sanchez y Emma Carlos Bueno  
**9:30AM – HF** – For the People of Nolan County  
**11:00AM – IHM** In thanksgiving for Damilola Falana’s birthday; +Susie Ramirez & Moses Tovar

**Tuesday, March 24th 9:00AM - HF**

+Ray T. Reyes

**Wednesday, March 25th 9:00AM - HF**

In thanksgiving for Kensley Heredia’s birthday;  
+Antonio Mendez, Jr.

**Thursday, March 26th 9:00AM-HF**

+Cecil Villa and deceased members of his family

**Friday, March 27th 9:00AM HF**

In thanksgiving for Abe Saenz birthday

**Saturday, March 28th -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Daniel Grimaldo; +Belinda Gomez, Tomas and Guadalupe Morales; +Gavino Martinez and Eustacio Martinez

**Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday**

**8:00AM – IHM** For our seminarians Martin Luna y Camaron Moore; +Cindy Conway; In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Jesus Madrigal, Jr. & Kathrin Kelly +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez; Rafael y Concha Acevedo; +Cindy Conway  
**11:00AM – IHM** For the People of Nolan County

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**PENANCE SERVICES** – beginning @6:30pm

**March 25**– Sacred Heart, Coleman

**26** - St. Francis, Abilene

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**HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE**

March 28 - Youth Group April 4 – Parish Council

**RELIGION CLASSES ---**

No classes Sunday, March 22nd--**Spring Break**

- Wednesday classes **resume** Wednesday, March 25th.
- **OCIA** – Continues on Thursdays, 6:00pm at HF Hall, 507 Crane St.

**HOLY WEEK** begins *next* week, March 29th, Palm Sunday. **Only the 11am Mass will begin in the hall.** The other weekend Masses begin in the church. **Holy Thursday Candles** – may be purchased in the parish office beginning Monday, March 23rd, for \$5.00. They will be burning before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration

- **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE** – for our Parish is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 1st, 6:30pm.**

**WHY AM I CATHOLIC?**- Deacon Bill’s sharing session every Tuesday at his home, @6:00pm. **All are invited!**

**WEDNESDAY** –Adoration 6:30pm-7:30pm @IHM.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis** - all Fridays during Lent, 6pm followed by soup/snacks at the Parish Hall @Immaculate Heart. Hosting this week is Grupo Misionero.

**ULTREYA MEETINGS**

Sunday, March 22nd - 6:00pm (*English*)

Monday, March 23rd - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)

Both at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit

<http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP** will not meet until after Easter, April 12th.

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**Are you struggling after an abortion?**


**Are you seeking healing and hope?**

The Project Rachel Ministry of the Diocese of San Angelo is here for you. Our team has been praying for you, and you are not alone. Jesus offers healing and mercy to all who desire peace and self-forgiveness.

Please reach out to our confidential helpline or email to learn more about healing retreats, counseling, and compassionate support.

**Project Rachel Ministry – Diocese of San Angelo**

 Call or text: (432) 236-9883

 [projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org)


