

**FEBRUARY 23, 2020 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.  
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time*

**Sunday, Feb 23, 2020**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**See clearly beyond racism**

How do we fight the popular recommendation to circle the wagons around “our stuff” or, worse, “our kind”? In their 1979 pastoral on racism, our bishops noted: “Racism is not merely one sin among many; it is a radical evil that divides the human family and denies the new creation of a redeemed world. To struggle against it demands an equally radical transformation, in our own minds and hearts as well as in the structure of our society.” Racism affects *everything*: immigration, education, economics, zoning laws, healthcare, and criminal justice. Pray to see the color of your values.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Leviticus* 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48 (79). “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God.”

**Monday, Feb 24, 2020**

**Let your doubt strengthen your faith**

Faith is a gift that invites us to believe in that which cannot be seen with our eyes, only our hearts. So it is not unusual to experience some doubts along life's way. A sudden death, a violent crime, or nothing you can pinpoint can trigger doubts. When doubts arise, do not be afraid. Do not run from the questions but trust that facing them can lead you to a deeper faith. When darkness clouds what you once took for granted, speak honestly to God even if you doubt God is listening, read God's word in scripture for each day, and beg the unseen God to increase your faith, as the Catechism puts it.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *James* 3:13-18; *Mark* 9:14-29. “I do believe! Help my unbelief.”

**Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020**

**[MARDI GRAS]**

**Time to resolve our differences**

Traditionally today was a day to finish off all the rich and fattening foods in the household, including meats, which were given up for Lent. Thus the origins of the term Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday” in French), and the word *carnival* might be derived from the Latin for “removing or taking away meat.” The excesses of some modern-day celebrations of the Carnival season, however, have obscured its connection with Lent. The tension between celebration and fast is nothing new. In 1559, the Dutch master Pieter Bruegel the Elder painted *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent*, contrasting

scenes of raucous celebration on one side of the painting and solemn religious observance on the other. How do you resolve the tension of excess in your own life?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *James* 4:1-10; *Mark* 9:30-37 (342). “Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.”

**Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020**

**ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

**When we do without, we grow within**

Is there any spiritual practice more tied to Lent than fasting? Forgoing creature comforts is the biblical way to express our sorrow for sin. It's a sacrifice that reminds us of what Jesus sacrificed. It also has the knack of clearing the clutter from our hearts so that our minds can focus on prayer. Make the most of your fasting this Lent by taking some advice from Saint Peter Chrysologus: “Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself.”

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Joel* 2:12-18; 2 *Corinthians* 5:20-6:2; *Matthew* 6:1-6, 16-18 (219). “Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting.”

**Thursday, Feb 27, 2020**

**THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Set your intention**

“Well begun is half done,” quipped the eminently practical Benjamin Franklin. Today is a great day to get into the spirit of Lent, if Ash Wednesday didn't fully accomplish that for you for whatever reason. We have a rare opportunity to slow down and quiet our lives for the next few weeks. What is complicating life right now that you can simplify? How about giving up stress and fasting from complications this Lent as part of your spiritual practice? Turn Lent into a positive experience of drawing ever closer to Jesus, the source of life, light, and love in your life.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Deuteronomy* 30:15-20; *Luke* 9:22-25 (220). “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then.”

**Friday, Feb 28, 2020**

**FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE**

**Think fast**

Catholics abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent for many reasons. It is a sacrifice—a reminder of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. It is an act of humility as we eat modestly. It is an experience of

solidarity with those who go without. It is penance for our past wrongdoings and an exercise in discipline to help us abstain from sin in the future. It is a form of preparation as we hunger, symbolically, for the eucharistic meal. Jesus fasted to draw closer to God and draw upon him for help. Now's your chance to do the same **TODAY'S READINGS:** *Isaiah* 58:1-9a; *Matthew* 9:14-15 (221). “The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.”

**Saturday, Feb 29, 2020**

**SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Take a leap of faith**

It's nice to know that the leap year has a historical connection to the Catholic Church. In 1582, Pope Gregory introduced the Gregorian calendar, still in use in much of the world today. The calendar corrected the former Julian calendar by providing a more accurate calculation of the year with the addition of an extra day every four years so that the calendar did not drift too far away from the actual movement of the earth around the sun. Let's give a special nod to Pope Gregory today for keeping us on track as we work to stay on course with our Lenten promises.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Isaiah* 58:9b-14; *Luke* 5:27-32 (222). “If you call the sabbath a delight, and the LORD's holy day honorable . . . then you shall delight in the LORD.”

