



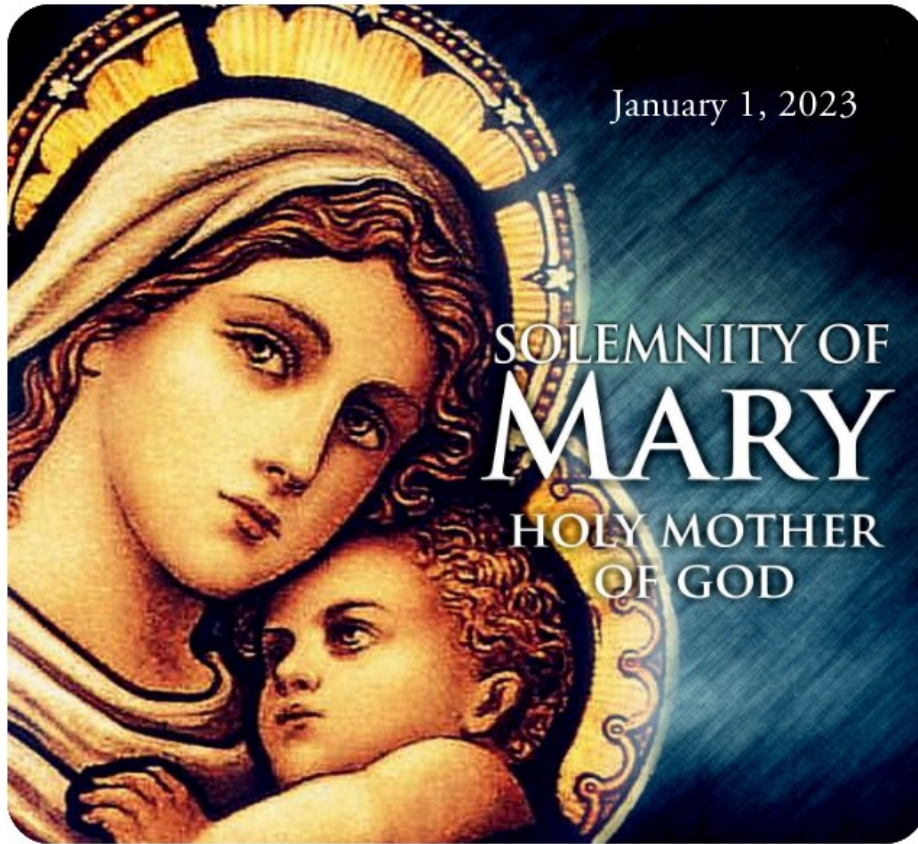
El Diácono



JAN 2023

A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 41



The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!

Inside this Issue

Item	Page	Item	Page
Mary	2	Ash Wednesday	6
Diaconate Information	10	Rest In Peace	11
Deacon's Corner	12		





Mary

The Virgin Mary is known by many names, such as the Blessed Virgin, Mother Mary, Our Lady, Mother of God, Queen of Angels, Mary of Sorrows, and Queen of the Universe. Mary serves as the patron saint of all human beings, watching over them with motherly care due to her role as the mother of Jesus Christ, the world's savior. But who is Mary?

Mary was born into a devout Jewish family in Galilee (now part of Israel) when it was part of the ancient Roman Empire. As tradition has it her parents, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, were visited by angels informing them that Anne was expecting Mary. At the age of three-years-old, her parents dedicated Mary to God in the Jewish temple.



From medieval times onward, Mary has been depicted as a well-dressed young woman, reclining comfortably in the middle-class surroundings that reflected the taste of the artist's donors. However, Mary (Maryam in Aramaic) was probably a girl barely 14, working tirelessly alongside her mother in their humble home in Nazareth, most likely a small stone dwelling with an improvised thatched roof. At fourteen, her young hands were already experienced at the spindle changing strands of wool or flax into spinning yarn, just as she knew how to knead dough for bread and crush olives from her family's orchard. Like other girls her age throughout Galilee, Mary was quietly being groomed for marriage. That meant she had to learn to bake bread in the morning and cook stew with bits of fish at night, while feeding the animals, washing clothes, bartering foodstuffs with neighbors and relatives, and working the loom in what little spare time that was left, weaving garments for her family.



