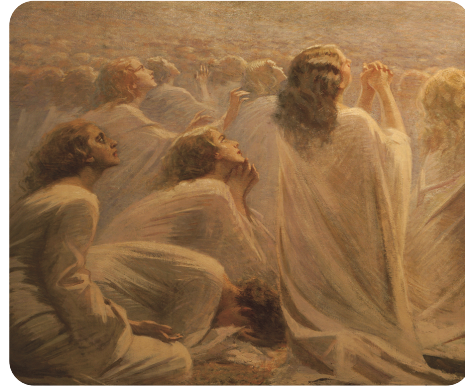


Dear Padre,

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. ●



RENATA SEDMAKOVA / 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 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62 Jn 8:1–11	Thursday MARCH 26 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3–9 Jn 8:51–59	Saturday MARCH 28 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21–28 Jn 11:45–56
Tuesday MARCH 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Nm 21:4–9 Jn 8:21–30	Friday MARCH 27 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10–13 Jn 10:31–42	Sunday MARCH 29 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mt 21:1–11 Is 50:4–7 Phil 2:6–11 Mt 26:14–27:66 or 27:11–54
Wednesday MARCH 25 <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10–14; 8:10 Heb 10:4–10 Lk 1:26–38		

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Ezekiel 37:12–14 / Romans 8:8–11 / John 11:1–45 or 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45



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?



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



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



1899
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea



St. Theresa Parish

Established January 21, 1941
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



1946 / 1993
St. Theresa School at Kekaha

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

Vision / Mission Statement
*To make St. Theresa Parish
a dynamic Christian community
of worship & service*

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$ 1,956.55
Waimea 1,254.00

Other Donations

Candles \$ 65.00
Catholic Relief Services 1,604.00
Cross We Share 860.00
Diocesan Appeal: CMAA 100.00
Donations 5,000.00
Flowers 50.00
Initial Offering 25.00
Maintenance Fund 70.00
Mass Intentions 120.00
Rebate 17.48

*Mahalo for being as generous
as your means allow. God bless you! †*



Practice for ALL participants of the Easter Vigil Mass is on **Fri, Mar 27** at STC following 6pm Stations of the Cross (around 6:30pm).

Rice Bowls will be collected on Holy Thursday, Apr 2, at the 6pm Mass.

Due to the School Carnival, the 5pm Vigil Mass on April 18 will be celebrated at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Waimea.

Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat (age 14 onwards).
Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting (age 18 until 59) and abstinence.
When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon, Mar 23 from 6 to 8pm **Eternal Rest** session 4 (final) – STC
Mon, Mar 23 at 6pm **Reconciliation Service** – St. Catherine Church, Kapa'a
Tue, Mar 24 at 6pm **Reconciliation Service** – Immaculate Conception, Lihue
Thu, Mar 26 "Prince Kuhio Day" Church & School offices are closed
Thu, Mar 26 at 6pm **Chrism Mass** – Immaculate Conception, Lihue
Fri, Mar 27 at 6pm **Stations of the Cross**, followed by Easter Vigil practice – STC

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Mar 29 regular Sunday Masses for **Palm Sunday** of the Passion of the Lord
Apr 2 **Holy Thursday** at STC: 6pm Mass, followed by Adoration until 10pm
Apr 3 **Good Friday** at STC: 2:15pm Stations, 3pm Passion of the Lord, 4pm Divine Mercy novena (day 1)
Apr 3 - no First Friday Holy Hour
Apr 4 - no First Saturday Devotions
Apr 4 **Easter Vigil** Mass at 7pm at STC
Apr 5 regular Sunday Masses for **Easter Sunday** of the Resurrection of the Lord



Parish Directory

Clergy



Reverend Edwin D. Conselva, MS,
Pastor 808-337-1784
Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018
Deacon Jim Bostick, retired 808-337-1124

Parish Office

Mass Intentions / Hospital or Homebound
Communion / Weddings / Marriage
Convalidations / Baptisms / Funerals
Dee Young, Parish Secretary 808-337-1548
M-F, 8am-noon sttheresac@yahoo.com
PPC Raynette Newall
Worship / HI Catholic Herald parish articles
Chantal Duarte 808-634-0403

Bulletin / Website Betsy Jones 907-347-6618

Evangelization Commission

Director of Religious Education
Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P. 808-337-1548
OCIA Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018
Youth Coordinators
Blu & Rena Ulanday 808-635-2701

Social Services Commission

Respect Life call parish office 808-337-1548
Agency on Elderly Affairs 808-241-4470

St. Theresa School

Wendy Souza, Principal
808-337-1351 sttheresakauai.com
Office hours M-F, 7:30am-3pm
HCH school articles

5th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

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."

~Archdiocese of St. Louis



St. Theresa Church

8343 Kaumualii Hwy
Kekaha HI 96752

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 7:45am Rosary

8:30am Mass

Mon-Thu 6:30am Mass

Fri 8:10am School Mass

Weekday Masses subject to change.

Wed 6pm Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima & Novena to OLPH

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm

with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions 4:30pm Saturday

(or call the parish office for an appointment)



Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church

9496 Kaumualii Hwy
Waimea HI 96796

Sun 7am Mass

First Saturday Devotion to the BVM 8-9am