

January 17, 2010

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish & Newman Center

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Believe it or not, Lent will begin a month from today. That is, Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is a very special day, marking us as humble followers of Jesus Christ, in need of His grace and redemption. This is especially evident in the words of the minister as we are signed with the ashes: "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel."

This year, you will have two opportunities to receive ashes: 1) There will be an Ash Wednesday *Service* at 11:00am in the English Chapel at ONU; and 2) an Ash Wednesday *Mass* will be celebrated at 7:00pm, here at Our Lady of Lourdes. Whichever one you choose, you will be able to be signed with the ashes, and begin Lent in the spirit of penance and deeper conversion.

"So, Fr. Dave," you may be thinking, "why not offer Ash Wednesday Mass at the ONU chapel?" Well, this year the University Chaplain invited our parish & the Newman Club to lead one of the weekly campus "Chapel Services." This is an ecumenical worship service, and it seemed to me that an Ash Wednesday Service would be the ideal opportunity to celebrate with the wider ONU community. This will be a service (rather than a Mass) because it will not include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but will simply end with the distribution of ashes.

As you know, the Holy Eucharist is the heart of our Catholic faith; "the source & summit" of our faith, as the Second Vatican Council teaches. While we hope & pray for a unity of faith for all Christians, this is not the case today, and so we are not yet able to share Holy Communion with those of other faith traditions. It's not because we think that we are "better" or "holier" than non-Catholics, or anything like that. It's in no way a judgment on non-Catholics, or their own faith tradition.

Instead, the reasons are purely these: 1) If a person does not truly believe that the Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; and 2) does not share the communion of beliefs of the Catholic Church, they should simply refrain from receiving Holy Communion. Essentially, receiving Holy Communion in the Catholic Church is a very sacred affirmation of our faith: in the Lord, in the Eucharist, and in the Catholic Church. For a non-Catholic to receive the Eucharist, without sharing in this unifying faith, would be not only disingenuous, but would generally conflict with their own faith tradition, which we strive to treat with the same due respect & reverence which we kindly request of them.

With these things in mind, I decided having an Ash Wednesday Service would be the wisest choice; that is, one in which we could share in a facet of the diamond of future Christian unity, by having all Christians there present able to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ, and join in the marking of ashes, as an outward sign of the universal call to conversion of heart in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

With love & prayers, Fr. Dave

Sacraments & Devotions at Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass: (Sept. - May) Saturday - 5:00 pm ~ Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am* ~ * Second Sunday of each month (during ONU school year), 11:15 at English Chapel
On the Fourth Sunday of each month, when ONU classes are in session, there is a Third Sunday Mass at 8:30 pm in the English Chapel.

Mass: (June - August) Saturday - 5:00 pm and Sunday - 10:00 am ~ **Daily Mass** (All year): Monday through Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

Confessions: Every Saturday - 4:30 - 4:45 pm or by appointment.

Communal Penance Services in Advent* and Lent

*includes First Reconciliation for PSR Grade 2 students

Baptisms: Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to make an appointment with the pastor, at least one month in advance. Baptisms are normally celebrated within one of our Sunday Masses, but may also be scheduled on Sunday afternoons, directly following the last Mass.

Marriage: Couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to contact the pastor at least six months *in advance*, in order to meet with him before setting a date, or making any further arrangements. Couples are also required to attend an approved marriage preparation course, in addition to regular meetings with the pastor.

Confirmation: Students in Seventh Grade (& any in Grades 8-12 who are not confirmed) prepare & celebrate the Sacrament each year. College students & other adults who wish to be Confirmed should contact the Pastor.

Anointing of the Sick: Communal celebrations of this sacrament occur twice annually (Advent & Lent). Individual anointings are available upon request, or by appointment. Should you have family or friends in need of the sacrament, please contact the pastor as soon as possible.

RCIA: The "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" is the process by which an adult becomes a member of the Catholic Church. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the Church, please contact the pastor for more information. For preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for children (outside of the Parish School of Religion) contact the Pastor.