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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 14, 2021
VOL. 92, NO. 7



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged Him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

Mk 1:40-41

Worship with Us

MASSES

Saturday Anticipated Mass 4 pm

Sunday

8:30 am & 10:30 am

Weekdays

(M-T-W-F only) 12:05 pm

Holy Days as announced

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3 to 3:45 pm

Weekdays (M-T-W-F) 11:30-11:50 am

Always on request

Contact Us

OFFICE

412 North Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5496

Monday-Wednesday-Friday

8:30 am to 12 noon

TELEPHONE

225-387-5928

Personnel and Staff

BISHOP

Most Rev. Michael G. Duca, J.C.L., D.D.

bishop@diobr.org

PASTOR

Very Rev. Paul D. Counce, J.C.L., M.C.L.

pastor@cathedralbr.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Lorie A. Watson

office@cathedralbr.org

DEACON ASSISTANT

Deacon Gary C. Mooney

deacon@cathedralbr.org

RECEPTIONIST

Mrs. Debbie Orsot

receptionist@cathedralbr.org

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mr. Christopher Redden

chris@cathedralbr.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. David T. Summers

music@cathedralbr.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Please note the special **changes in our Parish schedule on Ash Wednesday**, February 17 this year. **Bishop Duca will celebrate Mass here at the Cathedral at 8 am** that day; you probably already know that this is the "usual" time for his televised daily Mass. That special 8 am Mass here will be televised as well, and for those attending the Mass in person ashes will be distributed.

Next, both **at 12 noon and then again at the end of the workday at 4:30 pm I will also distribute ashes to anyone who wishes to come to the Cathedral**. Yet I'm worried about our exposure to the coronavirus – something quite concerning since typically almost two thousand people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, crowd into the Cathedral for this, especially at noon-time. So **at these two later services there will be no Mass, just the giving of ashes** with the minimal prescribed prayers. By shortening our time together in this way I hope to minimize the risk for all of us.

Probably the most noticeable thing about Ash Wednesday in this year of the Covid-19 virus, will be the **different manner of distributing ashes**. The *Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments* in Rome has instructed us to adopt the "touchless" method used in most countries: **a pinch of ash is simply sprinkled** on the bowed head of the penitent. Although in North America the custom of smudging that pinch of ash onto the forehead has been around for more than a century, it is better in this time of pandemic to **avoid touching people one after another**.

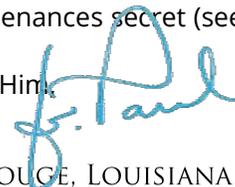
There will also be **other schedule changes**, although these are typical ones, for we have made these adjustments every Lent for years: daily **confessions** on M-T-W & F begin a bit earlier at 11:15 am. Also, our usual **Stations of the Cross** are prayed in church at 11:30 am on Lenten Fridays as well.

Finally, the Knights of Columbus of our local Council No. 13632 will lead **the rosary, prayed aloud in church before Mass twice a week**, to begin approximately 20 minutes before our 4 pm Saturday afternoon Mass, and also about 20 minutes before our Wednesday noontime daily Mass. It will offer a convenient way to re-discover this classic Catholic prayer and "do something extra for Lent" as well. While I know that many people value the quiet oasis of prayer that our beautiful Cathedral affords us day in and day out, it seems reasonable that taking a little time twice a week to offer this **opportunity for shared prayer** will be a good thing too.

Note the diocesan **regulations on fasting and abstinence** on p. 6. These formal rules provide only **token penances**: you are certainly encouraged to *fast* (eat less) and *abstain* (from meat and indeed from anything you especially love!) more during Lent than these bare minimums. In Church history, both fasting and abstinence were more severe on all Wednesdays as well as all Fridays of Lent: why not consider this for yourself and your family this year? You'd **share a bit more in the sufferings of Christ**.

So, are you ready for Lent? Do you know what you'll **do without?** and also what you'll **do extra?** Jesus Himself told us to keep our penances secret (see Mt 6:16-18), but He will know if we really are **serious!**

In Him,



COLLECTIONS



This weekend, February 13-14, we will take up the annual national collection **For the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**.

This effort supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations and upkeep, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee. Please be generous!

KC "TOOTSIE ROLL" DRIVE



This weekend, February 13-14, the men of our own *Knights of Columbus Council No. 13632* hold their popular, annual **Tootsie Roll drive** after all the Masses. Its proceeds assist *St. Mary's Residential Training School* for developmentally challenged persons, located near Alexandria. This has been a beloved charity in our State since the days of Bishop Charles Greco of Alexandria, the longtime national chaplain for the KCs.

Please support our Knights in their fundraising efforts, for they do so much good for the needy of Louisiana!

