



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
Joel 2:13

Dear Saints,

Quinquagesima 14 Feb. 2021

Pre-Lenten season comes to its end this week, giving way to Ash Wednesday. **The Ash Wednesday Liturgy** leads us into the penitential season of Lent – a season marked by stripping away the non-essential and the unimportant, by listening in quietness to the groaning of all creation as it writhes in sinfulness, by reflecting on our own sinfulness and on God's gift of forgiveness which comes through his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered as a man of sorrows bearing the sins of the world. Lent brings a mood of contrition. Ash Wednesday accentuates and intensifies our sense of mortality: Putting to death the old nature, the old creation.

We begin the season and this liturgy with a powerful Act of Confession, greatly expanded over our usual Brief Order: a penitential Psalm, an exhortation to keep the Discipline of Lent in the struggle against sin, a public cataloging of our collective and individual wrong-doings, and the silence of self-examination and renewal. We stand before God with contrite hearts, knowing our weaknesses and failings, spurred on by the vision of our Savior tempted, afflicted, and oppressed en route to Calvary.

At this point in most acts of confession, we receive the absolution of forgiveness. Instead, tonight we hear the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” and we are so marked with the dust of ashes. The non-essential is stripped away. The unimportant is removed. In this act, we finally confess that all our finery, clothing, possessions, abilities – all that we think that makes us who we are – is not at all who we are. We are only dust, and we stand as like beings before the Lord.

Our whole season of Lent will be one of true repentance, deep reflection, moral reformation.

But there is also the new creation, the new self birthed in Holy Baptism. Lent accentuates and intensifies resurrection life, too. Put off the old, put on the new. Bring on life with all of its trials and challenges. We are a renewed people. Lent, then, is to time for us what Baptism has been to our spirits and bodies. A ritual of death and resurrection. The rhythm of this season prepares us for life.

	Feb. 14	Quinquagesima	1 Sam. 16:1–13 or Is. 35:3–7	Psalm 89:18–29 or Psalm 146	1 Cor. 13:1–13	Luke 18:31–43
ASH WEDNESDAY	Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19 or Jonah 3:1–10	Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Peter 1:2–11	Matt. 6:(1–6) 16–21
LENT	Feb. 21	First S. in Lent (Invocabit)	Gen 3:1–21 or 1 Sam. 17:40–51	Psalm 32 or Psalm 118:1–13	2 Cor. 6:1–10 or Heb. 4:14–16	Matt. 4:1–11

Quinquagesima. 14 Feb. Color: Green. Procession: 665; Kyrie 943; Gloria 946; Hymn of the Day: 504; Psalm 146 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn, Soloist Helena Pickering; Post-Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord, p.164; Recessional: 738.

Shrove Tuesday Private Confession: From 1630-1800 at the Bombaro home.
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner @ 6pm at the Bombaro home.

Ash Wednesday @ 6pm, 17 Feb. Color: Black or Bare. Enter in silence.

First Sunday in Lent. 21 Feb. Color: Purple. Procession; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day;; Psalm 32 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn;; Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional.

Catechesis. Sunday catechesis for all from 1400 - 1445.

UPCOMING: (1) Shrove (Fat) Tuesday, Pancake dinner at the Bombaro home @ 6pm.
(2) Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes & Mass @ 6pm



Thank you! The Bombaro family thanks all of you for your well wishes and inquiries concerning our health and welfare. We thank the Lord that our illnesses were brief and without seriousness. Special thanks to Nathan MacPherson for well-navigating the sermon last week, as well as Bible study. We appreciated the opportunity to recover, but eagerly look forward to resuming Mass with you.

Congratulations! Julia Elizabeth Williams was baptized into Christ last Sunday by her father, the Rev. Marcus Williams in Havre, MT. Jill continues to make a good recovery, with Julie aiding her this week. Mike has returned home safely.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John