

The Readings are on pages 132-137 of the book UNITED IN CHRIST

Let us all sing together:

Entrance: — 713 —

Amazing Grace.

Offertory: —695— Open

My Eyes.

Song for the Giving of

Ashes: — 559 - Hosea

**Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day**

Today we mark the beginning of Lent by receiving the mark of ashes on our foreheads. They are a sign of our sinfulness, but also of our repentance.

Young and old, rich and poor, male and female, we are all sinful and we all stand before God and each other in need of forgiveness.

As we listen to the Word of God today let us think of how we can turn away from sin and return to God.



**Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word**

The readings we hear today provide a recipe for what God asks of us during Lent.

In Matthew, Jesus counsels his disciples to pray, fast, and give alms, and to do so privately. The ashes we receive today appear to belie this directive. But the key to what Jesus asks of us is that it should be done sincerely, from the heart, not for show.

The importance of acting from the heart echoes Joel in today's first reading: "return to me with your whole heart." And St. Paul says, "Now is the acceptable time."

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**CELEBRANT:**

In the first reading, we heard that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in kindness. We now come before God with sincere hearts, trusting that God will respond to our needs.

**LECTOR:**

- 1) For the whole Church, that this season of repentance may be an opportunity to turn our hearts to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and community leaders, that they may work together to ease the burdens of those who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are hungry because food is unavailable or unaffordable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the ashes we receive today may be a sign to others of our sinfulness and need for repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the prayers that we hold this day in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

**CELEBRANT:** Lord our God, today we mark the beginning of this penitential season. We turn to you with our prayers and ask that you hear us, through Christ our Lord.

**The COLLECTION at our ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES will go to CHARITY.**



**We are saddened to hear of the death of +RUDY REGALADO. We extend our sincere sympathy to Marilyn and the whole Regalado family. May eternal light shine upon Rudy.**



**WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

The Code of Canon Law prescribes the following:

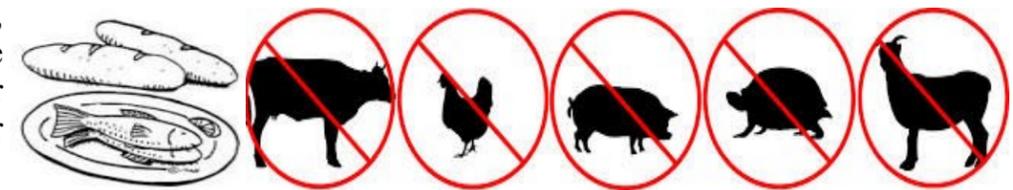
**Can. 1250:** The Penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.

**Can. 1251:** Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Can. 1252:** The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.

In the United States, The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has declared that "the age of fasting is from the completion of the eighteenth year to the beginning of the sixtieth." The USCCB also allows the substitution of some other form of penance for abstinence on all the Fridays of the year, except for those Fridays in Lent. Thus, the rules for fasting and abstinence in the United States are:

- 1) Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent.
- 2) Every person between the age 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- 3) Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on all other Fridays of the year, unless he or she substitutes some other form of penance for abstinence.



**EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT:**

**4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunity for Confessions.**

**5:30 PM — Mass**

**6:00 PM — Stations of the Cross (bilingual).**

**PENANCE SERVICES:**

\*\*\* **The St. Richard Parish Penance Service and individual Confessions will be on March 16, 2018, Friday, at 6:00 PM.** Two other priests will come to help Fr. George hear individual Confessions.

\*\*\* **The Christ the King Mission Penance Service and individual Confessions will be on March 23, 2018 (Friday), at 6:00 PM.** Two other priests will come to help Fr. George hear Confessions.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

**March 25 — Palm Sunday.**

**March 29 — Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM with Washing of the Feet.**

**March 30 — Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Richard Church at 3:00 PM in English and at 5:00 PM in Spanish; and at Christ the King Mission at 8:00 PM (bilingual).**

**March 31 — Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 PM.**

**April 1 — EASTER SUNDAY: Mass at 9:30 AM; and at Christ the King Mission at 12 PM.**