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please note that the **Parish Office will be closed** and there will be no daily Mass or confessions on Monday and Tuesday, February 15-16 for the Mardi Gras holidays. **Lent begins the following day on Ash Wednesday**, February 17 (see the box to the right for details).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 14

Masses – 8:30 and 10:30 am

♥ *Happy St. Valentine's Day!* ♥

Monday-Tuesday, February 15-16

Parish Office Closed

No Confessions or Mass

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Ashes given at 8 am Mass, and also at 12 noon and 4:30 pm without Mass

Friday, February 19

Stations of the Cross – 11:30 am

Holtzman/Birdsong Wedding Rhsl – 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 20

Farmers' Market – 8 am

Holtzman/Birdsong Wedding – 1:30 pm

Vigil Mass – 4 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY CHANGES

As Father Paul mentioned at Mass last weekend, **Ash Wednesday**, February 17, will to look **a little different** this year. ("A little different" seems to be the "new normal" since the Covid pandemic started!)

On Ash Wednesday, Bishop Duca will celebrate his usual 8 am televised daily Mass from the Cathedral. Ashes will be distributed during that Mass.

Ashes will also be given that day at 12 noon and at 4:30 pm, to accommodate everyone downtown. Yet these two services will be shorter, and not include Mass: we are trying to limit large crowds gathering for an extended period of time.

One other note: the Holy See has directed that, this year, ashes not be "smudged" on the forehead but instead **sprinkled onto the top of the head**. This is actually the practice outside of North America!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The regular collection over the weekend of February 6-7, along with donations mailed in and made during the week preceding it, totaled \$15,432.00 (\$15,088.00 from 68 Identified Givers, and the remaining \$344.00 in the loose collection). Our monthly *Maintenance Collection* on that first weekend of the month came to \$5,390.00 from 50 Identified Givers.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing generosity supporting your Cathedral Parish!

Remember that, most conveniently, you can use your bank's "**Bill Pay**" feature to give, or **mail in your contributions**, to our Parish Office, at 412 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5496. But *don't* send cash through the mails!

Special donations are also welcome, whether *memorial gifts* remembering departed loved ones, or gifts honoring living persons. You are **especially** invited to **include the Cathedral in your will** or living trust, helping to provide for our future! You might consider the gift of stock to the Cathedral, for this can have great tax advantage for you and your portfolio. On a smaller scale, you can **sponsor one or more floral arrangements** for our weekend and special event Masses.

And finally, there are **lots of other ways** that you can help us with the cost of things: altar linens, missals and lectionaries, vestments, hosts and wine, candles and oil, incense and charcoals, furniture, music materials, dry-cleaning of vestments and choir robes, statuary, and of course regular office supplies are expenses that we encounter throughout the year. In fact this year we have more "disinfecting and sanitizing" expenses due to the Covid-19 virus!

You are invited to contact either our pastor, Father Paul Counce, or our Parish's Director of Administration, Ms. Lorie Watson, at 225-387-5928 or office@cathedralbr.org for more information or if you have any questions.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Not only our own parishioners and friends but Catholics from throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge are welcome to choose their Cathedral for the celebration of the Sacraments. These important spiritual events are always scheduled through our Parish Office (you can simply call us at [225-387-5928](tel:225-387-5928) or email us at office@cathedralbr.org).

INFANT BAPTISM

A pre-baptismal preparation seminar is required of parents, as well as their scheduling the baptism with the Parish Office.

ADULT BAPTISM

Preparation for full adult Sacramental Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) occurs as part of the Parish's RCIA process throughout the year.

FIRST PENANCE & FIRST EUCHARIST

Second graders, no matter where they attend elementary school, are prepared for these Sacraments within a special program here.

CONFIRMATION

In advance of the annual "Feast of the Holy Spirit" on Pentecost, special, brief preparation programs are held here each Spring, one for our parish's teenagers who are in the eleventh grade, and another for other adults who wish to be confirmed.

MATRIMONY

Various Church regulations require at least six months of preparation for any wedding. Our advice is to call well in advance of that time to reserve a wedding date and receive information: our facilities are often booked in advance 12 to 18 months ahead-of-time!

One's own parish priest or deacon is expected to supervise the mandatory Catholic pre-nuptial preparation and officiate at the wedding ceremony here. Our own wedding coordinator will be in charge of the rehearsal and wedding too.

MARRIED IN CHRIST



Congratulations go out to **Alexander Edward Ruch and Alise Kristine Alexander**, who married here at the Cathedral on Friday evening, February 5, before Father Joshua Johnson.

May God richly bless them, that their lifelong commitment inspire us all, as we support them – and their extended family and one day their children – with our ongoing prayers.