As the daughter of a farmer's family, Mary dressed like most other Galilean girls her age. She wore a simple linen undergarment, covered with a sleeveless garment made from two strips of cloth which was tightened at the waist with a ribbon. Centuries later during the Renaissance, Mary would be pictured in a flowing aquamarine blue garment (the richest and most expensive available), but as the Gospels clearly show Mary and Joseph were poor, and luxuries were well beyond their reach.



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By the time Mary was about 14-years-old, scholars and historians believe she was engaged to Joseph, a devout Jewish man from the House of David. Both the Gospels of Luke and Matthew tell that during Mary's engagement that she learned through a heavenly apparition, named Gabriel, what God's plans had for her to serve as Jesus Christ's mother on Earth. True to her Jewish upbringing, Mary responded with faithful obedience to God's plan, despite the personal challenges that it presented to her.

When Mary's cousin Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) praised Mary for her faith, Mary gave a dialog that has become a famous song sung in worship services, the "Magnificat," which the Bible records (Luke 1:46-55): "And Mary said: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary and Joseph raised Jesus Christ, as well as other children, "brothers" and "sisters" whom the Bible mentions in Matthew's chapters 12 and 13. Protestant Christians think that those children were Mary and Joseph's children, born naturally after Jesus was born and Mary and Joseph then consummated their marriage. The Catholic Church maintains that Mary remained a virgin throughout her life. These so-called brethren of Jesus are thus his relatives, but not children of Mary. Keep in mind that ancient Hebrew had no word for "cousin," it was customary to use "brethren" in the Bible for relationships other than blood brothers and sisters. Thus, a brethren could be a cousin, an uncle or aunt, or even relations between men bound by covenant.

The Bible records many instances of Mary with Jesus Christ during his lifetime, including a time when she and Joseph lost track of him and found Jesus teaching people in the temple when he was 12 years old (Luke 2 41-49), and when the wine ran out at a wedding, and she asked her son to turn water into wine to help out the host (John 2:). Mary was near the cross as Jesus died on it for the sins of the world (John 19). Immediately after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven, the

Bible mentions in Acts 1:14 that Mary prayed along with the apostles and others.

Before Jesus died on the cross, he asked the apostle John to take care of Mary for the rest of her life. Many historians believe that Mary later moved to the ancient city of Ephesus, along with the apostle John and ended her earthly life there.

(Continued on page 4)



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Catholics and Orthodox Christians believe that Mary was miraculously taken to heaven in an unusual way. They believe in the miracle of the Assumption which means that Mary didn't die a natural human death, but was "assumed" both body and soul from earth into heaven while she was alive.

Feasts Days:

- ◇ January 1 (Mary, Mother of God)
- ◇ February 11 (Our Lady of Lourdes)
- ◇ May 13 (Our Lady of Fatima)
- ◇ May 31 (Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- ◇ August 15 (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- ◇ August 22 (Queenship of Mary)
- ◇ September 8 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- ◇ December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
- ◇ December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Patron Saint of:

Mary is considered to be the patron saint of all humanity, as well as groups that include mothers; blood donors; travelers and those who work in the travel industry (such as airplane and ship crews); cooks and those who work in the food industry; construction workers; people who make clothes, jewelry, and home furnishings; numerous places and churches worldwide; and people who are seeking spiritual enlightenment.

Famous Miracles:

People have credited a vast number of miracles to God working through the Virgin Mary. Those miracles can be divided into those that were reported during her lifetime, and those that were reported after her assumption.

The Catholic Church believes that when Mary was conceived, she was miraculously free of the taint of original sin that has affected every other person in history except Jesus Christ. That belief is called the miracle of the Immaculate Conception.

By the way, Muslims believe that Mary was miraculously a perfect person from the moment of her conception onward. Islam says that God gave Mary special grace when he first created her so that she could live a perfect life.

