



PARISH BULLETIN 526

Sunday, March 22, 2026.

5th Sunday of Lent

Gospel: Jn 11, 3-7.17.20-27.33-45.

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." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." 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.

Commentary by the Pastor:

In the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus delays visiting his friendly family even though a dear person to him has died. By saying that this death is for the "glory of God," Jesus confirms what is most important to him — the will of the heavenly Father, which takes precedence over human friendships, even though it is very painful! Four days after Lazarus's death, Jesus announces the resurrection to his sister Martha, not only confirming what she already believed but also revealing himself as the Lord of Life. The glory and joy that will come after the return of brother Lazarus to the family is only a prefiguration and announcement of Jesus's passion and resurrection, as well as an encouragement to us in our Lenten efforts to persevere.

The climax of the Gospel is not only Lazarus coming out of the tomb — which pilgrims throughout history imitate in their faithful visits to the tomb when possible in peaceful times — but the faith of the Jews, which St. John uses to guide the entire drama of this event. Thus, the glory of God is revealed in the faith of the family members but even more so in those who came to express condolences as friends and neighbors. This Gospel wants to affect us in the same way: to strengthen our faith in Jesus's resurrection, in his victory over sin and death, and in the open heavens of God's kingdom. Also, it challenges the faith or unbelief of those around us. In Lent, this is a faith of suffering that perseveres, and in the Easter season, it is a celebratory faith that inspires others. May it be so this Sunday and in the days to come!

Holy MassesMONDAY – SATURDAY
(23.3. - 28.3.)7:00 ŠESTAK
8:00 VLAH
9:00 BALATINAC
12:00 KNEŽEVIĆ
19:00 KOČIŠ**Confessions (6.2.)**MONDAY – SATURDAY
(23.3. - 28.3.)6:30 – 9:30
11:00 – 12:30
18:30 – 20:00**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

Wednesday, March 25th	SOLEMNITY: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - ANNUNCIATION
Sunday, March 29th	6th Sunday of Lent, Year "A"

PRESENTATION OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS: Today, during the 9:30 AM Mass, our first communicants will be presented. We congratulate them and support them in their preparations until May 17th, when the First Communion will take place during the Sunday Mass at 9:00 AM.

SOLEMN CONCERT: On the sixth anniversary of the earthquake, the Basilica and the Palma Academic Choir are organizing a solemn concert in the Basilica tonight at 8:15 PM. Admission is free.

MASS FOR THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE RESTORATION: The day after the earthquake, our dear parishioner Anamarija Carević passed away. On Monday, March 23rd, we will especially remember her and include her in our prayers during the evening Mass at 7:00 PM, which will also be offered for all the benefactors of the restoration, both spiritual and material.

PARISH CARITAS: From tomorrow, March 23rd, until Holy Tuesday, March 31st, we will collect food, groceries, hygiene items, and money for the poor in our parish to distribute before Easter. Thank you for your kindness!

ANNUNCIATION: On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Masses and confessions will be held as on weekdays, and the parish office will also be open.

CHARITY CONCERT: Also, on Tuesday, March 31st, marking six years since the earthquake, there will be a charity concert "Heart in the Heart of Zagreb." Mozart's Requiem will be performed by the HRT Symphony Orchestra and Choir free of charge. Tickets to support the completion of the Basilica's restoration are available in the sacristy, at Lisinski, and online.

PALM SUNDAY: Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. The solemn Mass with the sung Passion by our Academic Choir will be at 11:00 AM. Therefore, the next Mass will be at 12:30 PM. Before all Masses, youth from SKAC and MAGIS will sell olive branches for blessing, and the proceeds will go to their needs.

HOLY WEEK: Until Wednesday, the regular Mass schedule applies. On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper with the washing of feet is at 7:00 PM. At the same time the next day, at 7:00 PM, are the Good Friday ceremonies, with the Palma Academic Choir singing the Passion. On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 PM with Mass and the blessing of food at the end. Confessions will be heard all day throughout Holy Week.

NEW ENTRANCE: The new entrance and exit is through Palmotićeveva 31, and we ask everyone to use it. The entrance through Draškovićeveva 54 will still be available for a short time.

ROSARY AT KAMENITA VRATA: Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

"LESS IS MORE" – LAY COLUMN No. 474 – written by: Robert Crnko

Today's Gospel reminded me of an encounter from two weeks ago with a friend who testified to me how Jesus Christ removed the blindfold from his eyes and saved his soul from darkness, pulling him out of the tomb of his life. Until recently, he had been living well; he lacked nothing—he had a private business that was doing very well, relationships with girlfriends, and friends he spent time with. As he says, "...I thought I was unstoppable, everything was going my way." In all of this, he revolved around himself and lived as he pleased without regard for other people, let alone God, without even being aware of it—blind and spiritually half-dead. However, God showed him grace in his life: he ran into legal trouble, the anti-corruption office tracked him down, and overnight he found himself on the run and on media front pages. While he was in detention waiting for extradition to Croatia, he cried out to God sincerely and prayed as best as he could. He began to feel peace in his cell; he thanked God for the food he received, even though it was barely edible. They told him he would wait at least a month for extradition, but within about ten days he was extradited. In those moments, he began to recognize goodness and to be grateful for his family and small things.

We prayed together, and at one point he began to tell God what was in his heart. He told Him how sorry he was for hurting his mother and father many times, his former girlfriends, how he often thought only of himself and sought his own comfort without even realizing it. He asked God to help him. His eyes were full of humility and repentance to the point of tears—his eyes were pleading. In his voice, there was a powerful cry for reconciliation with God and for the Love he longs for so deeply. I was moved to tears; a man to whom prayer and kneeling had recently been foreign concepts was now praying so vividly and sincerely. In his eyes and voice, I saw a man who had regained his sight and a heart that had come back to life. I am grateful to God that He removed the blindfold from this man's eyes and drew his soul out of lifelessness. In the end, I could only cry out to God: have mercy on us both, sinners!