

# Dear Padre,

**If God is so forgiving, why can't I just ask for his forgiveness directly? Why do I need to go to confession and ask a man, a priest, to have my sins forgiven?**

It's ironic that some claim a man cannot forgive sins. That same accusation was leveled against Jesus himself when he forgave the paralyzed man (see Mark 2:5-7). But Jesus clearly told his apostles they were to be instruments of his forgiveness. When he appeared to them in the upper room after his resurrection he said: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23).

James the Apostle also endorses the concept of humans administering God's forgiveness: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/GREGORY A. SHERMITZ

Baptism, another sacrament administered by a person, starts our discipleship with Jesus. It cleanses us of all sin—including original sin. But even as Jesus' disciples, we are sometimes unfaithful and need to ask forgiveness. It's not surprising, then, that Jesus has given us another sacrament—again administered by a person—for the forgiveness of sins after baptism: the sacrament of reconciliation.

God is forgiving—so forgiving that when people killed Jesus, his Son, he did not punish and destroy the world. Rather, he used the death of Jesus to demonstrate just how patient and forgiving he is. Our gravest sins—murder, adultery, a life lived apart from God—require the intervention of the sacrament of penance. But even confessing smaller sins is useful. If nothing else, it keeps us humble enough to remember that all of us need forgiveness because all of us sin.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR / [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*Going to confess is not like going to the dry cleaner's to have a stain removed....If there is no love in the sacrament, it is not as Jesus wishes it to be. If it is functional, it is not how Jesus wants it to be. Love....toward the brother and the sister who are forgiven sinners. This is the fundamental relationship.*

ADDRESS TO APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 12, 2021

## Calendar

**Monday**  
APRIL 4  
Lenten Weekday  
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,  
19-30, 33-62  
or 13:41c-62  
Jn 8:12-20

**Tuesday**  
APRIL 5  
Lenten Weekday  
Nm 21:4-9  
Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday**  
APRIL 6  
Lenten Weekday  
Dn 3:14-20,  
91-92, 95  
Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday**  
APRIL 7  
Lenten Weekday  
Gn 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59

**Friday**  
APRIL 8  
Lenten Weekday  
Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday**  
APRIL 9  
Lenten Weekday  
Ez 37:21-28  
Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday**  
APRIL 10  
Palm Sunday of the  
Lord's Passion  
Lk 19:28-40  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Lk 22:14-23:56  
or 23:1-49



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Is 43:16-21

Phil 3:8-14

Jn 8:1-11

## "Do Not Sin Any More."

At first reading of today's Gospel, one might think that those who brought the adulterous woman to Jesus were concerned about observance of the law. Halfway through the story, this error is corrected: "They said this to test him" (John 8:6). They thought that any answer he would provide would anger his audience. If he directed them to stone her, his teaching about mercy and forgiveness would sound hollow, and people would turn away from him. If he spoke against stoning, he would appear to be setting himself above the law, which required that particular punishment for adultery. They must have thought they had Jesus cornered.

Not to be undone by them, Jesus traced his finger on the ground. Was he listing the sins of the woman's accusers? Was he using silence to make them feel uncomfortable? Was he choosing his words carefully? Was he simply doodling? We don't know. But his words

cut to the core: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). Who would dare step forward to execute the sentence? They left, beginning with the elders because the custom was to throw the stones according to age—eldest first.

Had Jesus undermined his teaching about mercy and forgiveness? No. Had he denigrated the law? No. Did he leave the woman with the impression that her sin was not serious? No. He left her with this admonition: I will not condemn you to death, but you have to change your life.