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All Christians and Muslims believe in the miracle of the Virgin Birth, in which Mary conceived Jesus Christ as a virgin, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible records that Gabriel, the archangel of revelation, visited Mary to inform her of God's plan for her to serve as Jesus' mother on earth. The Gospel of Luke (1:34-35) describes part of their conversation: "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" Gabriel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

In the Quran, Mary's conversation with the angel is described in chapter 3 (Ali Iman), verse 47: "She said: O' my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man hath touched me?" The angel responded, "Even so; God creates what He wills; When He has decreed a plan, He but says to it, 'Be,' and it is!"

Since Christians believe that Jesus Christ was God incarnated on earth, they consider Mary's pregnancy and birth to be part of a miraculous process of God visiting a suffering planet to redeem it.

Catholics and Orthodox Christians believe that Mary was miraculously taken to heaven in an unusual way. Catholics believe in the miracle of the Assumption, which means that Mary didn't die a natural human death, but was assumed both body and soul from Earth into heaven while she was still alive.

Orthodox Christians believe in the miracle of Dormition, which means that Mary did die naturally and her soul went to heaven, while her body stayed on Earth for three days before being resurrected and taken up into heaven.

People have reported many miracles happening through Mary since she went to heaven. These have included a myriad of Marian apparitions, which are times when believers say that Mary has miraculously appeared on earth to deliver messages to encourage people to believe in God, call them to repentance, and give people healing.

Famous apparitions of Mary include those that were recorded in Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; Akita, Japan; Guadalupe, Mexico; Knock, Ireland; Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Kibeho, Rwanda; and, Zeitoun, Egypt.



Lourdes



Fatima



Akita



Guadalupe



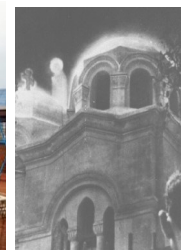
Knock



Medjugorje



Kibeho



Zeitoun

Note: I can not take credit for any of this material: The following references are cited here: Hopley, Whitney (2021, October 7). Who is the Virgin Mary? Retrieved from <https://www.learnreligions.com/who-is-the-virgin-mary-124539>. And

Encyclopaedia Britannica (2022, November 11). Mary. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mary-mother-of-Jesus..>



What is Ash Wednesday? Why Do Christians Celebrate It?



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent itself is a 40-day season (Sundays are not counted) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The forty days represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where He fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks us Catholics to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice and resurrection.

Have you ever notice that once a year, usually in February or March, there are a lot of people walking around with an ash cross on their foreheads? Oh, you thought, it has something to do with Lent. But you are not sure why the ash cross is significant. Or maybe, you grew up in a Catholic or Protestant church that held Ash Wednesday services each year, and so you are already familiar with the service, but aren't sure about the history of Ash Wednesday and Lent and what the ashes have to do with the Christian faith.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. During Mass (for us Catholics) or worship service (for our Protestant brethren) the priest or pastor will usually share a sermon that is penitential and reflective in nature. The mood is solemn, with long periods of silence intertwined with the Mass progression (Catholic) or responsive passage of Scripture readings centered around confession. At the end of Mass or the worship service, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Normally, as the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead and say, "From dust you came and to dust you will return."

Where do the Ashes Come from, and What do Ashes Symbolize?

In many congregations, the ashes are prepared by burning palm branches from the previous **Palm Sunday**. On Palm Sunday churches bless and hand out palm branches to the people attending. This is a reference to the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem when onlookers laid palm branches on his path.

Ash Wednesday symbolizes two main things: death and repentance. According to CatholicSpirit.com, Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. So when we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are sorry for our sins, and want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults and grow in holiness for the preparedness of Easter. (Next page, please)



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When is Ash Wednesday in 2023?

