

ASH WEDNESDAY <ABC

February 18, 2026

For the Departed Souls

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

In Communion with the Saints

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the Blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Concluding Doxology

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever, and ever.

Amen

Communion Rite

STAND

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People:

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign Of Peace

Priest : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People : **Amen**

Priest : The peace of the Lord be with you always

People : **And with your Spirit.**

Priest : Let us offer each other the sign of peace

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Reception of Communion

KNEEL

Priest : Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People : **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Priest : The body of Christ.

Answer : **Amen**

Priest : The blood of Christ.

Answer : **Amen**

Communion

Prayer after Communion

STAND

May the Sacrament we have received sustain us, O Lord, that our Lenten fast may be pleasing to you and be for us a healing remedy. Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

General Announcements

SIT

Blessing

STAND

Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God, on those who bow before your majesty, and by your mercy may they merit the rewards you promise to those who do penance. Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

May God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen.

Let us go and live together in the peace and the strength of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

*Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive. * The Alleluia is not used from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil. * On Ash Wednesday, a universal day of fast, ashes are distributed. * The Sundays of this season are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sunday of Lent. * The Sixth Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week, is called Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday). * Holy Week has as its purpose the remembrance of Christ's passion, beginning with his Messianic entrance into Jerusalem.*

MC: Greeting

Entrance song

STAND

Introduction by the Celebrant

The ashes used today come from the branches blessed the preceding year for Passion Sunday.

ENTRANCE ANT. [Repentance]

You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made.

You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

The penitential rite and the Gloria are omitted, gospel is a rite of penance and conversion. (In Masses where no ashes are given, the priest uses the customary penitential act with "I confess to almighty God...")

C: Collect [Holy Fasting]

Grand, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

SIT

First Reading Joel 2:12-18 [Rend Your Hearts]

Come back to me with all your heart!

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel

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, offering 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 priest, 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.

The word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 51 [Confession of Sin]

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

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. 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." **(R.)**
3. 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. **(R.)**
4. 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. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2

[The Acceptable Time]

Be reconciled to God

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

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.

The word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Verse Before The Gospel Ps 95:8

[God's Voice] **STAND**

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



Gospel Matthew 6: 1-6. 16-18

[Almsgiving, Prayer, and Fasting]

It's the interior attitude that counts.

R/ The Lord be with you.

R/ And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

SIT

Blessing And Giving Of Ashes

After the homily the priest joins his hands and says:

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

Pause for silent prayer and with hands extended, he continues:

[Blessing of Ashes]

O God, who desire not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and in your kindness be pleased to bless ☩ these ashes, which we intend to receive upon our heads, that

we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **R/ Amen.**

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water in silence. The priest then places ashes on those who come forward, saying to each: **[Reject Sin]**

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

The Creed is not said

General Intercessions

Prayer, penance and mutual help belong together. In the beginning of this time of grace, let us turn to the Father and ask him for the healing and strength we need this Lent:

(Pause)

That this season of Lent will be a time of intense prayer, fasting and fervent devotion for us, to invoke God's weapons for world peace; and for the deepening of our faith and desires for the renewal of the Church, of ourselves and the world. Let us pray:

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

With the international conflict, threatening the world peace: may the world leaders involved refrain from any actions that would cause further sufferings, but to be the protectors of Peace. May the Queen of peace preserve the world from the destruction of war. Let us pray: **Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

Let us be united in spirit and solidarity with Pope Leo XIV and the world, to make today, a day of fasting and fervent prayers for peace. Let us pray:

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

For all Christians in this season of repentance: they may seek reconciliation, unity and grow in spirit of humble service; that God will rescue those who lost their ways and repair all broken relationships in our life to make us compassionate, merciful, and forgiving. Let us pray:

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

For our parish community: that this Lent we will be faithful to fasting, fervent in prayers and generous in almsgiving, to be attentive to the poor; and to all the ways that the Lord sanctifies us. Let us pray: **Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

Lord Jesus, You are the Head of the Church, we humbly seek Your Providence of the St. Peter Canisius International Catholic Parish, for the grace of true repentance and to be the Light to the nations. Let us pray:

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

We pray for those intentions offered for the Mass and for our personal intentions ...

(Pause)

Let us pray: **Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

Loving Father, in the forty days of Lent you give us new chances to grow in love for you and for people. Help us to live as your faithful, to be the protectors of peace, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

SL: Offertory hymn

SIT

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Bread

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All : Blessed be God for ever.

Preparation of the Wine

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All : Blessed be God for ever.

Invitation To Prayer

STAND

Priest : Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People : **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church**

Prayer over the Offerings

[Renewal in Spirit]

STAND

As we solemnly offer the annual sacrifice for the beginning of Lent, we entreat you, O Lord, that, through works of penance and charity, we may turn away from harmful pleasures and, cleansed from our sins, may become worthy to celebrate devoutly the Passion of your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R./ Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

STAND

Introductory Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just

Preface IV of Lent **[The fruits of fasting]**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For through bodily fasting you restrain our faults, raise up our minds, and bestow both virtue and its rewards, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

KNEEL

Praise to the Father

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and ☩ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

Memorial Acclamation

Priest : The mystery of faith.

All : *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

The Memorial Prayer

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Intercessions: For the Church

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy