

### What are the Origins of Ash Wednesday and the Use of Ashes?

The liturgical use of ashes originated in the Old Testament times. Ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, and penance. For instance, in the Book of Esther, Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes when he heard of the decree of King Ahasuerus (or Xerxes, 485-464 B.C.) of Persia to kill all of the Jewish people in the Persian Empire (Esther 4:1). Job (whose story was written between the 7th and 5th centuries B.C.) repented in sackcloth and ashes (Job 42:6). Prophesying the Babylonian captivity of Jerusalem, Daniel (c. 550 B.C.) wrote, "I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). In the 5th century B.C., after Jonah's preaching of conversion and repentance, the town of Nineveh proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, and the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in the ashes (Jonah 3:5-6). These Old Testament examples evidence both a recognized practice of using ashes and a common understanding of their symbolism.

Jesus Himself also made reference to ashes: Referring to towns that refused to repent of sin although they had witnessed the miracles and heard the gospel, our Lord said, "If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, they would have reformed in sackcloth and ashes long ago" (Matthew 11:21).

The early Church continued the usage of ashes for the same symbolic reasons. In his book, *De Poenitentia*, Tertullian (c. 160-220) prescribed that the penitent must "live without joy in the roughness of sackcloth and the squalor of ashes." Eusebius (260-340), the famous early Church historian, recounted in his *The History of the Church* how an apostate named Natalis came to Pope Zephyrinus clothed in sackcloth and ashes begging forgiveness. Also during this time, for those who were required to do public penance, the priest sprinkled ashes on the head of the person leaving confession.

In the Middle Ages (at least by the time of the eighth century), those who were about to die were laid on the ground on top of sackcloth sprinkled with ashes. The priest would bless the dying person with holy water, saying, "Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shall return." After the sprinkling, the priest asked, "Art thou content with sackcloth and ashes in testimony of thy penance before the Lord in the day of judgment?" To which the dying person replied, "I am content." In all of these examples, the symbolism of mourning, mortality, and penance is clear.

Eventually, the use of ashes was adapted to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day preparation period (not including Sundays) for Easter. The ritual for the "Day of Ashes" is found in the earliest editions of the Gregorian Sacramentary which dates at least to the 8th century. About the year 1000, an Anglo-Saxon priest named Aelfric preached, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast." As an aside, Aelfric reinforced his point by then telling of a man who refused to go to Church on Ash Wednesday and receive ashes; the man was killed a few days later in a boar hunt. Since the Middle Ages, the Church has used ashes to mark the beginning of the penitential season of Lent, when we remember our mortality and mourn for our sins.

In our present liturgy for Ash Wednesday, we use ashes made from the burned palm branches distributed on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. The priest blesses the ashes and imposes them on the foreheads of the faithful, making the sign of the cross and saying, "Remember, man you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we begin the holy season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we must remember the significance of the ashes we have received: We mourn and do penance for our sins. We again convert our hearts to the Lord, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. We renew the promises made at our baptism, when we died to an old life and rose to a new life with Christ. Finally, mindful that the kingdom of this world passes away, we strive to live the kingdom of God now and look forward to its fulfillment in heaven.

-Rev. William P. Saunders



**MASS INTENTIONS**



**For the Week of March 12, 2019 – March 17, 2019**

**8:00 A.M. – Tuesday March 12**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Macon Bascle family,*

*Remy Reulet family, Mark & Billy Pellegrin*

**8:00 A.M. – Wednesday March 13**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Brooke & Brittany*

**8:00 A.M. – Thursday March 14**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Clay Boquet*

**8:00 A.M. - Friday, March 15**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Elizabeth Guilfou(B), Leslie Bascle (B)*

**4:00P.M. - Saturday, March 16**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Loyd Savin, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Wilbert & Elsie Hebert, Linda Ann Hebert, Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert, Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee, Wayne G. Cancienne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux, Keri Lynn Niette, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Ruth Pinell, Terry Lynn Blanchard*

**8:00A.M. - Sunday, March 17**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Judith & Donald Lirette Jr., Sue Bueche, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle, Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Cindy R. Broussard, Clinton & Wilma Picou, Julien Eschete, Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Sterling & Mary Ellen Authement, Sterling Authement Jr., Mark & Randy Naquin, Marion & Irma Bascle, Norman & Eunice Falgout, Eugene & Leona Theriot, Israel & Mae Authement, Tel Meeker, Larry Falgout, Dean & Dot Bascle, David & Iris Bascle, Tessa Dupre, Allen Theriot, Craig Dupre, Butch, Eugene Theriot Jr., Earline Theriot, David Percle, Francis & Iris Theriot, Patricia Grabert, Becky Gautreaux, Phillip Theriot, David Massey, Jenna Theriot, Norman Falgout Jr., Chris Boudreaux, James Bergeron, Margie & Elton Thibodaux, Paul Jackson, Angela Authement, Meva Blanchard, Vera Authement (B), Mary Ellen Authement (DA), Jerry & Betty Bascle, Christopher Madere*

**10:00A.M. - Sunday, March 17**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Geraldine Dupre, Norris & Diana Bourg, Melvin Hebert, Ruth Pinell Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Terry Lynn Blanchard*

**MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2019**

The Sanctuary light burns this week in memory of *Brent Boquet* requested by the Bourg Lioness.

