

St. Benedict Parish
Ash Wednesday Mass
The Start of our Lenten Season



February 17, 2021

Lord,

I know how much you love me. It's hard for me to feel it sometimes, but I know your love is always with me. Help me to use your love as a way to persevere in my Lenten intentions. I am weak, but I know with your help, I can use these small sacrifices in my life to draw closer to you. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Ashes" by Tom Conry © 1978, 2019, OCP.

- 1. We rise again from ashes, from the good we failed to do.
We rise again from ashes, redeemed, O Lord, by you.
Our penance, Lord, our sorrow, our grieving hearts renew,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.*
- 2. We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts,
The gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Our stumblings, give directions, our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.*
- 3. Then rise again from ashes, your healing ease our pain.
Though spring has turned to winter, and sunshine turned to rain,
Your rain will nurture growing and create the world a new
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.*

Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading: Joel 2:12-18

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber.

Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17*

Cantor: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

All: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Cantor: *Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.*

All: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Cantor: *For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always:*

"Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight."

All: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Cantor: *A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.*

Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

All: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Cantor: *Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.*

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

The Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2*

Lector: *A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.*

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

Presider: *The Lord be with you.* **All:** *And with your Spirit.*

Presider: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

All: *Glory to you O, Lord.*

Presider: *Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.*

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing of the Ashes

Presider: Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your + blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

***In Silence the Presider will sprinkle the ashes with Holy Water.*

After the sprinkling of Holy Water

Presider: Repent and believe in the Gospel.

Or

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

***One of the above statements will be said only once (not to each person) and then each person will be "sprinkled" with ashes. No cross will be formed on the forehead.*

Distribution of Ashes (Form of Sprinkling)

Ashes Hymn: "With These Ashes" by: Gerard Chiusano © 2006, OCP

Refrain: With these ashes, we know your love, O Lord. With these ashes, we turn our hearts to you. Daughters and sons, we journey as one. With these ashes, we know your love, O Lord.

1. *Joining together on this journey with you, we walk these forty days and nights. Called by your grace, we answer in faith; O Lord, lead us to your light. (Ref.)*

2. *With prayer and service, we will answer your call. With voices raised, we share your word. Called by your grace, we answer in faith; O Lord, let our cry be heard. (Ref.)*
3. *We give of what we have to all those in need. We give as you would have us do. Called by your grace, we answer in faith; O Lord, lead us back to you. (Ref.)*
4. *And for those many times we stumble and fall, your mercy rains from heaven above. Called by your grace, we answer in faith; O Lord, lead us to your love. (Ref.)*

General Intercessions

Response: "Merciful Savior, hear our prayer."

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Preparation Hymn: "Remember Your Love"

by: Darryl Ducote & Gary Daigle © 1973, 1978, OCP

Refrain: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord. Remember your people and have mercy on us Lord.

1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life and my refuge when I call God hears. (Ref.)*
2. *If you dwell, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand? But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand. (Ref.)*

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sung)

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mystery of Faith (Sung)

All: Save us Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Great Amen (Sung)

All: Amen, amen, amen!

The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God (Sung)

All: Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Communion Hymn: A Meditation will be used during this time.

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Recessional Hymn: "Lord Who Throughout these Forty Days"

by: St. Flavian & Claudia Hernaman © 1563, 1838, OCP

- 1. Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.*
- 2. As you will Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.*
- 3. As you did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us gracious Lord, to die to self, and always live by your most holy word.*
- 4. And through these days of penitence and through your passion-tide, forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*