

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Diocese of Knoxville

**Mass intentions
for Feb. 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday —

Noon

Health of Palmieri family
By: Lisa Palmieri

7:30 p.m.

People of the parish

Saintly Wisdom

“When you sin,
blame your thought, not your action.
For had your intellect not run ahead,
your body would not have followed.”

— St. Mark the Ascetic —

Parish Life

Ash Wednesday — Mass will be celebrated at noon and 7:30 p.m. for Ash Wednesday. Because of the pandemic, ashes will be sprinkled on heads rather than rubbed on foreheads.



Stations of the Cross —

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6 p.m. Fridays during Lent in the church, starting this Friday.

Lent Books — Free Lenten reflection books are in the vestibule. Please take one.

Lenten Food Drive — Again this Lent, the Knights of Columbus are conducting the 40 Cans for Lent food drive. Please, no glass containers and no items past their expiration date. Thank you!



Dispensation

Catholics living in the diocese are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. While not required, participating in Mass online is encouraged.

Rend Your Hearts

For the Jews of the Old Testament, rending (tearing) garments was a sign of great overpowering grief. It expressed deep and genuine sorrow, as when Jacob received his son Joseph's coat of many colors. There is nothing wrong with “rending garments” as a token of great grief for sin. But as with all outward signs, it could become all show with no feeling behind it. Joel reminds us not to rest on the outward sign without the reality of the thing signified. He tells us to show true contrition by rending the hard and stony heart within and making it accessible to godlike thoughts and emotions.



Lenten Regulations

Fast and abstinence rules apply for Catholics during Lent under the following situations:

- **Abstinence** from meat is expected for those age 14 and up on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent.
- **Fasting** is expected for those ages 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. That means no more than one full meal and two smaller meals with no snacking in between.

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 17, 2021

Reading 1

(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.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51:3-6ab, 12-14,17)

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. 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. 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.” 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. 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.

Reading 2

(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.

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.”

