

February 21, 2020
**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICES
CANCELED**

Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Today's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprosy and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority,

some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- What might be done to reverse this bias?



Moved with pity, [Jesus] stretched out his hand, touched [the leper], and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

MARK 1:41

Dear Padre,

At Mass on holy days of obligation, there's a fair crowd. But on Ash Wednesday, not a holy day, the place is packed. Your explanation?

Indeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well, but it's "standing room only" on Ash Wednesday. Although not a day of obligation, perhaps it's considered a "holy" day by most Catholics.

There's something elemental about the smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. No matter our walk of life or social status, we want that sooty cross. It's a badge of identification, graphically reminding Catholics that it's "spiritual gut-check" time. It jogs us from our routines, spurring us to the important reality of being who we are supposed to be—fully and totally Christian. It's as if we are saying, "I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I have faults and sins, but I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live, and I'm going to try again."

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—a people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our baptismal commitment to be his people. As we celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Contrary to the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited a leper from drawing near, Jesus extends his hand and even touches him....Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because he is in them. Touching the poor can cleanse us from hypocrisy.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 22, 2016

Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 15
Weekday

Gn 4:1-15, 25
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 16
Weekday

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 17
Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday
FEBRUARY 18
Thursday after

Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

Friday
FEBRUARY 19
Friday after

Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 20
Saturday after

Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday
FEBRUARY 21
First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15



The Catholic Communities of Saint Michael the Archangel

1352 E 3rd Street, Forest, MS 39074



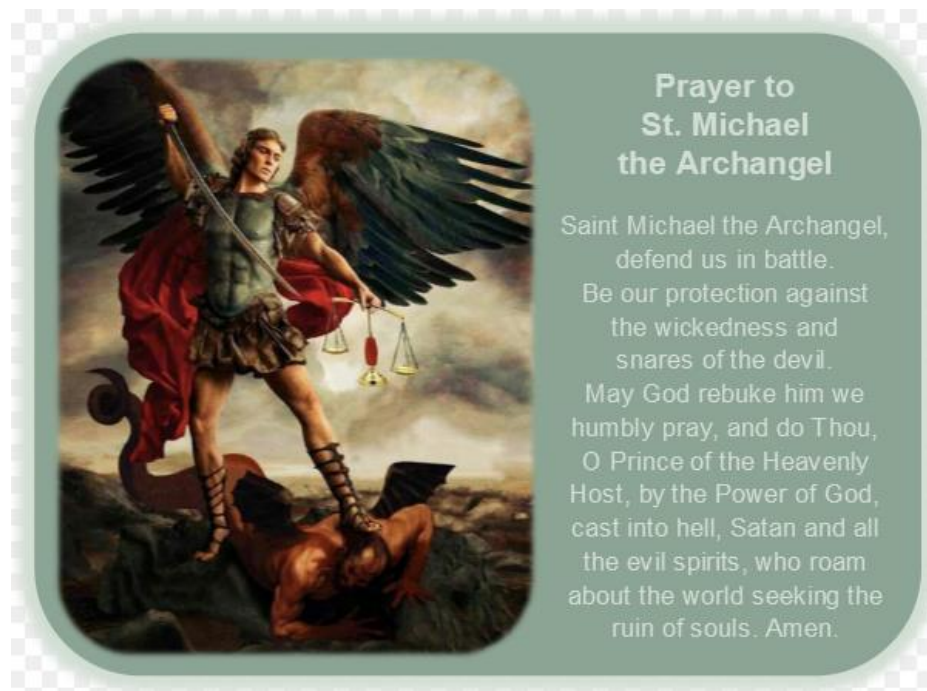
ST. MICHAEL, FOREST San MARTIN de PORRES, MORTON ST. ANNE, NEWTON ST. MICHAEL, PAULDING	<p>(601) 469-1916</p> <p>Email: stmichael@stmichaelms.org</p> <p>website: https://stmichaelms.org</p>
Please welcome Fr. Alexis with the Servants of the Most Holy Trinity as our Sacramental Minister.	<p>908-246-7382 hombre1539@gmail.com</p>
Diane Pratt, Office Mngr Office: Please call before coming to the office.	<p>(601) 469-1916 Hrs: M & Th, 9-3 T & W, 9-4 F, 9-1</p>
In case of Emergency, call Liz Edmondson or Katherine Smith	<p>601-668-1832 or 228-217-1270</p>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – I DOMINGO DE CUARESMA February 21, 2021

