



# Voice of Redeemer

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS—EPIPHANY—MARDI GRAS (FAT TUESDAY) -SHROVE TUESDAY—LENT

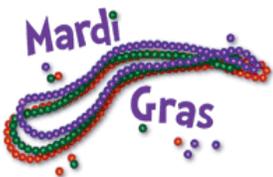
The above nouns are all connected and *Christian*. Dating back to the 17th Century and probably beyond, the “Carnival Season”, aka Mardi Gras season developed from religious events.

The Mardi Gras season, also referred to as Carnival, begins 12 days after Christmas on Jan. 6 (Epiphany) and lasts until Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras being the day before Ash Wednesday, (also known as Shrove Tuesday) which marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and penance before Easter Sunday.

Shrove Tuesday is an invitation to prepare for Lent and reflect on one's life. Shrove Tuesday also serves as a bridge between the joyous celebrations of the Epiphany season and the solemnity of Lent. As people observed facing 40 days of fasting on rich foods, and not wanting to waste indulgent foods left in their homes after Ash Wednesday, a joyous day of feasting developed, known as “pancake day” or Mardi Gras. “Mardi Gras” in French is translated to “Fat Tuesday”, (*Mardi* means “Tuesday” and *gras* means “fat.”) That's why the day is also referred to as Fat Tuesday. Fat Tuesday, also referred to as Pancake Day, was what people used to describe the day before Ash Wednesday, when they would binge on rich foods such as meat, eggs, milk, and cheese before Lent began, because of the custom of using all the fats in the home in preparation for abstinence and fasting ahead of Lent. It is believed that Pancake Tuesday, which takes place on the same day as Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), originated in Ireland in the 17th century. It essentially holds the same purpose— the Irish people make pancakes with eggs and milk (basically using up their dairy products before Lent). Eating pancakes on this day has since become a tradition to many.

According to [History.com](https://www.history.com), the famed New Orleans Mardi Gras festivities began in 1699 when two French explorers landed in what is now New Orleans. The explorers held a small celebration and called their landing spot Point du Mardi Gras. The first New Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place in 1837. Louisiana is the only state where Mardi Gras is a legal holiday.

**We will be holding our own Pancake supper this year. We will be serving pancakes, bacon and or sausage on Fat Tuesday, February 17th at 6 pm. We hope you will join us for fun, food, and reflection, as we prepare for Ash Wednesday and our Lenten journey.**





# Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship



"You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the Lord your God for the fertile land that he has given you. . . Remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to become rich. . ." (Deut.8:10, 18).

The Bible repeatedly says that we are to "praise the Lord," or as some translations read, we are to "bless the Lord." But what does that mean? Whatever else it might mean, it entails having a thankful heart for all that God has done for us. It's easy, you know, to go to an extreme and to emphasize only God's spiritual blessings to the exclusion of His temporal blessings. It's also easy to emphasize only His material blessings and to forget His provisions for us spiritually. In reality, we are to emphasize both the material and spiritual blessings we receive from God, remembering that all that we have comes from His bountiful hand.

As we realize God's provisions for us, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we literally "praise the Lord" by a lifestyle that is marked by thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. And that spirit of gratitude for past, present and future blessings causes us to want to give to the Lord from the bounty He has provided for us. As one unknown author wrote, "Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving."

Think about it: As we receive God's blessings, we offer praise and thanksgiving to Him. And as we realize afresh that all that we have is a result of God's goodness, our response to His faithfulness is to give back to God a portion of that which was already His. We do so, not because we have to or out of any sense of obligation or guilt. We give to the Lord because we want to do so, in response to His great love for us and in response to His goodness.

Dwight L. Moody was once reading Psalm 103. When he came to the verse which describes how we are to praise the Lord and to remember His benefits, Mr. Moody stopped short in his inimitable way and exclaimed, "You can't remember them all, of course, but don't forget them all. Remember some of them!" And as you "remember some of them," remember the sequence: First thanks, then giving.



