

“Tempus Fugit,” in Latin, means: **“Time Flies.”**

This Wednesday, Feb. 18, is ‘Ash Wednesday.’ We are reminded of our mortality with these words, as the ashes will be placed on our foreheads: **“Remember Man, thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return!”** This is not a threat! It is merely a reminder. We know neither the day nor the hour (of our death), only that it will happen. For that most momentous occasion since birth, we are urged to be ‘prepared.’ Specifically, we are to ‘repent’ (of any ‘bad stuff’) and to ‘reform,’ that is, change our behavior (and do the ‘good stuff’). Ashes will be distributed during Mass Wed., 9:30 am. FYI: “Masses with Ashes” at St Francis are: 8:30 am, Noon, 4 pm (Distribution only), and at 7 pm.

Properly understood, ashes are not appropriate for the very young (pre-1st Confession), who have no real sense of sin or need to ‘repent & reform.’ Ashes are appropriate for everyone else: Catholic, non-Catholic, single, validly/invalidly married, divorced, widowed, tall, short...all of us... for we all sin and are in need to ‘repent & reform.’ Lenten-enrichment exercises will include daily Mass at St. Francis at 8:30 am, 9:30 am Weds. here, and Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 pm. here. For special, Lenten enrichment this year, we are offering the DISCOVERING CHRIST PROGRAM.

When the Lenten Season is over, I pray that you will not have been left in the ‘dust.’ Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on how we are living, to self-evaluate. Are we honestly doing our best to reach out and help others, especially when it's inconvenient? What is the quality of our compassion? Are we being a ‘light in the dark’ to family, neighbor, and co-worker? When that final, momentous occasion arrives and we stand before our Creator with nothing more than our essence (soul) and our history, will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant”? Or will we hear, “Out of my sight. I do not know who you are”?

Lent is a time for ‘growing in the Lord,’ as we approach the holiest of all days, the Triduum and Easter Sunday, itself. However, each must first travel through the dessert to one's own Good Friday & Golgotha Hill, before arriving at the Shores of Easter Glory. Will you be making time for daily Mass, Stations, Discovering Christ, and scripture reading? Remember:

“Tempus Fugit”... “Time Flies!”

Sincerely and in Him, offered-
on-Friday --fr.t.

For elsewhere in bulletin (see below):

ABSTINENCE (*from meat*) is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent by Catholics 14 years or older.

FASTING is observed on Ash Wed. & Good Friday by Catholics 18 thru 58. (*They may take only one full meal, two smaller ones, and nothing between.*)

EXEMPT from the above is anyone with a medical condition of any age.