The Altar Bread is in memory of *Macon Bascle* requested by Randolph & Kathie Bascle.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**March 2 & 3 2019:** Envelopes: \$ +Loose: \$+ \$ (Online)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**YOUTH FORMATION NIGHTS:**

**Monday 7-8:15p.m. (6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)**

March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday 6-7:00 p.m. (K-5)**

March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

**First Communion practice:**

March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> during class

**First Communion Mass:**

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.

Cake and punch reception to follow in the center

If you have any questions please Call Lisa L. @ 985-852-2007

**Nazareth Night!!**

**Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

Nazareth night is a ministry meant to support families.

The night consists of music, spiritual talk/teaching, adoration/benediction, followed by a pot luck supper.

**All ages are welcome!**

**WAY OF THE CROSS**

All Friday's in Lent there will be a Children's Way of the Cross at 5 P.M.

Mass will be celebrated at 6 P.M. followed by the Way of the Cross.

**ST. ANN LENTEN MISSION NIGHTS:**

Thursday, March 21 at 6 P.M.

Thursday, March 28 at 6 P.M.

Thursday, April 3 at 6 P.M

**Please consider praying for a Priest/Seminarian on the designated days below:**

**March 2019**

| Sunday                     | Monday                        | Tuesday                  | Wednesday                         | Thursday                    | Friday                    | Saturday                          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                            |                               |                          |                                   |                             | 1 Rev. Mike<br>Tran       | 2 Rev. James<br>Van Thien         |
| 3 Very Rev.<br>Jay Baker   | 4 Rev. Noas<br>Kerketta       | 5 Rev. Amang<br>Santiago | 6 Rev. Raja<br>Karurnelnathan     | 7 Rev. Cody<br>Chatagnier   | 8 Msgr.<br>Donald Ledet   | 9 Msgr.<br>Brunet                 |
| 10 Seminarian<br>Joseph L. | 11 Seminarian<br>Piotr Klewek | 12 Rev.<br>Michael B.    | 13 Rev. Joey<br>Lirette           | 14 Rev. Andre<br>Melancon   | 15 Rev. Antonio<br>Speedy | 16Seminarian<br>Matthew Prosperie |
| 17 Rev.Roch<br>Naquin      | 18 Rev.<br>Wilfredo Decal     | 19 Rev. Ty<br>Nguyen     | 20 Seminarian<br>Caleb Anderson   | 21 Rev. Jerry<br>Villarubia | 22 Bishop<br>Sam Jacobs   | 23 Rev. Sovi<br>DeVasia           |
| 24 Rev. Alex<br>Gaudet     | 25 Rev. Joe<br>Varughese      | 26 Rev. Joey<br>Pilola   | 27 Seminarian<br>Stephen Castille | 28 Rev. Glenn<br>LeCompte   | 29 Msgr. Cletus<br>Egbi   | 30 Rev.A.<br>Luzon Jr.,           |

**CHURCH CLEANING: Week of March 17– Charlene, Lyndell, Shirley, Janet, Una, Jeannie**

| <b>MASSES</b>                   | <b>MINISTERS<br/>OF THE EUCHARIST</b>    | <b>COMMENTATOR/<br/>LECTOR</b> | <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>                | <b>USHERS</b>                |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b><u>March 16 &amp; 17</u></b> |  |                                |                                     |                              |
| <b>SATURDAY<br/>4:00P.M.</b>    | <b>Randolph, Kathie<br/>Yvonne, June</b> | <b>Hayes, Connie</b>           | <b>Trenton, Taylor</b>              | <b>Steve B., Dave, Ollie</b> |
| <b>SUNDAY<br/>8:00A.M.</b>      | <b>Cecil, Irma<br/>Patsy, Dana</b>       | <b>Christine, Doug</b>         | <b>Caleb, Lucas</b>                 | <b>Doug, Numa, Claude</b>    |
| <b>10:00A.M.</b>                | <b>Leslie, Paula, Gerald, Melody</b>     | <b>Youth</b>                   | <b>Donte', Alexis, Brooke, Anna</b> | <b>youth</b>                 |