## IN HIS SERVICE



Area of Service	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Pastor's Ass't.	Jan	_____→	_____→	_____→
Altar Guild	Louise	_____→	_____→	_____→
Acolyte	Darynne	Leith	Jethro	Jazz
Reader	Laura	Judy	Louise	Karen
Greeter	Karen	_____→	_____→	_____→
Flowers	Sue	Mary Ellen	Julie	Claytons
Coffee Hour	Mary Ellen	_____→	Julie	_____→
Counters	Sue	Sue	Sue	Sue



## *It is Finished*

### Lent/Holy Week Bible Reading Plan

1. John 1:1-18
2. John 1:19-24
3. Isaiah 6:1-7
4. Psalm 139
5. Revelation 4
6. Psalm 19
7. Isaiah 11:1-10
8. Psalm 27
9. Lam. 3: 19-26
10. Psalm 30
11. Psalm 51
12. Matthew 4:1-11
13. Matthew 5:1-11
14. Psalm 42
15. Matthew 5:13-16
16. Matthew 6:19-24
17. Matthew 6: 25-34
18. Job 38:1-11
19. Isaiah 55
20. Psalm 16
21. Psalm 34
22. Psalm 23
23. Exodus 15:1-21
24. Isaiah 61
25. John 4: 1-26
26. John 8 :1-11
27. John 12:1-19
28. John 12:20-50
29. John 13:1-20
30. John 14: 1-13
31. John 14:15-31
32. John 15:1-17
33. John 16:1-15
34. John 16:16-24
35. John 16:25-33
36. John 17
37. John 18
38. Matt. 26:36-46
39. John 19
40. John 20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lent Word Find



K R K Z Y B F M D P O F P A Y A K B  
N E P G O P M J L Y R T J E P G L R  
D S O U N Y A D R U T A S Y L O H J  
F U I N R I S L S B X X Y E U G J L  
V R N B C P T Y M A E C A E I J D G  
I R T U P U L S A A C I U F R R P B  
X E F O R E H E A D Z R T M Z D P J  
H C Z P O R X R S F Y Y I S F Z J Y  
M T Q O E Z E O H N J T A F O X I K  
H I Y M V B L T E J E P R D I D A H  
C O B W M G T L S T Y S R O N C Y K  
K N L M H Z Q H E A O E I P F U E B  
M L J Y D I P P T N E L O R T T S D  
Y W U X T A T Q K D F Q Z U R I T G  
Q R Z M C I L E G M Q D J E S U S M

Purple

Prayer

Sunday

Forty Days

Resurrection

Lent

Holy

Palm

White

Ashes

Risen

Priest

Jesus

Easter

Fasting

Sacrifice

Forehead

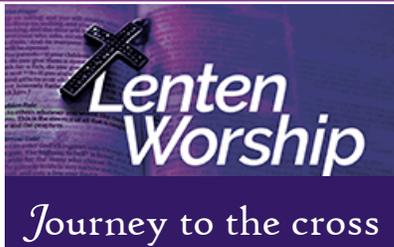
Holy Saturday

## TRANSITION TEAM

Redeemer's Transition Team, with Pastor Jon Gathje as their coach, has formed and is eagerly meeting to form the basis of what you, as a congregation, determine what the needs and wants are and how they can be achieved. *This all has to be done before a Call Committee can be organized. The S.W. CA Synod is working to find an interim for Redeemer.* Pastor Gathje implores constant prayer; his motto: pray, pray, pray!

### MEET THE TRANSITION TEAM

Dakota Warren— warrenda@gmail.com  
Jack Clayton— clayjax@att.net  
Julie Griffith— jagclog@gmail.com  
Laura Haywood— lauraedits@aol.com



Transfiguration of our Lord, Feb. 15 Pancake Supper—Feb. 17 @ 6pm

Ash Wednesday—Feb. 18 (Worship 7 pm)

Soup suppers and Lenten vespers—Feb. 25, March 4,11,18,25

(Soup's on @6, vespers 6:45)

"Journey to the Cross", every Friday during Lent @ 12:00.

Times subject to change depending on availability of leaders.

**ARCHIVE**

**WANTED:** Volunteers urgently needed to organize and archive documents for Redeemer. Years of important church files have been stored in cardboard boxes that are breaking down and need attention.

It would be great for a group to get together and tackle this task. Much could be accomplished in a few hours if many hands are working.

If you are available to help with this project, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please add your name and which day of the 4th week in Feb. is best for you. We'll set the date and time from your response.



## ALTAR GUILD

Anyone interested volunteering for Altar Guild please let the office know. Training is available. *We need help in this area of service and ask that you would prayerfully consider being a part of the Altar Guild.*



**WAYS FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED BY OFFERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO REDEEMER. WE NEED YOU!**



**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Again, if you "don't know how", ask any of the ladies and they will be happy to show you how.

