As we look ahead to Ash Wednesday, (February 17) and the Feast of St. Blaise (February 3), we must adjust our liturgical rites because of the pandemic.

Distribution of Ashes (February 17)

Ashes have been used as a sign of repentance from Old Testament times to today. In the early Church, the priest would sprinkle ashes on the heads of those confessing their sins. In the year 1091, Pope Urban II decreed that priests were to sprinkle ashes on the heads of all the faithful on the first day of Lent. As a result of that practice, this day became known as Ash Wednesday. In most countries, the practice of placing or sprinkling a small pinch of palm ashes on the top of the head on Ash Wednesday remains common practice. However, in the United States, the custom has developed where ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, modifications must be made to our usual method of imposition of ashes.

After consultation with medical leaders, there are only three options for the imposition of ashes that will be used in the Archdiocese of New Orleans for 2021:

- Sprinkling a small pinch of dry ashes on the top of the head
- Using a cotton swab (Q-tip) to place ashes on the forehead (most effective)
- We experimented with cotton balls and found them to be less practical

Whichever option is chosen, those imposing ashes are to wear a mask during the distribution of ashes and sanitize their hands afterwards. If a cotton swab is used it is to be disposed of after each person and a new swab used. A receptacle for used swabs is to be located at each station where ashes are distributed.

Blessing of Throats (February 3)

In this time of pandemic, for the Blessing of Throats on the Memorial of Saint Blaise, priests, deacons, and those assisting with the blessing are to hold the crossed candles in front of each person, not touching the person, and to say the prayer without touching.

-Archbishop Aymond
Announcements

- Thanks to Fr. Daniel Green and all those who assisted in the preparation of the “Mass for Peace and Justice” celebrated at the Cathedral last Sunday.

- All are welcome to pray with us at the Memorial Service for the Unborn in the Holy Innocents Prayer Garden (St. Patrick #1 Cemetery, 5000 Canal St., NOLA) on Friday January 22, 2021, at noon. We will be praying for those lost to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion and those who mourn them.

- The Institute of Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM) at Notre Dame Seminary will Commission 11 students on Sunday, January 31, 2021, at the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Louis Cathedral.

- The Presbyteral Council will meet on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at Notre Dame Seminary at 10:00 AM.

- Catholic Schools Week will be January 31 – February 6, 2021. Mass will be celebrated Friday, February 5, 2021, at St. Catherine of Siena at 10:00 AM. Due to rising COVID-19 cases, only a small number of students have been invited to attend the Mass.

- The Order of St. Louis will be celebrated on March 21, 2021. Names of recipients are due January 22, 2021. See page 3 for more information.

- The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life will be on Saturday, February 20, 2021, with Mass at 11:00 AM at St. Rita Church in New Orleans.

- The Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples married in 1996 will be on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in New Orleans. Please see page 4 for more information.

- Confessions will be available in all parishes from 5:00 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays during Lent: March 10, 2021, March 17, 2021 and March 24, 2021.

- Confession cards are available for Lent. See page 4.

Death

Sister Lee Faszold, O.Carm., completed her earthly life the morning of January 18, 2021 at Tulane University Hospital, a hospital where she worked for a number of years. Sister Lee was an oncology nurse who loved research as a way to augment bedside care. Please keep her, Sister Catherine Riggs, her dear friend, Sr. Lee’s family and all the Sisters of Mount Carmel in your prayers.

Mark Your Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2021</td>
<td>Confession available in all parishes 5:00 PM-6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17, 2021</td>
<td>Confession available in all parishes 5:00 PM-6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24, 2021</td>
<td>Confession available in all parishes 5:00 PM-6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22, 2021</td>
<td>Transitional Diaconate Ordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5, 2021</td>
<td>Priesthood Ordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20-22, 2021</td>
<td>Louisiana Priests Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21, 2022</td>
<td>Transitional Diaconate Ordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4, 2022</td>
<td>Priesthood Ordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7-9, 2022</td>
<td>Priest Convocation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6-8, 2023</td>
<td>Priest Convocation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans</td>
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SECTION II
ACTION REQUESTED
Pastors and parish secretaries are asked to please ensure response and follow-up on the items below

ANNUAL PASTORAL REPORT

☑ All parishes were e-mailed the online fillable Annual Pastoral Report. The report is due to be completed by January 31, 2021.

From the Vatican: Theme for World Day of the sick on February 11, 2021

You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers (Mt 23:8)

Interpersonal relationships built on trust as the foundation of the holistic care of the sick

This verse establishes a clear definition of the field of care. With this background, caring is not only a professional activity, something done out of a spirit of service, a duty; it becomes instead something natural, physiological, in helping the other, who is a brother.

