

Mardi Gras

Fat Tuesday



**The face the world sees... and the soul Heaven sees.
The mask may fool the crowd — but it cannot deceive the Judge.**

**Written by Rex
For the Awakening Remnant**

**Walking the Ancient Path of Torah Obedience
Calling out Deception – Calling out Truth**

***Woe to those who draw sin with cords of deceit and pull
wickedness as with cart ropes... Woe to those who call evil good,
and good evil... who put darkness for light and light for
darkness. (Isaiah 5:18, 20)***

Mardi Gras

Fat Tuesday

Introduction

It's party time! Feathers fly, beads rain down, and the streets pulse with drums, drink, and desire. Mardi Gras — or “Fat Tuesday” — is hailed as a time to let loose, indulge the flesh, and celebrate without restraint before Lent's sober season arrives. But behind the parade masks and revelry lies a darker reality — one that traces back to pagan rites, Roman gods, and a deliberate dance away from holiness. This isn't just a party. It's a pattern. And it reveals a spirit that has captivated the world while mocking the Most-High. What began as sacred time twisted into carnival chaos — and most never question what they're actually celebrating.

When flesh wears the crown and sin parades unashamed, judgment is not far behind.

*Woe to those who rise early in the morning to pursue strong drink,
remaining late in the evening inflamed by wine... But they do not
regard the deeds of YHWH, nor consider the work of His hands
(Isaiah 5:11–12)*

A Vinegar Nugget

When the world calls it a “celebration,” look closer — it might be a funeral in disguise. Not every feast is a blessing. Some are bait. And when the flesh is full, the spirit starves.

What Is Mardi Gras — And What Is It Really?

The name sounds harmless. Mardi Gras — “Fat Tuesday” in French. A day to eat, drink, and be merry before the pious pause of Lent. For many, it's just a seasonal festivity, filled with music, masks, beads, and king cake. A little wild fun before forty days of sacrifice.

But beneath the surface, there's more. Much more.

Mardi Gras is the climax of Carnival season — a stretch of time where the world parades its flesh with pride. From Epiphany (January 6) to Fat Tuesday, the weeks are soaked in indulgence. It is not just a day of revelry — it is a ritual of rebellion.

Its very design is built on a false contrast: sin now, repent later.

Eat now. Fast later.

Rebel now. Return later.

Please yourself now. Pretend to seek God later.

But the God of Israel is not mocked by seasonal repentance.
There is no holiness in scheduling sin.

Mardi Gras teaches that gluttony and godliness can share a calendar — that the flesh and the spirit can take turns leading. But the Torah says otherwise:

You shall be set-apart to Me, for I YHWH am set-apart, and I have separated you from the peoples to be Mine. (Leviticus 20:26)

This isn't just about pancakes or parades. It's about who gets your loyalty.
Because what you celebrate — you sanctify.
And when the world feasts in rebellion, the righteous fast in sorrow.

Pagan Roots and Roman Rites

If you follow the trail of beads and booze far enough, it leads not to Scripture — but to Saturn's altar, Bacchus' cup, and Rome's brothels.

Mardi Gras is not new.
Its spirit is ancient — and it has worn many names.

• Saturnalia

A Roman festival in honor of Saturn, the god of wealth and time. Held in December, it celebrated the overturning of norms — slaves became masters, morality was suspended, and lawlessness reigned. It was a feast of chaos, masked revelry, and indulgence.

• Bacchanalia

A wild festival of Bacchus, the god of wine and ecstasy. The rituals were secretive, sensual, and soaked in drunkenness. Think Mardi Gras without the beads — but with every form of perversion veiled behind the smile of a mask.

• Lupercalia

A fertility rite held in mid-February. Men ran through the streets, lightly whipping women with goat-skin thongs to ensure fertility. It was primal, lust-filled, and utterly pagan — yet its DNA lingers in Mardi Gras and its cousin holiday, Valentine's Day.

All three festivals shared the same theme:

- Flesh unrestrained. Morals suspended. Spirits welcomed.

Mardi Gras is not an isolated celebration — it's a modern expression of these ancient rites, renamed and recycled through the centuries. Its colors may change. Its language may evolve. But its spirit has remained the same: the worship of indulgence.

And what did the early Church do with these dark roots?

They baptized them.

Instead of rejecting these festivals, the Roman Church absorbed them — just as it did with countless other pagan customs. Mardi Gras became the “acceptable” version of the forbidden.

The Church could not kill the pagan appetite... so it blessed it instead.

And the people cheered.

But YHWH never cheered.

He never traded His Appointed Times for drunken parades.

He never permitted worship to look like the world.

You shall not worship YHWH your Elohim in that way.
(Deuteronomy 12:31)

Mardi Gras is not just a celebration of excess.

It is a feast of the flesh in honor of false gods, repackaged in church clothes.

And every bead tossed is a covenant renewed with darkness.

From the Church to the Streets — How Paganism Got a Cross

What do you do when the people don't want to give up their gods?

You rebrand them.

You dress them in holy garments.

You hand them a cross and say, *“Now it's Christian.”*

That is exactly what happened when the Roman Church absorbed the cultures it claimed to convert.

Rather than cleansing the land of idolatry, the Church made room for it — swapping names while keeping the customs. Saturnalia became Christmas. Lupercalia gave birth to Valentine's Day. And the drunken festivals of Bacchus and friends were preserved in what we now call Carnival — with Mardi Gras as its final, fatal flourish.

And how did they justify it?

