

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

February 23, 2020

Immaculate Conception

Major

306-834-2269

Pastor

Parish Council Chairperson

CWL President

Father Dan Yasinski

Gordon Stang

Aimée Stang



WE ARE ON THE NET!! www.kldmatholic.com

MASS TIMES: February - March

Luseland Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Major Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Kerrobert Sunday 9 a.m.

Dodsland Sunday 11 a.m.

Collection: \$425

2019 CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for 2019 are now available. Please see Ray. Thank you for your generous donations.

WEEKLY MASS: ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES:

Luseland 9 am

Major 5 pm

Kerrobert 7 pm

GOSPEL REFLECTION: – Matthew 5:38-48

The beautiful and challenging "Sermon on the Mount" continues with words from Jesus that present a radical call to love, forgiveness and non-violence. His words echo the first reading's call to "love your neighbour," with Jesus offering powerful, counter-cultural examples. While legalistic eye-for-eye justice seems fair to us, Jesus calls for a new way of responding, a new way of living, a much more radical and loving response. Turning the other cheek, giving more than we are sued for, lending to all who ask, and loving our enemies – this is how we are called to imitate our perfect, loving God.

1. Is it possible to respond in the loving way that Jesus is demanding? Can you recall examples of those who have lived this call?
2. Judgment and revenge seem natural responses to being hurt. What can help us to instead offer peace and goodness?
3. Has a loving response in the face of difficulty ever made a difference in your own life? Has God's generous love ever moved you to love an enemy?

BIBLE STUDY IN MAJOR

We will be starting Bible Study on March 10th and run for four weeks. There is still time to sign up! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

S.I.N.G. – SUICIDE INTERVENTION NECESSITY GUIDANCE

Holding Life in Our Hands – This program creates a clear path to individual care. Pamphlets on accessing this program are available in the church entrance and available to everyone. Website – www.preventsuicide.ca or call 1-306-630-7126 or 1-306-737-7200.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement involving Christians from over 170 countries coming together to pray for relevant issues affecting women and children. This year, the resources are from Zimbabwe, reflecting on the scripture passage: "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk" (John 5:2-9). See: <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer> for more information Watch for local services in your community on the World Day of Prayer to be held **Friday, March 6**. Celebrations across our diocese include:

- **Denzil - 7:00 p.m.** at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Denzil, SK.

Attendants: February 29, 2020

Readers	Chris Cook	Blanche Wack
Offering	Duane & Jody Bazylinski	
Wine Ministry	Blanche Wack	Garry Walz
Children's Liturgy	Sharon Stang	

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Who can turn the other cheek, give away their coat, go two miles instead of one, love enemies and pray for all those who persecute them?

Not us. Not without you, Lord. As you did from your cross, let us wage love, not war.

Help us go way beyond nonviolence. Give us generosity of spirit. We want to love as you do. AMEN

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 26, 2020

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.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

Recently, movements have developed that involve pastors distributing ashes to passersby in public places. This isn't considered taboo, but Catholics should know this practice is distinctly Protestant.

Catholics should still receive ashes within the context of Mass.

In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told

"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

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.