

MASS INTENTIONS For 02/14/26 through 02/20/26

SATURDAY - February 14th - 5:00 p.m.

+AARON VIGIL by the Vigil Family

SUNDAY - February 15th

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - 8:00 a.m.

JESSICA STOLL (health & healing) by Debbie Monnet

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - 10:30 a.m.

+JOE EDDIE ARMIJO by Theresa Armijo & family

+BEN FINN by the Richard & Esther Vigil

MONDAY - February 16th - No Mass in Church
No Mass Intentions

TUESDAY - February 17th - 5:30 p.m.

For Parish Intentions & the People of St. Francis Xavier

WEDNESDAY - February 18th - 5:30 p.m.

+HELEN MONNET by Debbie Monnet

THURSDAY - February 19th - 5:30 p.m.

No Mass Intentions

FRIDAY - February 20th - 5:30 p.m.

No Mass Intentions

Ash Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m., February 18th



Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. It is a solemn day where ashes are applied to the forehead as a symbol of grief for sins, mortality, humility, repentance and the biblical reminder, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day period of Lent which commemorates Jesus' fasting in the desert, lasting from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday.

Donations Requested to Decorate Our Church for Easter

To help decorate our Church for Easter, we are kindly asking for monetary donations for Easter Lilies and spring flowers. If you put it in the collection basket, be sure to mark the envelope "Easter Flowers" or you can bring to the office. The week before Easter, you will be able to bring your own spring flowers for us to decorate. Thank you in advance.

Stations of the Cross

Beginning Friday, February 20th, Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:15 p.m. They will be held every Friday during Lent.

"We adore, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have Redeemed the World."

Readings and Feast Days for 02/15/26 through 02/21/26

15 SUN SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME green Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

16 Mon Weekday green Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

17 Tue Weekday [The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order] green/white Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

18 Wed Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

19 Thu Thursday after Ash Wednesday violet Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

20 Fri Friday after Ash Wednesday violet Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

21 Sat Saturday after Ash Wednesday [Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church] violet Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

We will continue selling our Sunday Missals until the end of February. The cost is \$5.00 and they are available in the back of the church.

MONDAY NIGHT BINGO

Every Monday Bingo will be held in the Parish Hall. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. and will end at 9:00 p.m. Pull Tabs and Concessions will be available. Please join us and be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors.



Here are the Church regulations for fasting and abstinence during Lent:



- Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Everyone 18 or older, until age 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Everyone 18 or older, until age 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

Understanding the Mass

The Penitential Act: **Preparing Our Hearts**



As the Mass begins and we gather as God's people, the Church invites us to pause and look honestly at our hearts through the Penitential Act. This moment is not meant to discourage us or weigh us down with shame. Rather, it is a sacred pause—a gentle but truthful preparation that helps us enter more fully into the mystery we are about to celebrate.

We acknowledge our sins because we come before God as we truly are, not as we wish to appear. Scripture reminds us that God desires “truth in the inward being” (Psalm 51:8). By naming our sinfulness together, we recognize that none of us approaches the altar by our own perfection. We come as people in need of mercy. This shared confession also unites us as a community: no one stands above another, and no one is alone in their weakness. In admitting our sins, we open ourselves to God's healing grace, which restores and strengthens us for worship.

At the heart of the Penitential Act is the repeated cry, “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.” These words are not a fearful plea to an angry God, but a prayer rooted in deep trust. Throughout the Gospels, those who cry out for mercy do so with confidence that Jesus will respond with compassion—the blind man, the leper, the repentant sinner. When we echo these words at Mass, we place ourselves among them. We trust that the Lord who calls us to repentance is the same Lord who longs to forgive. Mercy, in this sense, is not simply pardon; it is God's loving nearness to us in our need.

It is important to understand the difference between guilt and conversion. Guilt, when unhealthy, keeps us focused on ourselves—on our failures, our regrets, and our unworthiness. It can become paralyzing, leading us to withdraw from God rather than draw closer. Conversion, on the other hand, is outward-looking and hope-filled. It begins with honesty about sin, but it does not end there. True conversion turns our hearts back to God, trusting in His mercy and desiring to live differently. The Penitential Act is meant to lead us toward conversion, not self-condemnation.

This is why the Penitential Act flows naturally into praise. Having acknowledged our sins and received God's mercy, we are ready to glorify Him with freer hearts. We are reminded that forgiveness is not something we earn in this moment.

It is something God offers generously, again and again. The act of repentance prepares us to listen more attentively to the Word, to pray more sincerely, and to participate more fully in the Eucharist.

Each time we take part in the Penitential Act, we are invited to practice humility, trust, and hope. By acknowledging our sins, praying for mercy, and choosing conversion over guilt, we allow God to shape our hearts for true worship. In this way, the Penitential Act becomes not just a ritual at the beginning of Mass, but a pattern for Christian life itself—honest, repentant, and always open to the transforming mercy of God.

*St. Francis Corner:
Fr. Peter John Abogado, SSS*