Plan to join us for fun and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



### USHERS NEEDED

Ladies and gentlemen can handle this volunteer position. Talk to John Lemley or Mark Smith and they will be happy to help you get acquainted with the duties of "usher".



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



### PASTOR'S ASSISTANT, AND ACOLYTES

Anyone who is interested in being part of Sunday Worship, as an Assistant to the Pastor, serving on Altar Guild, or an Acolyte, please contact Karen Musgrove (Acolyte coordinator), Jan Lemley (Pastor Assistant) or Judy Peterson (Altar Guild). Training is available and your help is appreciated.



# FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS



**LUNCH BUNCH** is Wednesday 2/4/26 11am at Olive Garden, 1701 New Stine Road. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

**QUILTING & PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** is Wed. 2/11/26, 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. . Phyllis Elrod will furnish a snack. Please bring your own sack lunch.

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE** is Wednesday, 2/18/26; 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Praying With Our Bodies from Romans 8 & Gather magazine. Phyllis Elrod will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!



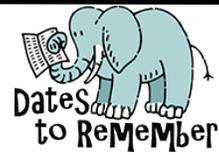
**SENIOR GAME DAY** is Wednesday, 2/25/26. Sack lunch @ 12:00, Games @12:30– 3 pm.



**Wine & Dine** is Thursday 2-26-26 6pm at Sorella's, 7800 McNair Ln. Please make reservations with Judy.



**OR FAT TUESDAY**  
Pancake dinner, 6 pm.  
Join us for fun and food before Lent begins.



Saturday Feb. 8 @ 9 am  
Helpers needed!



February 15  
11:00 am



<b>Kathy McKnight</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Katelynn Evert</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Penelope Griffith</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Hollie Schindler</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Ella Dommer</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Anne Benson</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Susan Petty</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Phyllis Elrod</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Asher Schindler</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Bill Schroeder</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>John Werts , Julie &amp; Luke Griffith</b>	<b>28</b>



**Lenten Soup Suppers**

Save these dates for our traditional soup suppers during Lent.

**Feb. 25; March 4; 11; 18; 25.**  
**Supper @6 pm; Vespers 6:45 pm.**

We hope you'll join us.  
Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

December 28, 2025



January 23, 2026

Darcy                      Jeanne Beck                      Frederick                      John Warren

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!

Pictured at the right is Phyllis Elrod with her "Thank You for your many years of service" cake in appreciation of her years as secretary of Redeemer. Applications for the opening will close on January 31. (Contact 661 706 4834 if interested.)





# FEBRUARY 2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

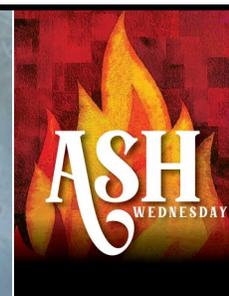
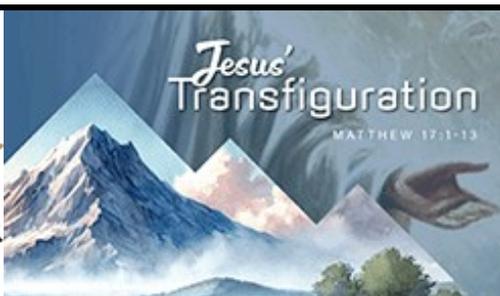
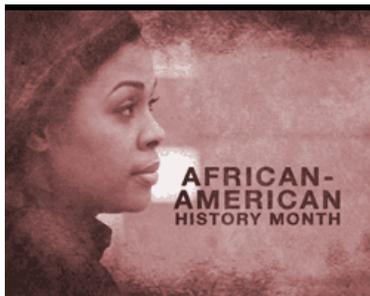
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30	2	3 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	4 Lunch Bunch 11 am	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour	9	10 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	11 Quilting and Prayer Shawl Ministries 9 – Pacifica 10 am	12 Worship & Music 10 am	13	14  Work day Garden Club 9
15 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30 Council 11 am Transfiguration Sunday	16 	17 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm  Pancake Supper 6 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	18 Afternoon Circle 1:30  	19	20	21  Garden Club
22 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30 1st. Sunday in Lent	23	24 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	25 Game Day 12 noon, bring your lunch, games @12:30	26 Wine & Dine 6 pm	27	28  Glass Club