**Next Sunday**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Count me in**

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Genesis* 2:7-9; 3:1-7; *Romans* 5:12-19; *Matthew* 4:1-11 (22). “How much more did the grace of God . . . overflow for the many.”

**Catholic Social Teaching Corner**

**Feb. 22-23 -- Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

This Sunday's Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging statements from Jesus. We are called to love even our enemies. This formidable command is not anything we can accomplish by ourselves. Only God's love working in us can transform us so that we can love in this way. What would the world look like if we all surrendered to God sufficiently so that we all loved even our enemies? That is God's challenge and promise to us. Are we willing to let God help us to love that much?



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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY Feb 22, VIGIL MASS**

For all the sick and shut in parishioners of Holy Cross

**SUNDAY, February 23, 8:00AM**

Healing Mass for Rosalind Cunningham, requested by her daughter Erin.

**SUNDAY, February 23, 10:00AM**

Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Emeka Otutu

Thanksgiving Mass, requested by Jeanette Assingbon

**TUESDAY, February 25, NOON MASS**

For all who are in need of prayer.

**ASH WED, Feb 26, NOON MASS**

All our deceased members, who have gone to be with the Lord.

**THURSDAY Feb 27, NOON MASS**

For all the souls left in purgatory, requested by Jeanette Assingbon

**FRIDAY, FEB 28<sup>th</sup>, NOON MASS**

Healing graces for Holy Cross ACTS brothers and sisters, requested by the Mullen's

**NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION**

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

**DEBT RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

This collection helps us pay our FLC loan with the diocese and other expenses. Our monthly target is \$4000. This collection is every Second Sunday of the month. Thanks for your generosity.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2020**

**Ash, 12 Noon and 6:30PM**

Ash Wednesday always occurs six and a half weeks before Easter, encompassing the 40 day period of Lent (technically 46, since Sundays are skipped). If you're wondering when the Easter 2020 date is but don't want to do the math, we'll lend you a hand: the holy day is on Sunday, **April 12, 2020**

**2020 PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND**

**DATE:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, to 13th, 2020

Please see Jennifer Brooks or Donna Sistrunk-Irving in the office.

More details to follow soon

This shall be the last parish planned Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, sponsored by Holy Cross. Please join us.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Ella Adams	Mary Anthony
Evelyn Battle	Mildred Carter
B.J. Dukes	Josephine Dukes
Vanessa Downey-Little	Monica Godsey
Lester Johnson	Vonnye Rice-Gardner
Doris King	Marie Mason
Bernadette Phifer	Ella Pease
Betty Ridley	Mary Sobers
Mary Waters	Rosalind Cunningham
Charlene Postell	

**PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Church celebrates your presence at Mass and is greatly enriched by families who give glory to God. **As we continue to cultivate an awareness of care and protection of children in the Church, please accompany them when they step out of Mass to use the restroom or get a drink of water. This also applies to the FLC.** Together, we help form our littlest ones in wisdom

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday April 5, 2020**

**Tuesday**

No Noon Mass at Holy Cross  
Chrism Mass at St. Vincent de Paul

**Thursday**

Lord Supper 6:30 PM

Adoration 7:30 PM

**Good Friday**

Fish Fry

Stations of the Cross 2:30 PM

Prayer at the Foot of the Cross 8:30 PM

**Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil 9:00 PM

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**

Thank you to those families who made a pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. It is not too late. Your gift can make a real difference in the lives of many who are supported by our diocesan programs in education, spirituality and outreach. Pledge envelopes are available on the Usher's table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

**ANNUAL MINISTRY DAY**

**RECOLLECTION**

Date: Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>

Venue: FLC Hall

By: Fr Bruce Nieli

All ministry members of Holy Cross

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2020**

Ash, 12 Noon and 6:30PM

**FRIDAY**

Every Friday, Station of the Cross  
6:30PM

**Weekend Feb 15/16, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE**

VIGIL MASS	28	5:30 pm
SUNDAY	42	8:00 am
	248	10:00 am

**Weekend FEB 15/16, 2020**

OFFERTORY	\$4556.00
CHILDREN	69.00
SVDP	470.00
E-GIVING	1512.98
SVDP(E-GIVING)	85.00
DR (E-GIVING)	383.00
DR	195.00
Gift Store	25.00

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ETC

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5124723741

