

1. Wednesday, February 25, 2009, is **ASH WEDNESDAY**. **MASSES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH ON ASH WEDNESDAY WILL BE AT 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, AND 7:00 PM, WITH DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES AFTER EACH MASS.** It is NOT A Holyday of Obligation, but it is a day of solemn fast and abstinence, which must be observed by all who are obliged to observe the fast and abstinence regulations. **ASH WEDNESDAY IS A NO-NONSENSE DAY.** It is a time to reflect and to do penance
2. *Ashes will be distributed at all Masses next Sunday (March 1, 2009). The usual little packets of Blessed Ashes will be available at these Masses, and are to be taken home and used as sacramentals..*
3. Tuesday, February 24, 2009, is **MARDI GRAS** – “Fat Tuesday.” Let us recognize the correct religious and meaningful purpose of this day. Mardi Gras has its roots in good Catholic tradition, and it is a day of good and proper celebration and prudent feasting. It is also the day that marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. Let us not hesitate to enjoy Mardi Gras with a lovely family party, and let us make amends for all the brutality that brutalist people have brought into Mardi Gras. Let us pray for all those who place dedicated emphasis on such brutality.
4. There will be Catechism class this morning after 10:00 AM Mass.
5. Tuesday, February 24, 2009 is the Feast of St. Matthias the Apostle.
6. Friday February 27, 2009, begins the usual Lenten Friday evening Stations of the Cross and will take place on each Friday thereafter at 7:00 PM. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will follow. This is a sacrifice for many of you, but those who can should make the effort to attend and let the be intention be Reparation of sin.
7. The Lenten Regulations and suggested Lenten Readings are attached to today’s Bulletin. We are all urged to give careful attention to the Lenten Regulations, especially the regulations which deal with **FASTING** and **ABSTAINING**. Whereas **FRIDAY ABSTENANCE** is strongly recommended for every Friday of the year, it is **VERY** strongly recommended for the Fridays of Lent. **Friday Abstinence simply cannot be disregarded with any reasonable justification by any Catholic worthy of the name.** Yes, it is a sacrifice!! It is a real sacrifice for anyone who dislikes fish! Items other than fish can surely be eaten. Try to remember the great question: **“WHAT HAVE I GIVEN TO MY LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN TO ME.”** Let us abstain from the eating of meat on all Fridays during Lent. Public example here will surely edify all onlookers.
8. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of March. Therefore there will be no Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on that day. Mass as usual at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery.
9. **Next Sunday is the First Sunday of the Month of March Oblate meeting after the 10:00AM Mass** **Oblates please plan to attend these meetings. It is certain that graces are attached to them.**
10. The Lenten Daily Readings are attached to the Bulletin and should not be omitted, they can take place at any of the three meals of each day. These readings should be read by the Father or in his absence by the Mother of the family, and should take place at that meal where the greater number of family members are present: Sunday **ESPECIALLY!**
11. **PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK AND SHUT-INS OF OUR CHAPELS.** LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments.
12. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For the Poor Souls
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls
WEDNESDAY:	Welfare of our Monks and Nuns and Oblates OSB
THURSDAY:	Dec. Sister Mary Wilfred Huettel OSB
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls
SATURDAY:	For the Poor Souls

**A Thought To Remember ...**

*There are moments when all is dark: the cross rises stark before us and prevents our seeing Jesus Himself. But then it is that He says to us:*

*“Fear not, it is I.”*