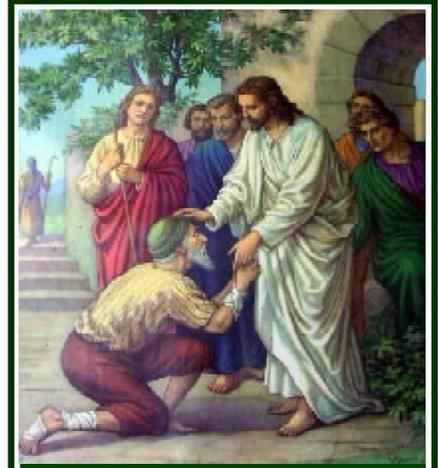


**February 14, 2021 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sun., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> NO MASSES (*Lock down extended*)  
 Mon., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> ----- FAMILY DAY (*No Mass: Lock down extended*)  
 Tues., Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> ----- (*No Mass: Lock down extended*)  
 6:00 pm R.C.I.A. (*in Rectory Meeting Room*)  
 Wed., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 Masses at 9:00 am and 12:10 pm ONLY  
 Thurs., Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Lenten Weekday Mass  
 Fri., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Lenten Weekday Mass  
 Sat., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm Lord's Day Mass (*with Rite of Election*)  
 Sun., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Masses of the First Sunday of Lent  
 at 8:30 am & 10:30 am



**"The Cure of the Leper"**  
*(Mark 1:40-45)*

**CHURCH AND OFFICE TO RE-OPEN**

Since the Ontario Government announced that the "Stay-at-home" order will remain in effect in our area until Tuesday, February 16, 2021, Bishop Colli has asked that all Churches and Parish Offices in the Diocese remain closed until after that date. Therefore, our weekend and weekday Masses in the Cathedral will resume **on Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>)** at 9 am and 12:10 pm, (assuming that there is no further extension of the "Stay-at-Home" order). Our Office will re-open **on February 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 am.



**Bishop Colli's Schedule**  
 Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Cathedral Masses

**New Temporary Office Hours**

Our Office will re-open for visits and telephone calls, next Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> on a schedule of shortened hours. In-person meetings with Msgr. Stilla are still not permitted until restrictions are lifted.  
New Temporary Hours  
Monday and Friday: Closed  
Tues., Wed. and Thurs.:  
9:00 am to 12 noon

**R.C.I.A.**

**'RITE OF ELECTION'**

The three who have been journeying in this year's R.C.I.A. Process will be celebrating their 'Rite of Election' with Bishop Colli next Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> during the 5:00 pm Mass. This final step along the way will prepare them to receive their Sacraments of Initiation during this year's Easter Vigil.



**PRAYER FOR FAMILY DAY: FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>**



O God, bless our family on this day and help us to practice the virtues of family life in our home, living in harmony with each other through love, charity and mutual respect. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY!**



In ancient Rome a 'Love Feast' named 'Lupercalia' was celebrated in mid February, a day when young men would send love notes to the women they intended to marry. To 'Christianize' the pagan significance of this day, the Church introduced into its calendar, the Feast of 'St. Valentinus', a Roman priest who was martyred in mid February but who had nothing to do with marital love. In our secular world today, though, February 14<sup>th</sup> still bears Valentine's name, most have reverted to celebrating the day's Roman origins!

**DONATIONS TO THE PARISH DURING THIS PAST WEEK**

Donations ( <i>mailed or delivered to the Office</i> ) .....	\$ 3, 215.00
Online Donations ( <i>Feb. 1 to Feb. 7</i> ) .....	250.00
Christmas Donations ( <i>more</i> ) .....	200.00
Monthly Renovations Collection .....	230.00
Share Lent Collection ( <i>initial donations</i> ).....	200.00
Bulletin Advertising .....	325.00

Q. Why does Lent last for 46 instead of 40 days?

A. "Lent" is a word derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *'lencten'* which means Springtime.

Why should it be 40 days?

In the Jewish Faith, the number '40' represents transition, change, renewal and, new beginnings. In Christianity, which has its roots in Judaism, '40' days are allotted to the time of Lent because, for us, this Season is also meant to be a time for renewal and change. The number 40 is significant not only for Jews but also for Christians because it is the specific number

that is mentioned in both of these Biblical Old and New Testament events:

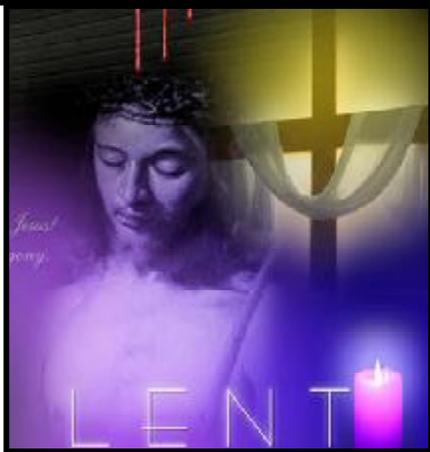
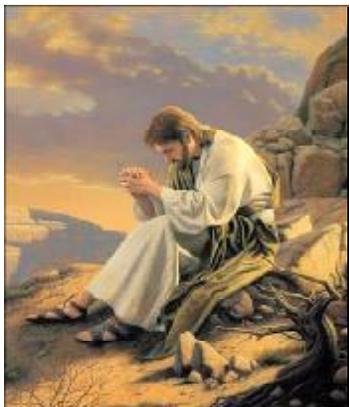
- ◆ Moses stayed on Mt. Sinai with God' for 40 days before the Ten Commandments were given to him. (*Ex. 34*);
- ◆ Elijah walked for '40 days' to the mountain of the Lord (*1 Kgs 19*), and;
- ◆ Jesus fasted and prayed for '40 days

in the desert', before He began His public ministry (*Mt. 4*).

Why then is the duration, 46 Days? As you mention in your question, there really are 46 and not 40 calendar days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. The reason is this; for Christians, Sundays are weekly

joyful anniversaries of Christ's Resurrection Day and so they are not counted as part of Lent or of any other any penitential season. Of course, without these 6 Sundays, Lent actually does last for 40 days.

The Original R. C. I. A. Connection Lent's connection to our present



'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' (R.C.I.A.) is clearly evident near the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It was during that time that the Church first made this period, of 40 days before Easter, a time for catechetical preparation exclusively for the 'Catechumens' who were preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. It was some time later that its observance was extended to everyone else in the Church.

"A Change of Heart" This Lent, though we are still in the midst of a pandemic, we continue to heed the words of the Old Testament Prophet, Joel who says that

God expects us to, 'rend our hearts and not our clothing'. In other words, God does not expect us to use Lent to overly deprive ourselves but to be spiritually born again in time for Easter. If we need a change of attitudes or habits in our lives, Lent is the time to start the change!



LENT BEGINS  
ON ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 17, 2021

MASSES  
ON ASH WEDNESDAY  
9:00 am and 12:10 pm

RECEIVING ASHES  
IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

1. Bishop Colli has announced that the reception of ashes this year is optional.
2. For those who wish to receive: the priest or deacon will sprinkle a small amount of ashes on top of the head (*and not on the forehead*), in silence and without touching the person.

ASH WEDNESDAY FAST & ABSTINENCE GUIDELINES

Fasting  
(for everyone 18 to 59)  
Abstinence from meat  
(for those 14 and over)

CATHEDRAL WEEKDAY

MASSES IN LENT  
Monday: 12:10 pm  
Tuesday to Friday  
9:00 am

WAY OF THE CROSS  
Prayed Privately