

LENT 2026

CRUX

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

- Begin your weekly meeting in prayer.

Lord, we are called into unity with you. You revealed to us the importance of friendship through Mary and Martha. Help us to be more like Martha and trust in Christ's ability to save. Allow us to continue this journey through Lent with a heart full of trust in your will, Lord. Help us define ourselves in you. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- After reading Sunday's Gospel and watching the free video with Fr.

Columba, take some time to discuss and reflect on the following questions:

- What do you think a friendship with God looks like? What aspects can we draw from Lazarus', Martha's, and Mary's relationships with Christ?
- Jesus was deeply moved when Mary came to him crying over the loss of her brother, revealing to us the deep love that Christ has for our hearts. How has Christ received your heart in difficult times?
- Why do you think God is so moved by our emotions?
- During Lent, we're often tempted to stray away from our commitments to God. How do you find God inviting us into deeper communion with him?

As we begin this fifth week of Lent, let us remember Christ's love for our hearts. Even though it may be challenging to continue taking up these small acts of surrender through workouts, fasting, spiritual readings, and exams, allow yourself to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ and bring these struggles to him in prayer.

READINGS

- Ezekiel 37: 12-14
- Romans 8: 8-11
- John 11: 1-45

OPTIONS TO VIEW FR. COLUMBA'S VIDEO



- Scan the above QR code to watch on a mobile device
- Use the TV in your small group room to watch the video on the Ascension APP
- Have your small group leader read the Day 12 reflection from their *Crux: Daily Lenten Meditations* book aloud

John 11: 1-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "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. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Prayer for the Intercession of St. Lazarus

Dear Saint Lazarus, friend of Christ Incarnate and patron of the poor and the sick. I request your intercession, with the aid of the Holy Spirit; May the Lord, Who prefigured His Resurrection through your own miraculous rising, always guide me in my earthly pilgrimage and protect me in sickness and in health. Together with Saint Martha and Saint Mary, you welcomed the Savior into your home. May I do the same by welcoming Jesus into my heart and serving Him faithfully in my brothers and sisters. Help me to imitate Christ more perfectly.

Holy St. Lazarus give me the strength to overcome all temptation and difficulty. May your witness inspire me to have faith and hope in Jesus, especially amid great trial. Pray that I will display heroic virtue and persevere in love so as to merit to be received by God into the halls of heaven. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who lives and reigns with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. Amen.

Saint Lazarus of Bethany, pray for us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY FISH FRY DINNERS

In Lent, bring the family
Fridays from 5 – 7 PM
in the School Cafeteria

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays During Lent
in the Chapel
6:30 PM (English)
7:15 PM (Spanish)

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

*Friday, March 27 at 8 am through
Saturday, March 28 at 8 am in the Chapel.*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will have a variety of prayer experiences as well as quiet time for personal prayer and adoration over a 24-Hour period.

Sunset Stations of the Cross

March 27th @ 7:30 pm
We invite you to an outdoor Stations of the Cross, on the Mary Mag track, written and led by the youth of our parish community.



**SAINT MARY
MAGDALEN**

CATHOLIC CHURCH