MASS SCHEDULE	
Masses TBA →	F – ST. MICHAEL at Paulding
Masses TBA →	F - ST. ANNE, NEWTON
	9:00 AM – ST. MICHAEL, FOREST (Eng.)
	11:30 AM – ST. MICHAEL, FOREST (Spanish)
	1:00 PM – ST. MICHAEL, FOREST (Spanish)
CONFESSIONS: by appointment. Please contact Fr. Alexis by phone or email (above).	2:30 PM – ST. MICHAEL, FOREST (Vietnamese)
	5:00 PM – (Saturday) St. Martin de Porres Chapel, Morton, MS SAN MARTIN, MORTON (Spanish)

St. Michael Forest: Jan. to date - \$8447.00; Vigillia-\$241.0 ^
Morton: Jan. to date – \$2329.00; Rent-\$1837.00

St Anne: Jan. to date - \$7708.00
Paulding: Jan to date - \$6057.00



Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Please pray for the sick and shut-ins, and those serving in the military and law enforcement and all afflicted with the covid virus, especially in our church family, and our healthcare workers.

Por favor oren por los enfermos y encierros, y los que sirven en el ejército y la aplicación de la ley y todos los afligidos con el virus covid, especialmente en nuestra familia de la iglesia, y nuestros trabajadores de la salud.

IN THE MILITARY: TJ Cochran, Andrew Moncrief, Brad Edmondson, Miranda Green, Yvonne Green McNair, John Johnson and Ronnie Thrash

FOREST: Liz Edmondson, Sherry Pender, Paula Chambers, Landon Byrd, Flo Chambers, Mitch & Mary Nichols, Tresea Cheatwood; Diane Hopton; Kevin Devore, Vicky Russell Stokes, RoseAnn Lynn, Brigido Perez, Max Moya, George Edward, Carra Barr, Peggy Thornton, Alice Burns, Theresa Francisco, Mildred Guyse.

NEWTON: Toni Blackwell, Fern Hawkins, John Munn, Mark Dyer, Eileen Wooley, Don Therrin, Lonnie Green, and Juliette Therrin

PAULDING: Joan Hammons, Kathy Sheperd, Sonny Gross, Ricky McDevitt, John Paul McDevitt, Martha Smith, William Earl Smith

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING DECEASED IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mr. & Mrs. Barton, Al Beltran, Mary Matlock, John Park, Lois Helbert, Ronnie Thomas, W. F. Finnegan, Frank Santos.
(Names remain for one year.)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTES, and NEEDS

Bulletin announcements may be emailed or called to the Church by Noon Wednesdays

- **ATTENTION: If you are a member of any of St. Michael's Communities (English, Spanish or Vietnamese), have been affected by COVID and need monetary assistance with rent or utilities, please contact Diane at the Office (601-469-1916). She will explain how to apply and provide the required forms.**
- **THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** will be prayed every Wednesday at 5:30 beginning Feb. 3 (except Ash Wednesday). Any and all are invited to attend whenever possible inside the church or in your car. Handouts will be available.
- The theme for our Catholic Service Appeal is "Enbrace – Serve – Inspire". The CSA gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family by supporting programs and services no parish alone can offer. Every gift, regardless of the size, is important to the success of the appeal. To reach our parish goal we are asking each of you to support the Catholic Service Appeal for the many gifts God has given to you.
- **We will begin planning for CCD to resume very soon. Please be in prayer as we struggle to begin again.**

Unless otherwise notified, Masses will continue as scheduled **WITH masks and distancing**. You may still sit in your car and participate with your radio set to **FM Station channel 87.9**. We will bring communion out to you. For those coming inside, PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR IN THE 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH ROW OF LOTS.

FRAUD PREVENTION HOTLINE. The Diocese of Jackson's Department of Temporal Affairs has engaged Lighthouse Services to provide an anonymous financial fraud, compliance, ethics, and human resources hotline. This hotline allows for an appropriate method to report occurrences related to the temporal administration within parishes, schools and the chancery office. www.lighthouse-services.com/jacksondiocese
English speaking USA: 888-830-0004. Spanish speaking USA: 800-216-1288



