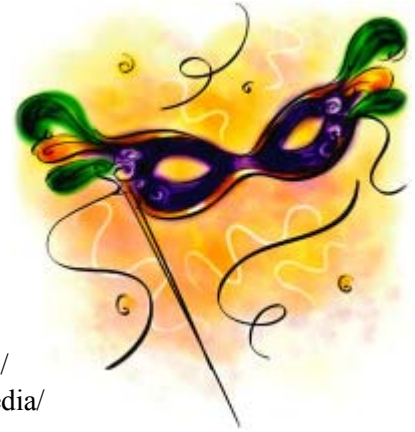


Mardi Gras Customs – A Web Quest

Exploring Catholic Origins



Introduction:

The celebration of Mardi Gras has become a widely secular event, but it still retains its religious origins in many places and in many cultures. Through this web quest, learn more about the Catholic origins of this celebration and significance of the rituals we see and participate in today.

Web Resources:

The following Web sites can be used as a starting point to learn more about the Catholic origins of this widespread celebration:

- American Catholic: <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/MardiGras/>
- Catholic Online Catholic Encyclopedia: <http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/>

Questions:

1. The word, “Mardi Gras” literally means...._____ Explain why.
2. Some refer to the time from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent as “Carnival.” What does this word mean?
3. What is the King’s Cake – what is its significance?
4. When did “Mardi Gras” Come to the ‘new world’ and where did its celebration begin?
5. What other names does “Fat Tuesday” also go by?
6. Before leaving this site, send a Mardi Gras e-greeting to a friend or family member.

Why is Mardi Gras a kick-off to Lent? Explain in your own words the Catholic connections to this holiday:

Describe the ways your family, parish, or school community will be celebrating Mardi Gras:

Go to Google web site: www.google.com and search for information about how one of these countries celebrates Mardi Gras. Use the search string: Mardi Gras, Carnival, and the name of the country. Summarize the information below. List the web sites visited.

Country: Brazil

List web sites visited:

Country: Germany

List web sites visited:

Country: France

List web sites visited:

