



Mandeville
Schedule

Sundays	11:00 AM
Tuesdays	5:00 PM
Wednesdays	8:00 AM

Ash Wednesday Collection

It is time again for our annual Ash Wednesday Collection for our sister Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica. Since the last collection, Mandeville has installed a new Bishop, Most Rev. John D. Persaud and we all have suffered from a global pandemic. We are painfully aware that this year is different than most. Jamaica has been hit hard by COVID and as a developing country, lacks the resources we have to help the vast number of people affected by the pandemic.

Yet, many of us will not be able to attend in-person services for Ash Wednesday to participate live in the collection for our brothers and Sisters in Mandeville. We hope those of you who can attend service on Ash Wednesday will remember to contribute to Mandeville. And for those of you who will attend Ash Wednesday services on-line, we want to encourage you to participate as well. So you can donate to the collection for Mandeville at your convenience by making any donation to Catholic Charities on-line

(<https://owensborodiocese.org/give/> and select Catholic Charities) or by texting the word “give” to 270-200-5919 anytime from Wednesday, February 10th through Sunday, February 21st, 2021.

The Diocese of Mandeville, like our own diocese, has specific concerns for their Catholic Diocesan schools, which have been badly affected by the pandemic. Although they continued online classes for most of last year, there were numerous challenges with access to Wi-Fi and devices for many students. Parents who were already struggling have been experiencing even greater difficulties. The result has been that schools have collected almost no school fees for most of 2020.

The Diocese has been giving additional support to try to continue paying teachers, who are trying very hard through the challenges and whose income is very low anyway. The Diocese is therefore trying to see how to help the school to stay afloat until the situation improves. The need is great, but we have confidence that our generosity and love is greater. So please give to the Ash Wednesday collection and pray for our brothers and sisters in Mandeville.

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P.O. Box 463
(270) 237-4404



February 07, 2021

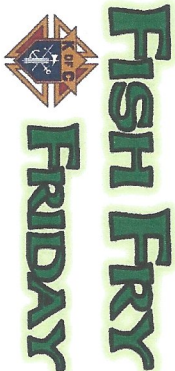
Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Mark 1:29-39

Because she is pictured as being in Simon’s house alone (i.e. without a husband), Peter’s mother-in-law is probably understood to be a widow by Mark’s audience. The wonder or sign is not so much in her being “cured” as it is in her restoration to her place in the family, an important theme in this gospel. It’s hard to miss the liturgical language in the story of Simon’s mother-in-law. Mark tells us she is reclining in her house (the same verb that is used for reclining at table in the eucharist/meal stories), and, after Jesus raises her (the same verb is used of Jesus’ resurrection), she ministers to the group (the same verb is used repeatedly to signal service within the group of disciples, both at table and as the characteristic attitude of Jesus’ followers). This is typical Marcan prefiguring: this nameless woman (shades of 14:9!), whose healing and service is immediately overshadowed by a huge crowd in the very next verse, is the model of discipleship. Her actions demonstrate that she already knows, out of her own experience, that healing implies an obligation of service. This is a lesson that will come much more slowly and painfully to the Twelve in Mark’s gospel. The description of the whole “city” being gathered outside Simon’s door indicates that this is a small village, an out of the way place, one of those settings that don’t matter very much to the outside world but matter a great deal in the context of the story. Jesus is literally going to the least of people in the least of places.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Tue Feb 09 5:00pm Weekday Mass
Wed Feb 10 8:00am Weekday Mass
Wed Feb 17 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass



The first Fish Fry this year will be a drive-through on February 26. The Knights will take pre-orders. March 26 is a tentative date for the second Fish Fry, hopefully in Spiritual Hall

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center



*Registration for summer camps are now open at our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org

Space will be limited this summer so please do not hesitate and get signed up early to reserve your spot!

*Summer staff applications are open on our website. If you are or know a college aged young adult please apply or encourage them to apply for the chance to allow God to use them to make a difference in the life of a child! It's the greatest job in the world!

Ash Wednesday Collection
Please read the article
on the back of this bulletin

PASTOR'S COLUMN

We are approaching Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday will be a little different than what we are used to. Directives have come down from the Vatican that the distribution of ashes is to be done differently than it is usually done in the US due to COVID. The ashes will be blessed like normal and then the words that are usually said when ashes are distributed, either “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” or “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” are said over everyone together. Then comes the part that will be a shock for most of us here. If you wish to receive ashes you will come forward and the ashes will be given by sprinkling them over your head rather than smearing them on your forehead.

This will be a dramatic change for us here in the US because we wear our ashes as a mark of pride. The statistics say that Ash Wednesday is actually the most attended Mass of the year in the US. I think that these smears of ashes are why. Because even if people have drifted away from the practice of their Catholic faith they still consider themselves Catholic and Ash Wednesday is the day when we wear a badge declaring that we are Catholic for all the world to see. However, this is not how most of the rest of the world celebrates Ash Wednesday. I remember in college seminary I had a friend from Poland, and every year on Ash Wednesday he would comment how strange it was that we had the ashes smeared on our foreheads and walked around with them like that all day long. How did they do it in Poland? Exactly how we are ordered to do it this year. He came from a country where the vast majority of people were Catholic. There was no reason for people to wear their Catholicism on their head for everyone to see because almost everyone was Catholic. For us here it has come to signify not just the repentance of sins but also a declaration that we are Catholic. Because we are a minority here that is significant, elsewhere in the world not so much. So how we are being asked to receive the ashes this year is in line with how it is done in much of the world.

If I am honest I have long had an issue with wearing the ashes on our foreheads. Since I have been a priest it has seemed odd to me that on a day where the Gospel reading we hear tell us to be private about our prayer and acts of faith and charity, we go around with a big black cross on our forehead that publicly proclaims our faith. Literally on the day where we hear, “When you are fasting wash your face, and do not let others know that you are fasting.” We do not wash our face so that everyone can see our ashes and know that we are fasting. I know that is not the reason why we do it, and particularly in a place where we are a greatly outnumbered as we are here in Western KY, there is value in that public declaration of faith. However, this year as you walk around on Ash Wednesday with no ashes visible, focus instead on the repentance that those ashes represent.

Yours, in Christ, Fr. Daniel Dillard

Health Benefits of “Dry” January (or February!)

A “Dry” January (or February!) is a month long break from drinking alcohol that was originally started by a United Kingdom organization to help reset people’s relationship with alcohol. A 2016 study published in Health Psychology found that six months after the end of Dry January (or February!), people who had participated reported having fewer drinks per day, drinking fewer days a week, and getting intoxicated less often. (Heavy drinkers should only quit with medical assistance as they can experience a life threatening form of withdrawal).

Ash Wednesday Mass

Mass will be celebrated Feb 17 at 7:00 pm. and will look a little different. The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a facemask, and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything. See Fr. Daniel’s column for his thoughts.