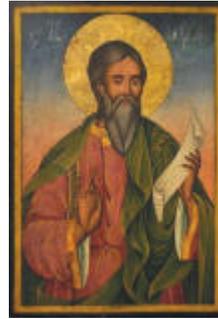
LENTEN FAITH SHARING

Parishioner Carol Asher is leading a small group sharing the Good News of Jesus as lived out by “**12 Pivotal Players**,” using **Bishop Robert Barron’s DVD presentations** about those who have shaped the Church and our Faith. These include St. John Henry Newman, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena, to name just a few.

No prior registration is needed. Just come share and be inspired: on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the Parish Hall’s Meeting Rooms. We’ll begin this Sunday, February 14!

Our **Parish Calendar**, weekly issues of *The Carpenter*, and much more information are all available on our website: www.cathedralbr.org

ST. ANDREW DINNER



Are you a young man willing to consider a vocation to the priesthood?? If so, you are invited to a special **St. Andrew Dinner** scheduled for *Tuesday, February 23, from 6:30 to 8 pm* in the Ministry Building of St. Jude Parish here in Baton Rouge. These gatherings with Bishop Duca and Father Joshua Johnson, our diocesan director of vocations recruitment, are held so that those interested can **pray, share a meal and learn more about the priesthood**. It’s a casual, “no-pressure” atmosphere in which information is shared and questions asked and answered. Telephone the Vocations Office at [225-336-8778](tel:225-336-8778) to find out more!

If someone you know may be interested, please share this invitation with him!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR “ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

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225-650-9594

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday/Sunday, February 20-21, 2021

	4 pm Fr. Paul Counce	8:30 am Fr. Paul Counce	10:30 am Fr. Paul Counce
Readers	Sharon Lambert (1) Joseph Maggio (2)	Stephanie Dauzat (1) Kelly Wilkinson (2)	Jerry Mayer (1) Bryan Vincent (2)
Servers	Gabe Jumonville	David Diez	Dickie Howze Sean Molony Caitlyn Thompson
Sacristans	Gabe Jumonville	Erick Swenson	Dickie Howze
Coffee & Donuts		Julie Brignac & Melanie Montanaro	

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE

In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as in the rest of the Church in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound by a *grave obligation* to observe a *solemn fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday*. Catholics aged 14 and up are to **abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday** as well.

To *fast* means to consume only one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink "between meals" (excepting only water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

To *abstain from meat* means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although not necessarily eggs, milk products, or meat broths or condiments made from animal fat. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted.

In addition to the mandatory days listed above, abstinence from meat on every Friday throughout the year which is not a Solemnity, and fasting on all Lenten weekdays (especially Wednesdays and Fridays) and on Holy Saturday, is *strongly recommended* to all the faithful. There always remains, of course, the grave obligation to participate at Holy Mass on all Sundays and days of obligation.

Each in his or her own way, every Christian is bound to do penance. *Only ill health or some similar situation of urgency excuses.* During the Lenten season, Christ Jesus' own challenges to "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" are paramount (see the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Mt 6:1-6, 16-18). We seek ongoing forgiveness for sin (especially in confession, that is, the Sacrament of Penance) and come to appreciate ever more the great sufferings and sacrifice which Our Savior experienced for the sake of our salvation.

All diocesan clergy (priests and deacons) in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have been delegated the power to *dispense* the faithful of the diocese, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the obligation to observe a particular day of penance, or to commute some or all of its obligations to other pious works. Included in this is the faculty to dispense from the Lenten obligations to fast and abstain from meat.

Remember, the **obligation to do some kind of Lenten penance remains a serious one**, and is not taken lightly by a good Catholic.

LENTEN PREPARATION

Of course, many people "**give up**" something for Lent. That's a great idea, but if you'd like to take a different approach this year, here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Reconcile with someone you don't like or someone you generally avoid
- ◆ Perform "random acts of kindness" without expecting anything in return
- ◆ Resolve neither to listen to nor pass on gossip
- ◆ Study, meditate and pray over one or two Bible passages each day
- ◆ Clean out your closets and give gently-used clothing and household items to a charity
- ◆ Bring a bag of groceries for the Parish's bi-weekly Food Pantry
- ◆ Make sure to come to weekday Mass, at least twice a week

Whatever you choose, take a moment to think about God while you do it. You may be surprised at the difference these acts will make in your attitude and your everyday appreciation for the blessings God shares with us!

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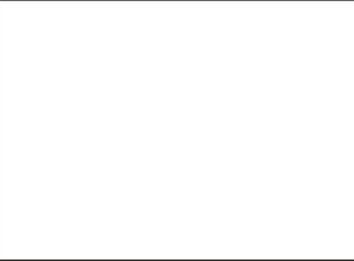

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