



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026



About Mass

If this is your first time at a Catholic Mass, welcome! We hope the beauty of this worship inspires you to draw closer to God in prayer.

Mass is a *liturgical* form of worship. You'll observe prescribed prayers, gestures, and movement. For Catholics, worship is about bringing our thoughts and intentions into harmony with the Church's prayer. When we worship, we want to conform ourselves to the image of God. Structure helps us do that.

If you're not familiar with the Mass, follow along in this guide. Listen to what is taking place.

Mass is divided into two parts. To start, we ask forgiveness for our

sins. Then, we read Scripture: readings from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament, and from the Gospels. We close this part of Mass with the homily, a short message reflecting on the readings and today's feast day.

Part two of Mass is the celebration of the Lord's Supper. You'll see prayers about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross in atonement for our sins, and prayers asking for mercy on the Church.

Catholics believe that the bread and wine of Communion become the actual body and blood of Jesus. This distinguishes us from our brothers and sisters in many other Christian denominations who believe that communion is merely symbolic of Jesus.

Ashes and Lent

This April, we celebrate Easter Sunday, the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead and reconciled all people to God. It is the holiest day of our faith. Before we celebrate that day, we want to look inward, discerning where we've failed God and hurt others, so that we can restore our relationships with them. That process begins today and

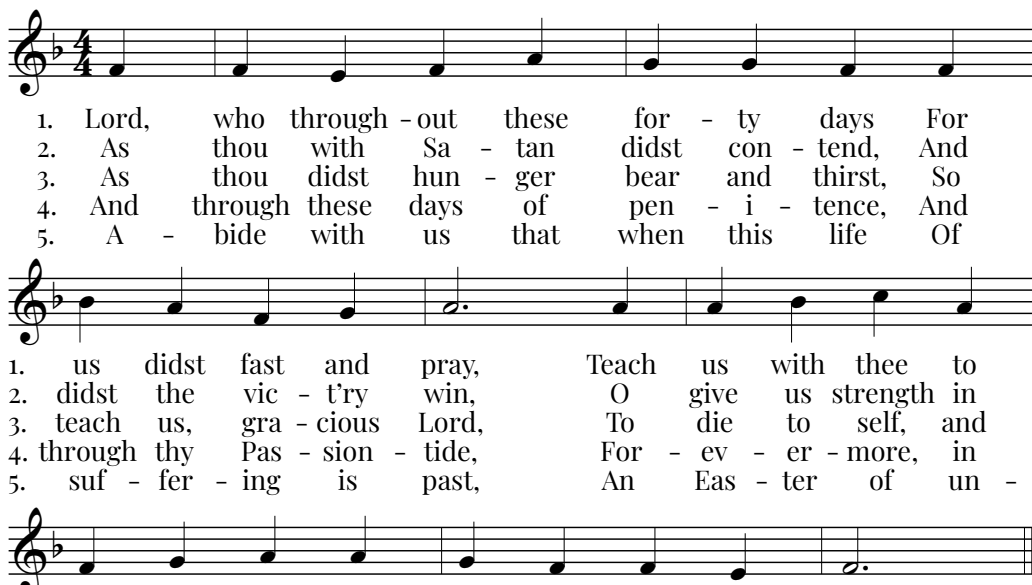
continues for the next forty days.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance. Old Testament figures like Job and the people of Nineveh wore sackcloth and ashes as an outward sign of their sorrow for their sins. We wear ashes today for the same reason.

The Introductory Rites

PLEASE STAND

Entrance Hymn Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days



1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days For
2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And
3. As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, So
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And
5. A - bide with us that when this life Of

1. us didst fast and pray, Teach us with thee to
2. didst the vic - t'ry win, O give us strength in
3. teach us, gra - cious Lord, To die to self, and
4. through thy Pas - sion - tide, For - ev - er - more, in
5. suf - fer - ing is past, An Eas - ter of un -

1. mourn our sins, And close by thee to stay.
2. thee to fight, In thee to con - quer sin.
3. ev - er live By thy most ho - ly word.
4. life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
5. end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898, alt.

The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1562

Greeting

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Liturgy of the Word

Each day, the Church listens to a set of readings that typically include an Old Testament passage and/or a New Testament passage, a Psalm, and a

reading from a Gospel. If you follow the readings each day, you'll have read nearly the whole of Sacred Scripture in one year.

First Reading Joel 2: 12-18

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

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

Be mer-ci - ful, — O Lord, for we have sinned.

Text: ICEL, @ 1969, 1981, 1997. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Music: Michael Accurso, © 2019, Liturgical Music Source. All rights reserved.

