

The Origin of Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th. Roman Catholic churches use this service to prepare church members to better appreciate the death and resurrection of Christ through self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial. The priest marks a cross on the foreheads of worshipers with blessed ashes from burned palms of last year's Palm Sunday celebration. He recites the scriptural admonition from Genesis 3:19: "Remember man, that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." Besides showing sorrow for their sins, those who honor Ash Wednesday add an additional meaning; the need to prepare for a holy death.

Ash Wednesday has a non-Christian origin and was accepted into the beliefs of the Catholic Church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. The council also settled upon the 40-day fast period as the standard length to celebrate Lent. During this Lenten time period, Constantine's goal was to combine pagans and Christians into a peaceable unit within the Roman kingdom.

Even after the Council of Nicaea, the beginning / start date of Lent was still questioned. In 601, Pope Gregory moved the beginning of Lent from the fourth Sunday of the year to Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter. This change allowed for 40 days of fasting with six Sundays counted as feast days, for a total of 46 days for Lent. Pope Gregory also instituted the tradition of marking parishioner's foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross.

Ash Wednesday is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, however, from Biblical times, sprinkling oneself with ashes has been a mark of sorrow for sin. Several times the Bible mentions people repenting in dust and ashes; for example: Mordecai (Esther 4:1), Job (Job 42:6), the inhabitants of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-6), and Daniel (Daniel 9:3-4). Repentance in dust and ashes often was accompanied with fasting during Biblical times.

Saint Christopher Catholic Church

160 Holt Spur Drive

Jamestown, Tennessee 38556

Reverend Father Michael Sweeney, Pastor



February 10, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Masses: Saturday Vigil: 6:30 P.M. (CST)

Holy Days (Vigil): 6:00 P.M. (CST)

Confessions: After Mass (1st Saturday of month or as needed)

Spanish Communion Service: Sundays 8:00 A.M.(CST)

Father Michael Sweeney: Rectory 865-882-9838

Emergency: 865-216-6453



**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week
(February 17, 2018)**

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**Readers:** M. Criswell / P. Dalton / R. Germann  
**Altar Servers:** W. Allen / D. Briggs  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Vaughn / L. Savastano  
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February Sacristan: Wanda Hailey
Hospitality: Linda Savastano
KoC Round Table Coordinator: George Savastano
Mass Intentions: Sarah Mahon
Webmaster: Stormy Allen
Web-Page: www.saintchristopherjamestown.com
..... www.facebook.com/saintchristopherjamestown
Bulletin: Mary Germann
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**INTENTIONS**



Together, let us pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters. Remember the sick, home-bound, caregivers and recovering of our parish and all those on the St. Christopher prayer list (available to view in the narthex) in your daily prayers: Juan Herrera; Zachary Chamness, grandson of George & Linda Savastano; Cissy and Vickie, daughters of Joyce Vaughn; Pete Yahner, brother of Sarah Mahon; Don Briggs; Mary Henise; Joyce Mulligan; Bruce Bigard, brother of Allen Bigard; Mollie Ann Wenzel, daughter of a friend of Allen Bigard; Kate Cunningham; Teddie Stevenson; Leo Duchon; Mike Emmons; Mike Baldalament and for those of us who suffer in silence. Also, pray for our military personnel, especially those serving in harm's way. For these and all other unspoken needs; we pray to the Lord.

**ATTENDANCE & DONATIONS**

**February 3, 2018**

Parish: \$ 452  
Building Fund: \$ 115

Sat. Night Service / Bilingual Service: 39 / 12  
Funeral of Lavern Marsch: 40  
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MASS INTENTIONS

February 10, 2018

For the Repose of the soul of **James Dalton**;
Requested by his **wife, Peggy Dalton**.
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Message from Sharon Brayton: The **Mother Teresa Guild** will meet **tomorrow**, February 11th at **2 pm CST** in Saint Christopher Hall. All ladies of Saint Christopher are invited to attend. We need your support!  
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Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 14th. **Services** here at St. Christopher will be **Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00pm**.
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Family and friends bade farewell to **Lucy Marsch** at a visitation and celebratory Requiem Mass in St. Christopher Church on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Linda and Richard have traveled to Ohio to see over her final resting place. May Lucy rest in peace in the welcoming arms of her God and Savior. Amen! Alleluia!

**Liturgical Ministers for Future Week(s)**

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Feb. 13th **Readers:** W. Allen / P. Dalton / B. Rindler
Shrove Tues **Altar Servers:** J. Brayton / S. Brayton
(6:00 pm) **Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Hailey / J. Vaughn
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**Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>** **Readers:** W. Allen / P. Dalton / S. Mahon  
**Altar Servers:** J. Rindler / B. Rindler  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Hailey / J. Vaughn