Here is the most significant dates of Lent and when they occur in 2023:

Important Dates of Lent	Brief Overview of Significance	2023 Date
Ash Wednesday	The beginning of Lent, a day of reflection and repentance from sin.	February 22, 2023
Palm Sunday	Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem	April 2, 2023
Holy Week	The week leading up to Easter	April 2—April 9, 2023
Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.	April 6, 2023
Good Friday	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.	April 7, 2023
Easter Sunday	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His victory over sin and death.	April 9, 2023

History of Lent and Ash Wednesday

The history and beginnings of Lent are not clear. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, Lent has likely been observed: “. . . since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE.” Christian scholars noted that Lent became more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in 313 CE. Saint Irenaeus, Pope Saint Victor I, and Saint Athanasius all seem to have written about Lent during their ministries (<https://www.britannica.com/Lent>). Most agree that “by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.”

What are You Not Allowed to Eat on Ash Wednesday?

Regarding the rules and practices of Lent, they have changed over the centuries. In the early centuries the fasting rules were very strict (and still are in the Eastern Christian Churches). Back then Christians were allowed one meal in the evening every day, and meat, fish, eggs, and butter were forbidden. Eastern Christian Churches also restricts the use of wine, oil, and dairy products. In Western Christian churches the fasting rules have gradually relaxed. The strict fasting law in Roman Catholic Churches was dispensed with during World War II, and only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are now kept as Lenten fast days.

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Is Ash Wednesday Only for Catholics?

Besides Catholics, Orthodox and many (but not all) Protestants appreciate and observe Lent. Lent is not named or observed in the Bible as Christianity Today (<https://www.christianitytoday.com>) notes: “the path of Lent — prayer, fasting, and generosity over a period of time — is heavily emphasized by the authors of and characters in the Bible, including Jesus. If you are a reader of the Bible, you know it commands a lifestyle of worship and devotion that looks a lot like Lent. Therefore while the word “Lent” is absent in the Bible, the reality of Lent is woven throughout the whole Bible.

Verses to Reflect on for Ash Wednesday

- ◆ Our Creation: (Genesis 2:7) - Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
- ◆ Our Curse: (Genesis 3:19) - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.
- ◆ Our Cry of Repentance: (Psalm 51:7-10) - Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean, wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord, Holy One, have mercy on us. We confess our sins to you. We have fallen short of your glory and without your mercy and grace, we would be dust. We repent now. Lord, as we enter into this Lenten season, be near to us. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to feel the right conviction and repentance for our sin. Help us, by your Spirit, to have the strength to overcome the enemy. Thank you, Lord, that Easter is coming! Death has no sting, no victory, because of Jesus! Glory and honor and praise to his name. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen



Deacon Alex Trujillo

November 5, 1972



November 5, 2022





Diaconate Information

Director of Deacon Formation: Deacon Keith Davis

Class of 2023

Current Class size: 36
To be Ordained June 3/10, 2023



Class of 2025

Current Class size: 15
Ordination in 2025

Deacon Inservice & Retreat

In-Service:
TBD:
In Planning Stage



Retreat:
TBD:
In Planning Stage

Deacon Council Members and Reps

Council Chair:	Deacon Mark Marquez
Council Vice-Chair:	Deacon Ernest Chavez
Council Secretary:	Darlene Chavez
Santa Fe Deanery:	Deacon Enrique Montoya
Deanery A:	Deacon Dave Little
Deanery B:	Deacon Pat Sena
Deanery C:	Deacon Leon Jones
NE Deanery:	Deacon Reyes Sanchez
NW Deanery:	Deacon Chris Gilbert
SE Deanery:	Vacant
SW Deanery:	Deacon Nicolas Keller





Rest in Peace



Kenneth Trujillo

Deacon Kenneth Trujillo

Ordained 2007

Served at: Santuario de San Martin de Porres



P. Louis Montoya

Deacon P. Louis Montoya

Ordained 1978

Retired



John Russo

Deacon John Russo

Ordained 1987

Served at: St John XXIII Catholic Community



Jose Daniel L. Valdez

Deacon Danny Valdez

Ordained 2003

Served at: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pojuaque



The Deacon's Corner



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps facilitate communication between you and the Diaconate Community and the Archdiocese. Phone 505-831-8246 or email the Diaconate Secretary at ysutton@archdiosf.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the El Diácono Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Diaconate Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the April through June 2023 time frame.

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Have a warm and Blessed Winter — and know that God is always with you!

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