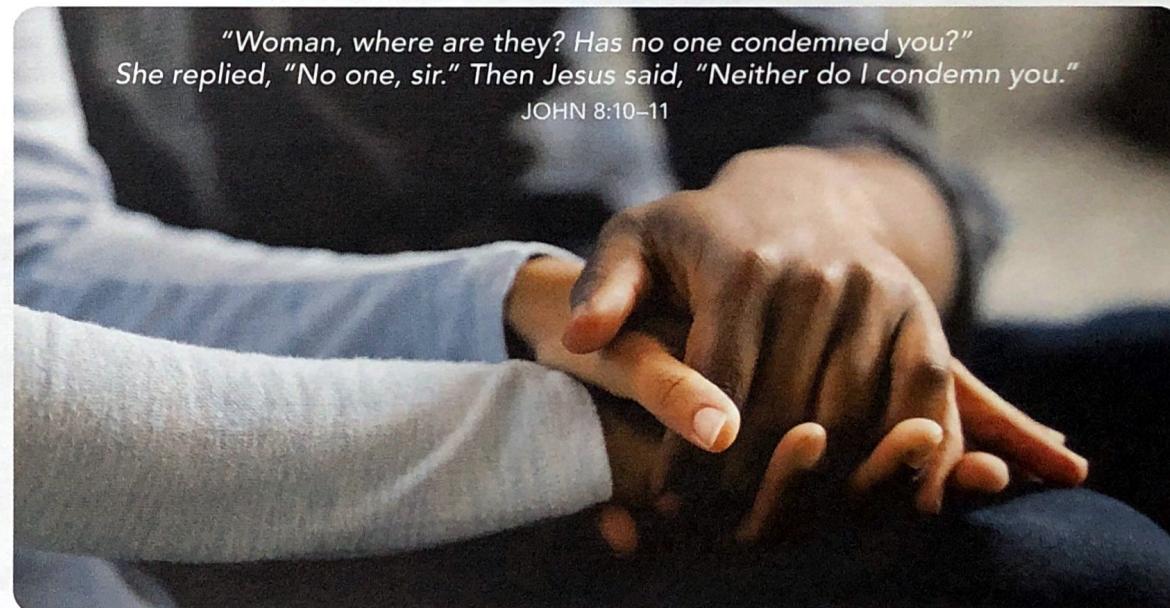
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ How quick are you to point out the failings of others? What good comes from it?
- ★ What in your life do you know you have to change? Why can't you do it?

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"  
She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you."

JOHN 8:10-11





Rectory & Parish Office  
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com  
 Website: saintanthonylakin.org

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday, April 2</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Special Int. –Powers F.</b>
<b>Sunday, April 3</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mike Dystra</b>
<b>Monday, April 4</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Marlyn Morrison</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 5</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Dorothy Gates</b>
<b>Friday, April 8</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bob Rooney</b>
<b>Saturday, April 9</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the People</b>
<b>Sunday, April 10</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Jack, Leona &amp; Joe Randolph</b>

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (color: Violet)**

**4/2/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Lucy Gannett, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

**Reader:** Karen Burden

**4/3/2022–Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** K of C

**Reader:** Julie Kaps

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (color: Red)**

**4/9/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Maggie Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Tom Bachman

**4/10/2022 –Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Kirbe Koons, Taybree Lohman-Fuller, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

**Reader:** K of C

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – APRIL 3, 2022**



Friends, this fifth Sunday of Lent St. John in the Gospel tells us the story of the Pharisees brought the woman who had been caught in adultery to ask Jesus whether she should be stoned according to the law and Jesus simply tells them “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” In a very real sense, Lent is meant to be a forty day encounter with Jesus, a holy time we set aside each year to let God once again break into our hearts and minds in a profound way. It’s a time to look deep within and get an accurate picture of what our story has been so far, get an accurate picture of what is taking place in our lives in this very moment. And then, we are invited to imagine that Jesus has walked into the scene and now wants to speak to us --- hoping to change our story, change what happens next, change us. Will we let him? Or will we simply walk away from this holy season of Lent exactly as we were before --- as if the encounter with Jesus had never happened, as if Jesus hadn’t broken into our individual stories at all? Hmm . . . I guess we have something to think about. Fr. Peter

**2022– TRIDUUM—EASTER CELEBRATION**

**Holy Thursday—April 14—6:00 p.m. Lakin; 6:30 p.m.(MT) Syracuse**

**Good Friday—April 15—3:00 p.m. Lakin; 6:00 p.m. (MT) Syracuse**

**Easter Vigil Saturday—April 16—8:30 p.m. Lakin**

**Easter Sunday Mass – April 17 at 9:15 a.m. Lakin; Deerfield at 8:00a.m. & Syracuse 10:30 a.m. (MT)**

**COLLECTION** for March 27th, 2022: Envelopes: \$529; Loose: \$115; Online Giving: \$198.07; Total \$842.07; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 919.10

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL** \$52000—Last weekend contribution: \$183; Building Fund To Date: \$8,567.26

*Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

**SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of your beloved mother, Rosie Perez. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May she rest in peace.

**ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING** Altar Society will have a meeting on Sunday—April 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the parish hall.

**CCD LENT CONFESSIONS THIS YEAR** April 6 –6:30 p.m. 7th and 8th Grade; April 13 at 6:30—First Communion class.

**SOUP & SERMON** St. Anthony's and Christ, the King parishes will be in charge of Soup and Sermon on Wednesday—April 6. If you can help with soup or sandwiches or helping that day, please call Nanette Rice 620-355-7676 or 620-651-1327.

**EASTER FLOWERS** If you want to send flowers in memory of a Loved One for Easter, please put your donation and names into the regular collection

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** We hold Stations of the Cross led by Knights of Columbus every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. during Lent. We hope you will join us for this prayerful devotion.

