

Sharing Faith...Sharing Ideas

Fat Tuesday: the Pre-Lent Celebration

Mardi Gras, also known as **Fat Tuesday** or **Shrove Tuesday**, has been celebrated for years, as one last hurrah before Lenten sacrifices take a front seat. Fat Tuesday is our chance to get those last desserts in, enjoy that cup of coffee, cram in a few more episodes of what we've been Netflixing, or take one last look at social media before committing to sacrificing those pleasures during Lent.

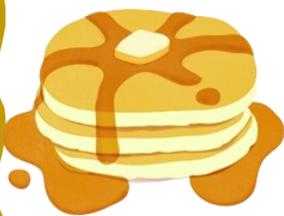


Traditionally celebrated with elaborate festivals, Mardi Gras can be a really fun way to finish off the season of Ordinary Time, as long as it's not used as an excuse to be gluttonous, greedy, or simply obnoxious. We know that the season of Lent will end in Christ's victory on the Cross, so we celebrate before Lent, confident in the feasting that will follow the fasting.

Although Mardi Gras started as a pagan celebration, Christians adopted it and turned it into an occasion to enjoy tasty foods before fully entering into a season of fasting during Lent. It wasn't always a wild display of gluttony and debauchery, but for Christians, was an acknowledgement of what's to come with Lent. Celebrating and having a good time is possible without letting our senses and desire for worldly things rule us.

Celebrate Mardi Gras and enjoy it! Wear some beads, eat some treats, enjoy some of the things you're going to part with during Lent; but don't treat it like a goodbye to whatever worldly sacrifice you're going to make. Treat it like a goodbye to attachments to anything other than Jesus, and a hello to a life caught up in the love of Christ. **It's ok to enjoy worldly things (as they ought to be enjoyed) this Fat Tuesday, but we don't mourn their loss when we enter into Lent — we see parting with them as an opportunity to grow closer to the only thing that will ever truly satisfy us: the love of Jesus.**

FAT TUESDAY—SERVE PANCAKES FOR DINNER!!



waffles, crepes and a dessert many know as king cake to utilize their dairy products. They called it Mardi Gras.

Pancake Day It started when Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all forms of meat and animal products during Lent around A.D. 600. He told St. Augustine of Canterbury, a founder of the Christian church in southern England, to enforce those same fasting rules in England. So Christians made pancakes to use up their supply of eggs, milk and butter in preparation for Lent.

Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day. When the tradition spread throughout Europe, people in France followed the trend. They made

a dessert many know as king cake to utilize their dairy products. They called it

And the English named it Pancake Day!



The pretzel has a deep spiritual meaning for Lent. In fact, it was the ancient Christian Lenten bread as far back as the fourth century. In the old Roman Empire, the faithful kept a very strict fast all through Lent: no milk, no butter, no cheese, no eggs, no cream and no meat. They made small breads of water, flour and salt, to remind themselves that Lent was a time of prayer. They shaped these breads in the form of crossed arms for in those days they crossed their arms over the breast while praying. Therefore they called the breads "little arms" (*bracellae*). From this Latin word, the Germanic people later coined the term "pretzel."

Ash Wednesday—February 17

For this year's celebration of Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, we will be following the Vatican's recommendation for distributing ashes: "sprinkling them on the top of people's heads rather than using them to make a cross on people's foreheads."

Our priests will bless the ashes with holy water at the altar and then address **the entire congregation** with the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." They will then come to each person, as they do for Communion, and drawing a small amount of ash from a container, use their fingers to sprinkle the ashes on the crown of your head.

Additionally, bags have been prepared that include Ashes (blessed at the first morning Mass), a prayer service to use with your family at home, a rosary, and a copy of our Parish "Lenten Reflection Booklet". The bags will be available throughout the day on Ash Wednesday for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend one of the scheduled opportunities. You will find the bags on a table outside of the main parish office.

INDOOR MASS, OUTDOOR or LIVESTREAM

8:30 am	Mass with imposition of Ashes
9:45-10:15	Drive Up Communion & imposition of Ashes
12:00 pm	Service of the Word & Imposition of Ashes
12:45-1:15pm	Drive up imposition of Ashes
5:00pm	Mass & Imposition of Ashes
6:30pm	Mass with imposition of Ashes
7:45-8:15pm	Drive up Communion & imposition of Ashes

THE ASHES

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance

Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021 The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

LENTEN TRADITIONS

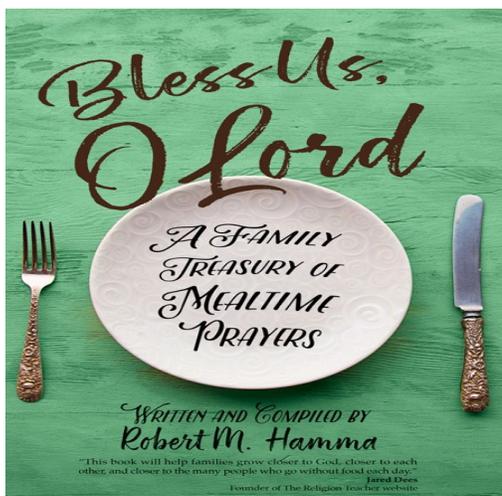
Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday with only one simple meal during the day, usually without meat.

No meat on Fridays in Lent (fish fry time!)

40 Days of Lent (really 46 but we don't count the Sundays)

FRIDAY night FISH FRY

Stations of the Cross



Grace for Sunday

February 14—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus,
In today's gospel we see that you did not hesitate to touch the leper even though his illness was contagious, and he was not supposed to come near you. In your loving kindness you healed him and brought him back to his family and friends. As we gather on this Valentine's Day, we thank you for the way you touch us, to heal us and to deepen the love among us. Please bless this meal and give us a more generous hearts. Amen.

Indoor MASS begins on Ash WEDNESDAY

Mass will be available inside the Church (yeah!) beginning on Ash Wednesday. It will also be available **OUTDOORS**. Mass will continue to be **LIVESTREAMED** as well.

THIS WEEKEND'S MASS SCHEDULE for SUNDAY...

8am, 9:15, 10:30 & 11:45; Spanish Mass at 1:00

Walk Up Communion: 1:15—1:45 *upper parking lot*

New MASS SCHEDULE begins NEXT WEEKEND

February 20, Sat 5pm

Sunday, 8am, 9:30, 11:00 & Spanish 12:30

Walk Up Communion 1:15-1:45

Adult First Communion classes Tuesday, February 23, at 7pm
5 sessions on Zoom

Question of the Week

**How do you show pity to those who suffer
Or are in need?**

Preparing your family to celebrate Mass

MASS TRANSIT CARD

February 14, 2021

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 • 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 • Mark 1:40-45

***...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God." —1 Cor. 10:31***

How could what I eat or drink glorify God? St. Paul reminds us in this reading to remember God and give him glory for all the normal, everyday things we do in our lives. It's easy to forget and take things for granted, but everything is a gift from God. Paul also reminds us to be kind to others in everyday situations. We can make choices like holding the door for others, when all we want to do is get into the place we are going. We can choose to be last in line, allowing others to go before us and offering that as a prayer. These are all small ways we can give glory to God—and show God's love—in our daily lives.

Dear Lord, I don't always feel like I can do great things to show you my love. Please help me to find small ways every day in my own life to give you glory.

What are some ways you can show glory to God in your life every day?