

# Dear Padre,

**At Mass on holy days of obligation, there's a fair crowd. But on Ash Wednesday, not a holy day, the place is packed. Your explanation?**

Indeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well, but it's "standing room only" on Ash Wednesday. Although not a day of obligation, perhaps it's considered a "holy" day by most Catholics.

There's something elemental about the smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. No matter our walk of life or social status, we want that sooty cross. It's a badge of identification, graphically reminding Catholics that it's "spiritual gut-check" time. It jogs us from our routines, spurring us to the important reality of being who we are supposed to be—fully and totally Christian. It's as if we are saying, "I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I have faults and sins, but I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live, and I'm going to try again."

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—a people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our baptismal commitment to be his people. As we celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



THOMAS SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

**Contrary to the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited a leper from drawing near, Jesus extends his hand and even touches him....Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because he is in them. Touching the poor can cleanse us from hypocrisy.**

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 22, 2016



## Calendar

**Monday**  
FEBRUARY 15  
Weekday  
Gn 4:1–15, 25  
Mk 8:11–13

**Tuesday**  
FEBRUARY 16  
Weekday  
Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10  
Mk 8:14–21

**Wednesday**  
FEBRUARY 17  
Ash Wednesday  
Jl 2:12–18  
2 Cor 5:20—6:2  
Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

**Thursday**  
FEBRUARY 18  
Thursday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Dt 30:15–20  
Lk 9:22–25

**Friday**  
FEBRUARY 19  
Friday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:1–9a  
Mt 9:14–15

**Saturday**  
FEBRUARY 20  
Saturday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:9b–14  
Lk 5:27–32

**Sunday**  
FEBRUARY 21  
First Sunday of Lent  
Gn 9:8–15  
1 Pt 3:18–22  
Mk 1:12–15

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 14, 2021  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Lv 13:1–2, 44–46  
1 Cor 10:31–11:1  
Mk 1:40–45

## Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Today's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprosy and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

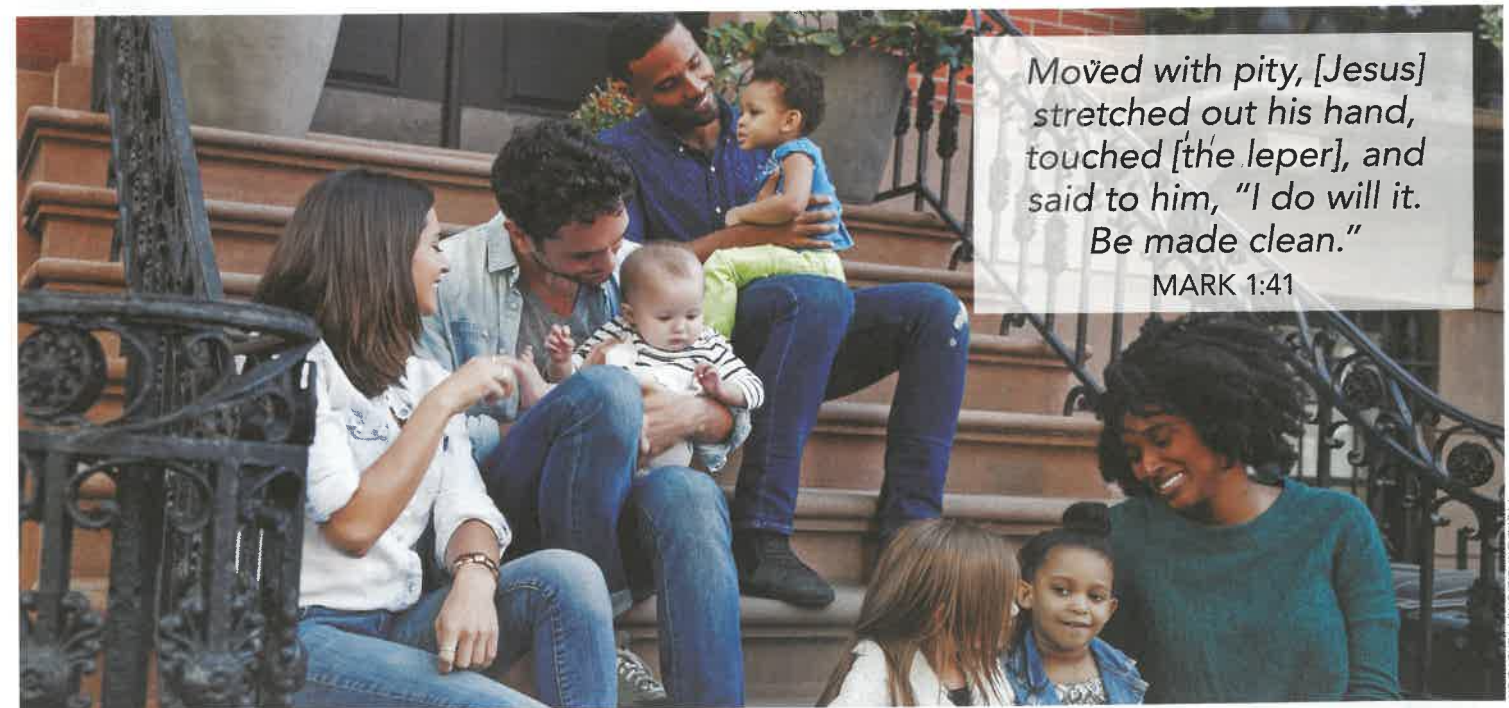
Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority,