**VOCATION VIEW** “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” Are you called to bring the joy of Christ to His people?

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** In today's second reading, St. Paul says, “For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth.” Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (adapted from Pope Francis's prayer for the Year of Mercy) Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with his anointing. In your holy name we pray. Amen .

### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 8: 1-11)**

**Teaching in the temple** Jesus has been drawing attention to himself as he teaches in the temple. Jewish leaders are disturbed both by what Jesus says and his claim to have the authority to say it. They want him out of there.

**Stoning** In charging the woman with adultery, the leaders are upholding Jewish law (see Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22-24). However, the woman's partner was also guilty. The man may simply have escaped, but his absence suggests that the leaders are acting unfairly. They're using the woman to pursue their own agenda. In Deuteronomy 17:6-7 we learn that witnesses to a crime must be the first to carry out the punishment. The leaders have put themselves in a position where they themselves will be tested.

**Entrapment** The leaders plan to use the woman to trap Jesus. If Jesus says not to punish the woman, then he breaks God's law. If Jesus agrees the woman should be punished, he breaks his own teaching about mercy.

**He wrote on the ground** By writing (or merely doodling) on the ground, Jesus separates himself from the drama and forces a pause. Jesus refuses to be drawn into the tension and violence. For centuries people have speculated on what Jesus wrote on the ground. While their theories may interest us, what Jesus wrote (if anything) seems irrelevant. If what Jesus had written were important, then the Gospel-writer would have told us what it was. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

### **UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Isaiah)

**Devastation** This passage was written after terrible things had happened to the Israelites. The Babylonians had looted and burned Jerusalem and its temple. After capturing the Jewish leadership, the Babylonians marched them into Babylon to spend the rest of their days in exile. Thousands of Israelites fled, died, or were killed.

**Another exodus** Israel's story formally began when God led them out of Egypt. God showed his great power over both the Red Sea and the attacking Egyptians (vv.16-17). God thus proved that his chosen people should trust and rely on him. This passage assures God's people that just as God acted mightily in the past, so will God act again (vv. 18-19a). In fact, what God will do for his people will be even more impressive than the Exodus. As God leads his people back home from Babylon, he will make their path smooth, protect them from wild animals, and provide water to sustain them. God wants his people to participate in these wondrous new events by trusting him once again, returning home, and proclaiming his gracious acts.

**A note on translation** In verse 19 the phrase in the wasteland, rivers is probably better translated in the wasteland, a path. The word path corresponds to the word way. God is creating a route through challenging terrain for his people to follow ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

**Congratulations for completing your Confirmation program at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, but most importantly for being anointed with the gifts of the holy spirit and being confirmed as a full member of the Roman Catholic Church.**

Wishing you a life full of faith  
and love on this

*Confirmation Day.*

May you be blessed in all that  
you do.

Adrick Gomez Esquibel, Damaris Dominguez, Fatima Dominguez, Kallie Ann Messenger, Keleigh Perez, Nayeli Monroy, Manuel Monroy, Zamira Beltran, Abilene Beltran, Alondra Mendez, and Halle M. Woodrow

We are grateful to their parents, sponsors, catechist who worked hard to prepare them for this very special day on their journey of faith! May the love of Jesus forever remain close to you

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

##### **Pause and refresh**

We rush through the hours checking items off a to-do list: work and chores, errands and meals, and more. The weekly Sabbath was designed as a pause from the maddening race of accomplishment. Pausing keeps us from making mistakes born of thoughtlessness. Jesus once asked religious elders to pause and consider their own errors before stoning a woman for hers. Father Edward Hayes (1931-2016) started a house of prayer in Kansas as a place of spiritual recollection. Pause and pray with Hayes: "May the work of my hands be part of the redemption of the world and its eternal springtime liberation." (Prepare the Word)

#### **QUINTO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA**

##### **Pausa y renovación**

Nos apresuramos a pasar las horas tachando cosas de la lista de pendientes: trabajo y tareas, recados y comidas, y mucho más. El Sabbath semanal fue diseñado como una pausa en la enloquecedora carrera de los logros. Hacer una pausa nos evita cometer errores nacidos de la falta de reflexión. En una ocasión, Jesús pidió a los ancianos religiosos que hicieran una pausa y consideraran sus propios errores antes de apedrear a una mujer por los suyos. El padre Edward Hayes (1931-2016) creó una casa de oración en Kansas como lugar de reflexión espiritual. Haz una pausa y reza con Hayes: "Que el trabajo de mis manos sea parte de la redención del mundo y de su eterna liberación primaveral."