

The information below comes from websites promoting this festival. With a smile on their faces, these sites expose the Satanism behind the Mask of Mardi Gras. Pay attention as you read because ...

What you don't know about **Mardi Gras** will hurt you.

Mardi Gras, French for 'fat Tuesday', has quite a few names. While the English used to call it Shrove Tuesday, or, later as Pancake Day, to the Germans it is Fastnachtkuchen, or, just Fastnacht. Yet, irrespective of this name game, Mardi Gras - or at least its counterparts under different names, is no newcomer in the history of humanity. Take, for instance, the Carnival. This can be regarded as the mother of Mardi Gras traditions, with the origin embedded in ancient Rome. However, around the middle of the second century traditions of the Carnival became popular as a way to feast and act wild before the somber days of Lent. Carnival is still a splendid festival of lively spirit and gaiety in Brazil, Peru, and other parts of South America. It is also celebrated with much fanfare in the European countries dominated by the Catholics. Thus it is widely celebrated in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.

What Carnival is to Latin America, especially Brazil, Mardi Gras is to the United States. Again if the festive bash is compared, New Orleans is to Mardi Gras what Rio de Janeiro is to Carnival. These specific comparisons apart, all the southern states of Alabama, Florida and Louisiana celebrate it as a special public holiday though its fame is nation wide. [Does Tampa's Gasparilla Day ring a bell for our Florida friends? All bracketed statements are added by *LifeRaft* ministry.]

Although Mardi Gras is basically a Catholic holiday, today it is party for everyone here in United States. [*Come out of her, my people, be ye not partakers of her sins, that ye receive not of her plagues.*] This is especially true in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana which can be credited for introducing this tradition in the country.

Mardi Gras first came to New Orleans through French Culture in the year 1699 when the French explorers celebrated the holiday on the Mississippi River. Over the years, the celebration has witnessed growing national attention with many parades and parties coming in to add to its hue and flavor.

When Christianity arrived in Rome, the dignitaries of the early Church decided it would be more prudent to incorporate certain aspects of such rituals into the new faith rather than attempt to abolish them altogether. This granted a Christian interpretation to the ancient custom and the Carnival became a time of abandon and merriment which preceded the Lenten period (a symbolic Christian penitence of 40 days commencing on Ash Wednesday and ending at Easter). During this time, there would be feasting which lasted several days and participants would indulge in voluntary madness by donning masks, clothing themselves in the likeness of specters and generally giving themselves up to Bacchus [the god of wine] and Venus [the goddess of sex]. Often this period was thought to be an intercalary season, that is, a number of days inserted at the year's end to make the lunar calendar coincide with the solar. In a sense, these days were outside time and the ordinary customs and laws held no longer. All aspects of pleasure were considered to be allowable during the Carnival celebration and today's modern festivities are thought by some to be more reminiscent of the Roman *Saturnalia* rather than *Lupercalia*, or linked to even earlier Pagan festivals.

Since 1969, there has been a parade [in New Orleans] to honor the god, Bacchus. This parade has evolved into one of the biggest and best known parades of Mardi Gras. This only seems right, since when Mardi Gras is dated back, the festival honored Bacchus as well as Venus. ... We owe this great Mardi Gras of today to Bacchus himself and the people of Rome. [Remember, this information comes from websites promoting this holiday.]

The schedule: Fat Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday. This can fall anywhere in-between February 3 and March 9, it all depends on the Catholic Church. Though formally it is scheduled to start with the day of Epiphany, the main season of celebration begins about two weeks before Fat Tuesday. On those two weeks, people view the parades and go to the nightly parties. The grand finale of all events takes place on the Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before the Ash Wednesday, or, before the period of Lent. Originally the day was meant for pre-Lenten shriving through confession of sins, a Catholic practice.

The earliest observance: The first observance of Mardi Gras celebration in its present resemblance took place in the Middle Ages. And it was following the period of Reformation that swept Europe during the 14th and 15th centuries. With the Reforms, restrictions from many of the ancient Roman Catholic practices were lifted. Thus, much of the causes were removed though the customs lingered.

Shrove Tuesday, derived its name from the old practice of confessing one's sins on this day in preparation of the holy Lenten season. The verb 'to shrive' means to confess oneself and receive absolution. The three-day period of Sunday, Monday, and Shrove Tuesday, was known as Shrovetide, following which the period of Lent begins.

The origin of "Fat Tuesday" is believed to have come from the ancient Pagan custom of parading a fat ox through the town streets. Such Pagan holidays were filled with excessive eating, drinking and general bawdiness prior to a period of fasting. Since the modern day Carnival Season is sandwiched between Christmas and Lent, with Christmas Day being December 25 **on the Gregorian calendar as set by the Roman Catholic Church**, this means that other Holy Days are "floating" in nature. [Whose festival calendar do you observe? The Gregorian as established by the Catholic Church, or the one established by the Creator, YHVH?] Easter always falls on a Sunday, but it can be any Sunday from March 23 through April 25, its actual date being the Sunday which follows the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox. The beginning of the Carnival Season itself, however, is also fixed...being January 6, which is the Feast of the Epiphany, otherwise known as Little Christmas or Twelfth Night. Since the date of Mardi Gras thus varies, the length of the Carnival Season also varies accordingly from year-to-year. The origin of the word "Carnival" is from the Latin for "farewell to the flesh," a time when one is expected to forego earthly pleasures prior to the restrictions of the Lenten Season, and is thought to be derived from the feasts of the Middle Ages known as *carnis levamen* or "solace of the flesh." [End of quotes from websites.]

NOTE: Now permit us here at *LifeRaft* to make a few observations: Mardi Gras! The word conjures up all sorts of images in the mind. We think of parades, floats, masquerades, balls, beads, doubloons, parties, king cake and revelry. It is considered by most to be a time of good wholesome fun. But just how does one celebrate a festival that also promotes drunkenness, lewdness, immoral sex, gluttony, worshipping false gods, cross dressing, wanton lust, crudeness, sexual orgies, total abandonment of normal restraint, homosexuality, and nudity (all this still exists as a part of Mardi Gras today), and still call himself or herself a follower of the Most High?

What was once deplored by the church is now accepted. A blend of pagan rites and churchianity exists today. Instead of resisting the ways of the pagans, the "Church" admits that they absorbed many of these festivals in hopes that it would convert the pagans. What we have today is too much world in our churches and not enough church in the world!!! Steeped in Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman fertility rites, half of the Mardi Gras parades celebrate and honor false gods, the rest promote immoral sex and drunkenness.

Believers who participate in Mardi Gras fellowship with unbelievers who condone or practice the type of "evil" that opposes the good news of Salvation! Christians should have nothing to do with evil. *And what agreement hath the temple of YHVH with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Yah; as YHVH hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Mighty One, and they shall be My people.*

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith YHVH, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith YHVH Almighty. II Corinthians 6:16-18

They profess that they know YHVH; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. Titus 1:16

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:15-16

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Ephesians 5:11. We just did. If you felt the blast, consider putting a little distance between yourself and our intended target: Mardi Gras.