some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- What might be done to reverse this bias?



Moved with pity, [Jesus] stretched out his hand, touched [the leper], and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."  
MARK 1:41

THOMAS SHUTTERSTOCK



# Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

1130 East San Antonio Ave  
Many, LA 71449  
Phone: 318-256-5680  
FAX: 318-256-9177

Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)  
Website: [www.stjohnmany.org](http://www.stjohnmany.org)  
Email: [office@stjohnmany.org](mailto:office@stjohnmany.org)

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH  
Deacon: Michael Sullivan  
Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal  
Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers  
DRE: Jean Rains  
Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley  
Housekeeper: Pam Little  
Music Director: Justin Lincecum

**Prayer List:** Vivian Halleck, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Allen Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Richard DeKeyzer, Trisha Adams, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Lexie King, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Brooklyn Meshell, Roy Cedars, Betty Procell Skinner, Gerry Bourgeois, Mary Jane Olsen, Caitlin Pine & Beth Prejean

**Please note:** The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.

**Parish Support**  
(Thank you for your generosity!)  
February 6th-7th, 2021

St John	\$ 5457.00
St Terence	\$ 1833.00

## This Week in our Parish

**Weekend Masses at St John:**  
Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass  
Sun, 11:00 AM  
**Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM**  
**Weekday Masses at St. John:**  
All weekday Masses cancelled during February  
**Saturday February 13th**  
By appointment Reconciliation at St. John  
3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John  
**Sunday February 14th**  
7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence  
10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John  
**Tuesday February 16th**  
9:30 AM Bible Study  
**Ash Wednesday, February 17th**  
8:00AM & 6:00 PM Mass & Distribution of Ashes  
12:00 PM Mass & Distribution of Ashes (St Terence)  
8:00AM-5:00PM St John: Adoration  
**Thursday February 18th**  
6:00 PM Bible Study  
**Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick**  
Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

**Sacrament of Baptism**  
Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

**Funerals**  
Arrangements may be made by calling the church office

**Parish calendar online:**  
<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>

**Sacrament of Matrimony**  
Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date

## Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or St. Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donations of any amount are accepted.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday February 13th**  
4:00PM 1. +Walter Lee  
2. +Earl Ebarb  
3. +Wanda Rivers  
4. +Timothy D Rivers  
5. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)  
**Sunday February 14th**  
8:00AM 1. The Parish Family  
2. +Christy Wriborg  
3. +Richard Dartez  
4. Harold & Norma Bergeron (SI)  
11:00AM 1. + Timothy Rivers  
2. + Renita Kay Parent  
3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen  
4. + Joe & Wilma Brown  
5. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)



## The Sanctuary Candle

Week of Feb 14th—Feb 20th  
St John + Renita Kay Parent  
St Terence + Sue Warrick

## Mass Notes

There will be no daily Mass during the month of February. Those wishing to attend daily Mass are encouraged to attend at St Joseph's in Zwolle: **Monday and Friday, noon; Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30AM.**

## Church Donations

Contributions may be placed in the basket in the back of the church, or mailed to the office. Online giving may be accessed by going to <http://www.stjohnmany.org/donations> Although the pandemic has minimized many of our church activities, our financial obligations continue. Thank you for your donations.

## World Marriage Day

On this World Marriage Sunday, for all couples with special anniversaries this year, we ask God's blessings on you in a special way as you celebrate this World Marriage Day!

## Society of St Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, Jesus, moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering. *By your gift to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor and hungry.*

## CCD Cancelled

There will be no CCD this **Wednesday, February 17th.** Parents are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Mass with their children.

## Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

Thanks to the generous people of our region, our Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal just concluded a solid 2020 campaign amidst a global pandemic. For those who participated with a gift, thank you for your outstanding generosity, especially in the face of such adversity. While there is much to celebrate, your Appeal programs and ministries still depend on our giving spirit as we seek to serve Christ and each other in the coming year. Please prepare in prayer on how you can "Return to the Lord," by sharing your blessings through a pledge to the 2021 Appeal campaign and encourage others to participate in this important effort of Church unity that will take place on Appeal weekend, February 27-28, 2021.

## Mass Online

We are live streaming the **Sunday 11AM Mass** on our Facebook page. Those who are ill or who are not comfortable attending Mass are invited to join us on social media and offer an act of Spiritual Communion.

## Adoration Schedule

Adoration on Ash Wednesday will begin following the 8AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed after the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 5PM, allowing for the evening Mass at 6PM.

## Ash Wednesday Special Collections

### Retired Priests of the Diocese

**February 17th** marks the time for our annual special collection benefiting the retired priests of our diocese. For a second year, this special event is being held on Ash Wednesday to secure maximum participation among the faithful. This additional exposure for this important cause resulted in 2020 marking an all-time high in donations to assist our retired clergy. As we seek to expand on this success, remember that there are eight retired priests of our diocese who are counting upon the faithful for assistance in their retirement years. All the funds collected for this special collection will stay within our area, benefiting only the retired priests that have served us in our diocese.

### Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

This effort supports 28 countries in building and restoring faith.

### Most Holy Season of Lent Approaching

Our church parish is preparing for the Lenten season. **Ash Wednesday, February 17th**, is not a holy day of obligation, but a worthy day to attend Mass and receive ashes. Ashes are used as a sign of our entry into a season of conversion, repentance, and reconciliation. The Vatican has modified the distribution of ashes for this year. The presider will bless and sprinkle the ashes with holy water, bless all present with a general blessing, and sprinkle the ashes on the head (not the forehead of each person), with no words. Holy Mass and distribution of ashes will be held on **Ash Wednesday, February 17th at 8AM and 6PM** at St John the Baptist, and at **12 noon** at Saint Terence. We will have the traditional Stations of the Cross **each Friday of Lent at 6PM** at St John.

### Stations of the Cross Servers

**Friday, February 19** Lector: Marion Koss  
Servers: Maci, Maggie & Jacob Ryan  
**Friday, February 26** Lector: Brandy Soileau  
Servers: Ava & Emma McElwee & Masen Starks

## Mission Statement

We, the people of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and St Terence Mission, in union with the Holy Father and our Bishop, being filled with the Holy Spirit, strive to promote and deepen the Catholic faith in the lives of all who share in our life together. As Disciples, we seek to worship God and find His kingdom among us and in the world around us. Our calling is to proclaim the Kingdom of God through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Eucharist, the Sacramental life, community service, evangelization, and Christian education.

# LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

*Ways to Enrich your Lenten Experience*

- Practice Lenten disciplines: Pray, Fast, Give alms
- +
- Attend daily Mass: Tuesdays, 5PM; Mon - Fri, 8AM
- +
- Attend Adoration: Wednesdays, 8:30AM - 6:00PM
- +
- Pray the Stations of the Cross: Fridays, 6PM
- +
- Go to confession: Before Mass or by appointment
- +
- Participate in CRS Rice Bowl
- +
- Pray the Rosary with us 30 minutes before each weekend Mass

## Lent: Time for a Spiritual checkup

Lent is a good time for a spiritual checkup to help deepen our relationship with God.