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. **R.**

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.” **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

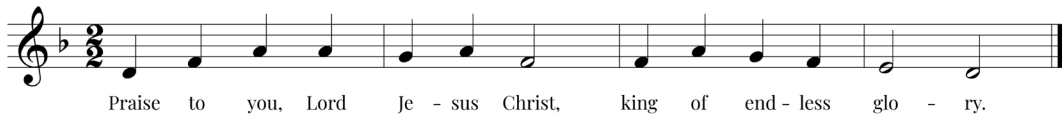
Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 95:8



Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL

Music: Mass of St. Michael, Michael D. O'Connor, O.P. © 2011, World Library Publications. All rights reserved

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reader: The Lord be with you. **All:** And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

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.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

If the Archbishop is present, please remain standing after the Gospel.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Homily

PLEASE STAND

Universal Prayer

Together, we pray for the intentions of our local church community.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Liturgy of the Eucharist

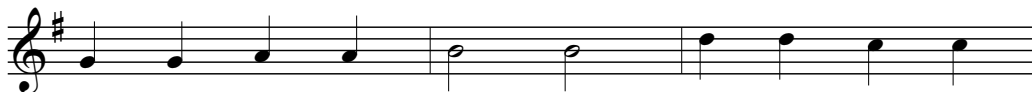
The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving” in Greek. It is another name for the Lord’s Supper, the commemoration of Jesus’ final acts before his crucifixion. Catholics believe that the bread and wine we receive at Communion truly become

the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This is different from many other Christians, who believe Communion is only a symbol. When Catholics kneel during this time, it is because we believe God is truly present under the appearance of Bread and Wine.

Offertory Hymn Have Mercy, Lord, On Us



1. Have mer - cy, Lord, on us, For
2. Lord, wash a - way our guilt, And
3. The joy thy grace can give Let
4. To God the Fa - ther, Son, And



1. thou art ev - er kind; Though we have sinned be -
2. cleanse us from our sin; For we con - fess our
3. us a - gain ob - tain; And may thy Spir - it's
4. Spir - it glo - ry be, Who was and is and



1. fore thee, Lord, Thy mer - cy let us find.
2. wrongs and see How great our guilt hath been.
3. firm sup - port Our spir - its then sus - tain.
4. shall be so For all e - ter - ni - ty.

*A New Version of the Psalms of David, London, 1698
Nahum Tate, 1652–1715, and Nicholas Brady, 1659–1726, alt.*

The Psalms of David in English Metre, London, 1579

PLEASE STAND

Preface Dialogue

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

The celebrant prays.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right and just.

Priest: It is truly right and just...

Sanctus

San -ctus, San -ctus, San -ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -
ba - oth. Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a.
Ho - sán - na in ex - cél - sis. Be - ne - dí - ctus qui ve - nit in
nó - mi - ne Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán - na in ex - cél - sis.

Text and music: Chant; *Graduale Romanum*, 1974.

PLEASE KNEEL

Mystery of Faith

All

Mor-tem tu - am an-nun-ti - á-mus, Dó - mi-ne, et tu - am
re-sur-re-cti - ó-nem con-fi - té - mur, do - nec vé-ni - as.

Text and music: *Chant Mass; Graduale Romanum*, 1974.

PLEASE STAND

Sign of Peace

We turn to our neighbors, shake hands, and say "Peace be with you."

Agnus Dei

A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se -
ré - re no - bis. A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta
mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis. A-gnus De - i,
qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Text and music: *Chant; Graduale Romanum*, 1974.

PLEASE KNEEL

Final Elevation

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon



Receiving Communion

We invite members of the Catholic Church to receive the Body and Blood of Holy Communion. For non-Catholic visitors and others not receiving Communion, we invite you to receive a blessing. Signal this to our ministers by crossing your arms over your chest when you reach the front of the line.



The Concluding Rites

Distribution of Ashes *Again We Keep This Solemn Fast*



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, A
2. The law and proph - ets from of old In
3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make The
4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way That
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three - in - One, Our



1. gift of faith from a - ges past, This Lent which binds us
2. fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which Christ, all a - ges'
3. words we speak, the food we take, Our sleep, our laugh - ter,
4. lures the care - less mind a - stray; By watch - ful prayer our
5. God while end - less a - ges run, That this, our Lent of



1. lov - ing - ly To faith and hope and char - i - ty.
2. Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
3. ev - 'ry sense; Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.
4. spir - its free From schem - ing of the en - e - my.
5. for - ty days, May bring us growth and give you praise.

Ex more docti mystico

Attr. to Gregory the Great, c. 540–604

Tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli and John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Tr. © 1975,

Peter J. Scagnelli, pub. by WLP

Geistliche Lieder, Wittenberg, 1543

FRIDAYS IN LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:15 AM and 7:00 PM

FISH FRIES

5:00-7:30 PM

Kenny Hall

CATHEDRALCTK.COM/LENT

REAL PRAYER

WITH MATTHEW LEONARD



**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 23**



**KENNY
HALL**



**12:45 PM
7:00 PM**

Catholic author Matthew Leonard will introduce the basics of prayer and practical steps to make actual progress in the spiritual life. This event is free, open to all, and includes lunch/dinner. Join us at one or both sessions.

RSVP AT CATHEDRALCTK.COM/MATTHEW