

Answers to Catholic IQ:

1. **c)** While all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday in order to begin the Lenten season with the proper attitude and reflection, Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation: practicing Catholics do not have to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday. It is, however, a day of fasting and abstinence, intended to prepare the church membership for Easter, the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

2. **a)** Genesis 32 records that Jacob wrestled a stranger—possibly an angel or God. The stranger blesses Jacob and gives him a new name, Israel (Genesis 32:28) and with it a new identity. Jacob was a new creation, filled with God's blessings with a divine purpose to establish the Israelite nation.

3. **b)** The Greek word Pentateuch ("five books") refers to the first five books of the Bible, collectively To Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The content of the Pentateuch is our Jewish background and also the beginning of our Christian story.

4. **d)** Jesus tells us the greatest commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."(Matthew 22: 36-39)

5. **d)** When Pharaoh wouldn't let Moses and the chosen people leave Egypt, God sent ten plagues: water turned to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock disease, boils, thunder and hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the first-born. The story of the plagues is in Exodus, chapters 7-12.