A Lenten Prayer

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season,

nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

NECESIDADES, NOTAS Y ANUNCIOS DE LA PARROQUIA

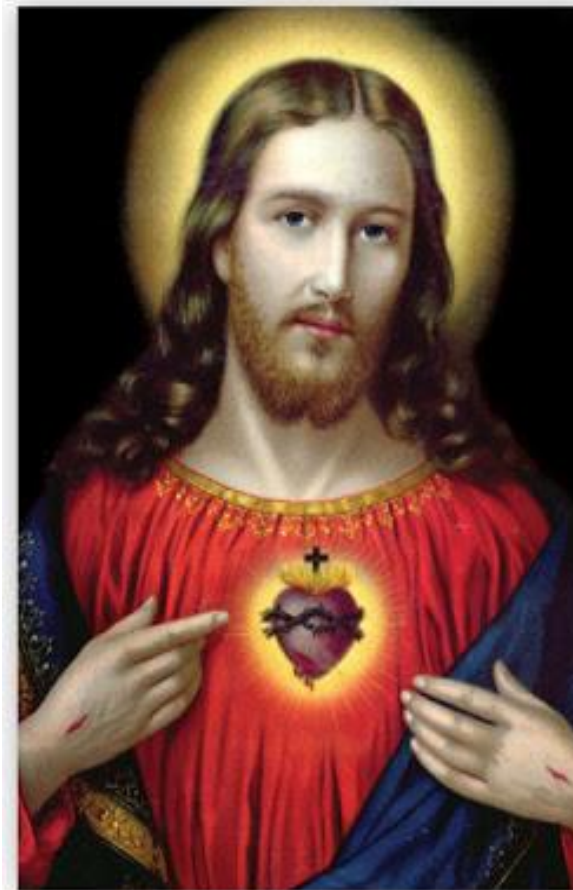
Los anuncios de Boletín pueden enviarse por correo electrónico o llamarse a la Iglesia antes de los miércoles del mediodía

- **ATENCION:** Si usted es miembro de cualquiera de las Comunidades de St. Michael (Inglés, Español o Vietnamita), han sido afectados por COVID y necesitan asistencia monetaria con alquiler o servicios públicos, comuníquese con Diane en la Oficina (601-469-1916). Ella explicará cómo aplicar y proporcionar los formularios requeridos.
- **EL CHAPLET DE LA DIVINA MERCY** se orará todos los miércoles a las 5:30 a partir del 3 de febrero. (Excepto miércoles de Ceniza.)
- El tema de nuestra **Campana del Servicio Católico** de este año es “Mi Espíritu se Regocija”. Esta campana nos da la oportunidad de actuar juntos como una familia diocesana para apoyar los programas y servicios que las parroquias no pueden ofrecer por sí solas. Cada alcanzar nuestra meta parroquial pedimos de cada uno su apoyo a esta Campana como agradecimiento a todos los dones que Dios nos ha dado.
- **Comenzaremos a planificar que CCD se resuma muy pronto. Por favor, estén en oración mientras luchamos por comenzar de nuevo.**

A menos que se notifique lo contrario, las misas continuarán como se programó **con máscaras y distanciamiento**. Todavía puede sentarse en su coche y participar con su radio establecida en el canal **87.9 de la estación de FM**. Te traeremos la comunión. Para aquellos que vienen dentro, **POR FAVOR, PARK SU COCHE EN EL 2ND, 3RD Y 4TH ROW DE LOTS**

LÍNEA DIRECTA DE PREVENCIÓN DE FRAUDE. El Departamento de Asuntos Temporales de la Diócesis de Jackson ha contratado a Lighthouse Services para proporcionar una línea directa anónima de fraude financiero, cumplimiento, ética y recursos humanos. Esta línea directa permite un método adecuado para reportar sucesos relacionados con la administración temporal dentro de parroquias, escuelas y la oficina de cancillería. www.lighthouse-services.com/jacksondiocese

Habla inglés USA: 888-830-0004. Hispanohablante USA: 800-216-1288



CUARESMA

Oh Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
Dame un corazón igual al tuyo;
Un corazón lleno de amor, que sienta compasión
por los sufrimientos de los demás;
un corazón puro que rehúya
aún ante la aparición de la maldad;
un corazón desprendido del amor propio
y acogido por el amor de Dios,
que tenga su atención centrada en Dios,
su bondad siendo su único tesoro
en el tiempo y en la eternidad.
—Santa Magdalena Sofía Barat

Oh Jesús, mi corazón es pequeño,
temeroso y muy tímido. Siempre será así.
Mas tú me dices, “Ven a mi corazón.
Mi corazón es manso y humilde
y muy quebrantado como el tuyo. No temas.
Ven y permítele a tu corazón encontrar
descanso en el mío y confiar en que todo estará bien.”
Quiero venir Jesús, y estar contigo.
Aquí estoy, Señor, toma mi corazón y permítele ser un
corazón lleno con tu amor.
—Henri J.M. Nouwen

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Printing of The Sacred Heart of Jesus by English School, 19-051