**¿Está sufriendo después de un aborto?**


**¿Necesita sanación y esperanza?**

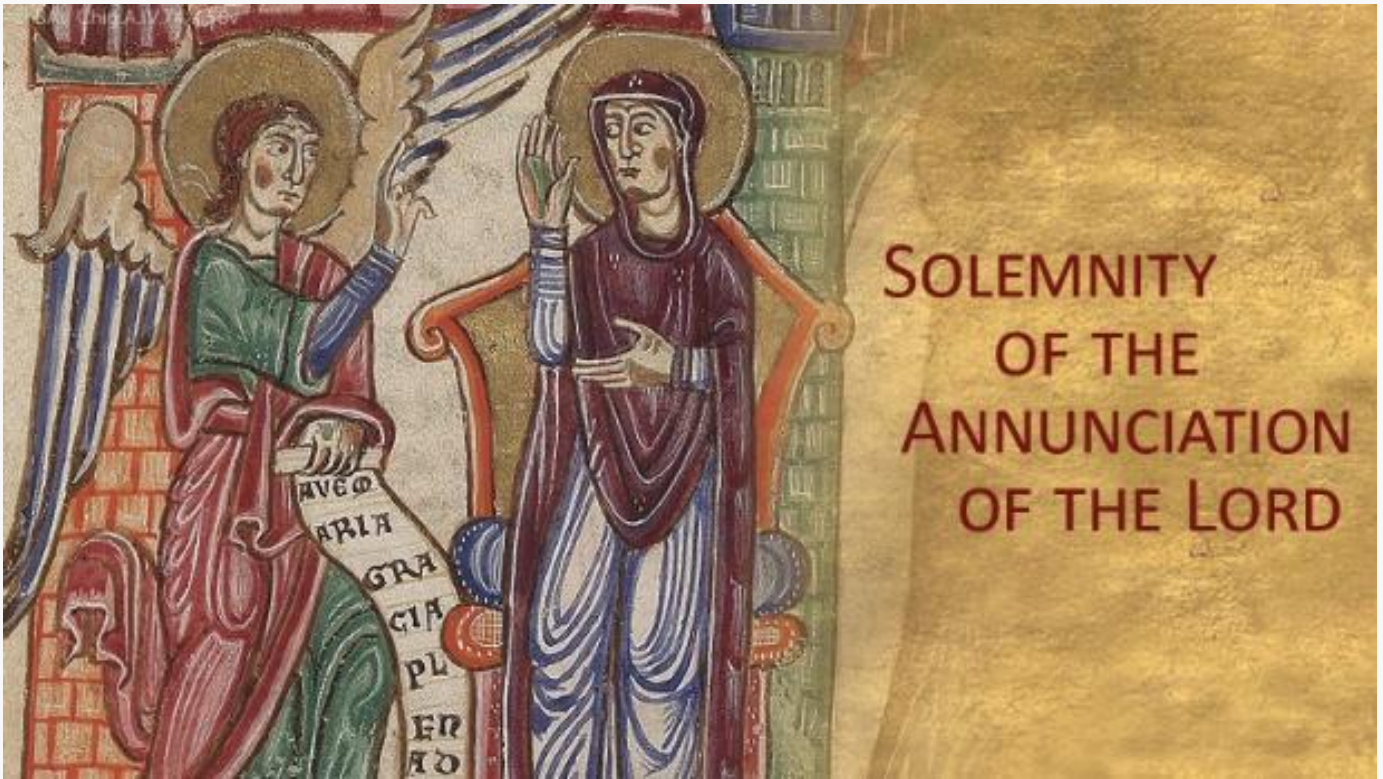
El Ministerio Proyecto Raquel de la Diócesis de San Angelo está aquí para usted. Nuestro equipo ha estado orando por usted, y no está sola. Jesús ofrece sanación y misericordia a todos los que desean paz y perdón interior.

Por favor comuníquese con nuestra línea confidencial o por correo electrónico para obtener información sobre retiros de sanación, consejería y apoyo compasivo.

**Ministerio Proyecto Raquel – Diócesis de San Angelo**

 Llame o envíe un texto: (432) 236-9883

 [projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org)



25 March

As early as the middle of the 6th century in the East, and the 7th century in Rome, there is evidence of this Feast celebrated on 25 March. Since this feast is connected with the Lord Jesus and to His entry into history, the revised liturgical calendar gave this feast the title of the “Annunciation of the Lord”, over the more popular Annunciation of Mary. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a Christmas feast even though it is not celebrated during the Christmas Season. Nine months before we celebrate the Lord’s birth, we celebrate His incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary’s “Let it be done to me” transforms the humble house of “her” being into God’s House, becoming a Tabernacle of the Most High Jesus. All it took was her “Let it be done to me”, a sign of her willingness, knowing she could trust in the action of the Holy Spirit. And God entered into history, accepting to “make” history in the lives of those who have said and who would say over and over again, “Let it be done to me”.