*The Season of Lent*



**Prayer:** Prayer is so important in our lives. It is our communication with God. In Lent, we are given the opportunity to examine our prayer life. We might discover that we do not really communicate with God or our prayer consists of memorized prayer. This is a good time to look at our prayer life and find ways that will help us get closer to God. It might be as simple as setting a daily time for prayer, even 15 minutes, and sticking to it, not just during Lent, but after the season is over. Those who already pray regularly might look for new ways to enhance their prayer life like going to Mass an extra day a week or reading some Scripture each day to learn more about Jesus. It may be to make a retreat or day of reflection.

**Fasting:** The second discipline of Lent is fasting. We can fast from food or meat, but there are other ways to fast that might benefit our spiritual lives even more. For example, we could fast from judging others, fast from complaining; fast from self-concern; or fast from discontent and negativity.

**Almsgiving:** Finally, Lent is a time to focus on almsgiving. Almsgiving traditionally means to give food or money to those less fortunate than us. Some of us do not have money or food to share. Another and sometimes more meaningful way to give alms is to give of our time and love to the poor and needy. Perhaps we can visit or call someone who is lonely, join the Society of St Vincent de Paul, offer to take someone to the grocery store, etc.

## Lenten Regulations



*Keeping a Holy Lent*

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. All the Fridays of Lent

are days of Abstinence from meat.

Fasting – There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence—All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

## LENTEN PRACTICES

- The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- Funeral Masses may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of Lent. When pastoral reasons require that a funeral be celebrated on these days, only a Funeral Outside of Mass may be held.

## HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY CRS RICE BOWL



Join our parish community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's rice bowl from the back of the church and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! Remember, what you give up for Lent changes lives.

## EASTER DUTY

All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Trinity Sunday (May 30, 2021).

## Financials for July 1 - December 31, 2020

As we approach the holy season of Lent, traditionally this is a time for us to examine our spiritual life. We prayerfully consider what spiritual contributions or positive changes we can make during Lent.

This is also a good time to examine our stewardship in an effort to give back to the Lord. Below are the mid-year financial reports for July 1 - December 31. Both 2020 and 2019 amounts are shown so that you may compare our current condition to last year's amounts, prior to the pandemic.

Your donations to the Stewardship Appeal are not included here, as they are used to support the Diocese of Shreveport. Donations to your local church may be made on the website, put in the collection basket, or mailed. Please feel free to contact the church office with questions or concerns. May God bless each of you for your support during this pandemic. We pray for you and your families during these difficult times and we ask that you pray for us.

### St. John the Baptist

	2020	2019
<b>Income:</b>		
Collections, memorials, misc.	148,868.48	181,029.13
Cemetery	9,275.00	5,435.00
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	4,053.03	4,444.14
Other misc. (reimbursements, bank transfers, etc)	27,673.28	11,838.33
<b>Total</b>	189,869.79	202,746.60
<b>Expense:</b>		
Administration (payroll, benefits, taxes, publications, etc.)	115,455.09	110,893.09
Maintenance (utilities, supplies, repairs, other misc.)	37,566.70	32,722.82
Diocesan assessments (remitted to diocese)	26,984.74	26,327.58
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	2,283.83	2,434.00
Other misc. (Reimbursements, transfers, etc)	14,961.79	13.21
<b>Total</b>	197,252.15	172,390.70
<b>Profit or loss</b>	(7,382.36)	30,355.90

### St. Terence

	2020	2019
<b>Income:</b>		
Collections, memorials, misc.	26,917.27	42,090.59
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	936.00	2,480.00
Other misc. (reimbursements, bank transfers, etc)	-	485.00
<b>Total</b>	27,853.27	45,055.59
<b>Expense:</b>		
Administration (payroll, benefits, taxes, publications, etc.)	2,719.87	2,750.36
Maintenance (utilities, supplies, repairs, other misc.)	7,071.55	8,435.44
Diocesan assessments (remitted to diocese)	6,265.54	6,370.11
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	598.00	1,400.00
Other misc. (Reimbursements, transfers, etc)	11,278.59	10,602.33
<b>Total</b>	27,933.55	29,558.24
<b>Profit or loss</b>	(80.28)	15,497.35