Furthermore, caring is not only physical, but also psychological and spiritual, because it is addressed to the entire personhood of the brother. The verse also includes a just reiteration of the quality among those who need care and those who provide it. Thus, caring becomes a witness of the brotherly relationships that should exist within the Church, in order to heal. In the field of health pastoral care, even where there is no expectation of bodily recovery, you may still work and hope for healing. This is because healing does not simply mean physical health, but also psychological reconciliation, faith, inner strength, courage and moral strength; that is, the ability not to drift even when the body is crumbling.

Order of St. Louis Reminder for Pastors and Administrators

The deadline for nominations for the Order of St. Louis IX medallion is Friday, January 22, 2021. Please email nomination to jfoltz@clarionherald.org or fax to (504) 596-3020. It is suggested that there be one honoree chosen by a parish whose registered population is less than 1,000 families, and a maximum of two if the parish population exceeds 1,000 families. Husband and wife are considered one nominee. (Please remember, religious brothers and sisters and permanent deacons are not eligible to receive this award.) Any questions, please call Jonelle Foltz at (504) 596-3036.

Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph Resources

The Year of the Eucharist Committee is developing resources for use throughout the Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph for parish, school, and ministry use. You can find what is available online now at https://nolacatholic.org/yoeresources. This page is being continuously updated, and you will be notified of major updates via email and/or the eBulletin. Spanish language resources will be included as soon as they are available.
SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are pleased to announce that the Archdiocese of New Orleans will host an annual wedding anniversary celebration for those couples who have been married for 25 years. The 2021 Silver Anniversary celebration will take place on **Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.** at St Joseph Church in New Orleans. This event is only for couples married in the year 1996 in celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary. **Please Note:** This celebration will not be a Mass, but a prayer service. Attendance of Mass for Sunday obligation will have to be met within one’s respective parish.  
**(To register, please contact the parish rectory before January 15, 2021)**

Instructions For Parishes

{Parishes are asked to register couples using an online form, which may be found at [www.nolacatholic.org/wedding-anniversary](http://www.nolacatholic.org/wedding-anniversary) by Wednesday, **January 20, 2021**, to facilitate the sending of confirmation letters, preparing of scrolls and seating of the couples. Your cooperation in maintaining this deadline is appreciated.}

“HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION’ CARDS FOR LENT

Once again this Lent, the Archdiocese of New Orleans will make available the “How to Go to Confession” cards that feature the “Examination of Conscience” on the back. If you would like to obtain these cards for your parish, please email Sarah McDonald at smcdonald@arch-no.org with the parish name, a contact name, and the number of cards you would like to order. There will be no cost to the parish. Additionally, there are a few “Evenings of Confession” banners still available through the Office of Communications. If you would like to obtain one for your parish, please be in touch with Sarah at the email address above.

Catholic Community Foundation Announces Catholic Community Professionals Virtual Networking Event

Join us! The Catholic Community Foundation is hosting its first Catholic Community Professionals (CCP) virtual networking event featuring Speaker Gordon Stevens (President and CEO of the New Orleans Steamboat Company and Gray Line Tours) on **Tuesday, January 26, from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.**! The purpose of Catholic Community Professionals is to connect Catholics of any age and at any stage in their careers by providing a platform through which they can network and talk about how their faith informs their profession. Click here to register for the event. If you would like to receive information about future CCP Zoom events, please click here to join our quarterly e-newsletter list. Questions? Please contact Callie Kamath at ckmath@ccfnola.org.
SECTION III
PARISH PUBLICITY

Announcements below are made available for publicizing to parishioners via placement in parish bulletins, on parish websites and social media, or other appropriate means.

POPE FRANCIS’ JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one other, open to all.

REGINA MATRUM AWARD

The Council of Catholic School Co-Operative Clubs (CCSCC) will present the 75th Annual Regina Matrum Award to an outstanding Catholic mother in the Archdiocese of New Orleans on Monday, May 10, 2021, the day after Mother’s Day. We invite your parish to submit an application. Please see the attached application and letter to Pastors and Principals.

SECTION IV
NEWS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Following is news and information of general interest to the local Church.

Catholic Community Foundation Announces Catholic Community Professionals Virtual Networking Event

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Employment Opportunities

Job opportunities are currently listed on our HR page: https://nolacatholic.org/employment

Please refer to our Job-Link often and share with qualified referrals!

For any submissions or inquiries on the NolaCatholic e-Bulletin, please contact communications@arch-no.org.