By inventing Lent — forty days of fasting and self-denial... but only after a season of sin.

It was a spiritual bargain:

“Give them a holy season — but first, let them feast like pagans.”

The people agreed.

And the Church cheered.

Mardi Gras thus became a twisted prelude to repentance — the idea being: sin while you can, because soon, you'll have to “sacrifice.”

But Scripture knows nothing of this cycle.

There is no Torah command that says: “*Indulge today, for tomorrow you shall repent.*”

In fact, YHWH hates this kind of worship.

I hate, I despise your feast days... Even though you offer Me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them... Take away from Me the noise of your songs! (Amos 5:21–23)

When man builds a calendar of compromise, YHWH tears it down.
He doesn’t want our penance. He wants our obedience.

Mardi Gras was never holy.
It never will be.

It was born of the streets, blessed by the church, and now parades through cities waving the banner of bold rebellion.

The only thing worse than sin... is calling it sacred.

A Vinegar Nugget

If you have to rename a demon to dance with it — you’re still dancing with a demon. Changing the costume doesn’t cleanse the spirit. Paganism in purple robes is still paganism.

The Symbols Speak: Beads, Masks, and Flesh

Mardi Gras is not silent.
Even when the music stops, its symbols still shout.
Everything in the celebration — from the costumes to the colors — preaches a gospel.
But it’s not the gospel of YHWH.
It’s the gospel of indulgence, secrecy, and seduction.

• The Mask: Hidden Sin, Emboldened Flesh

Masks have always played a central role in pagan festivals — especially those rooted in fertility, debauchery, and role-reversal. To wear a mask is to become someone else... or to hide who you really are.

In Mardi Gras, the mask does more than conceal identity — it excuses behavior.

“It wasn’t really me — it was just for fun.”

But Heaven doesn’t judge the mask.
It judges the heart behind it.

There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be made known and come to light. (Luke 8:17)

What Mardi Gras calls mystery, Scripture calls deception.

• **The Beads: Lust on Parade**

Colorful plastic beads — thrown from floats, waved in the air, often exchanged for acts of immodesty. They seem like harmless souvenirs, but they are tokens of a transaction — one that trades dignity for attention, and modesty for applause.

These beads don't just decorate.

They mark those who gave in.

Each strand becomes a symbol of surrender — not to YHWH, but to the desires of the crowd.

And all of it, done under the haze of music, alcohol, and the lie of “*it's just tradition.*”

• **The Colors: Royalty, Faith, and Justice... Twisted**

Mardi Gras parades often feature the colors purple (justice), green (faith), and gold (power) — but these virtues are only costume-deep.

Where is justice when women are objectified for beads?

Where is faith when the whole event mocks holiness?

Where is power when men are enslaved to their lusts?

These colors were assigned by a 19th-century krewe (parade society), not by Heaven. They claim to honor kingship — but the only king exalted in Mardi Gras is the king of the flesh.

• **The King Cake: A Mockery of the Messiah**

Even the king cake — baked with a plastic baby inside — carries symbolism. Supposedly representing baby Jesus, the one who finds the figure is crowned “king” for the day. But this is not honor — it is mockery wrapped in sugar.

Would the true King of Israel ever condone a festival of lust in His name?

Never.

And He never has.

Mardi Gras is loud.

But it doesn't need words to speak.

Its very symbols — the beads, the masks, the colors, the cake — all declare allegiance to a different kingdom.

A kingdom where sin is not grieved... but celebrated.

The Spirit Behind the Celebration

Every festival has a spirit.

And Mardi Gras is no exception.

It's not just a party.

It's a portal.

A window through which ancient powers re-enter the world, disguised in feathers and jazz.

This is not exaggeration. It's recognition.

Mardi Gras is a carefully choreographed summoning of indulgence, where the appetites of man are not restrained — they are enthroned.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh... (Romans 8:5)

And this festival feeds the flesh.

It feeds lust.

It feeds gluttony.

It feeds pride and drunkenness.

It anoints rebellion with a blessing from the Church... and then dares to call it holy.

But let's name the spirit plainly.

This is the spirit of anti-holiness.

It is the same spirit that led Israel into idolatry.

The same spirit that seduced them at the foot of Sinai when they rose up to play around the golden calf — while claiming to still worship YHWH.

"Tomorrow is a feast to YHWH!" they said as they stripped off their clothes, danced, and defiled themselves. (Exodus 32:5–6)

Sound familiar?

The music is louder now. The costumes are flashier.

But the spirit is the same:

Rebellion in the name of religion.

It is this spirit that lures the masses into the streets,
that gives them permission to sin for a season,
that mocks righteousness while applauding excess.

It is not of Heaven.

The Spirit of YHWH leads to conviction, not chaos.

To order, not drunkenness.

To self-control, not self-indulgence.

But Mardi Gras is confusion on parade — and the world calls it freedom.

No, This is not freedom.
This is slavery with a mask on.

But It's Just for Fun! What's the Harm?

That's the refrain we hear, isn't it?

"It's just for fun."

"It's just a party."

"Don't be so religious."

But here's the truth:
There is no such thing as harmless rebellion.

When did YHWH ever excuse sin because it was *"just cultural"*?
When did He ever say,

"I know it's rooted in paganism, but as long as you're enjoying yourselves, carry on."

Never. Not once.

The golden calf wasn't just fun. It cost 3,000 lives.
Nadab and Abihu weren't just experimenting. They were consumed by fire.

Why?
Because holiness is not a game.
And YHWH will not be mocked.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil... who put darkness
for light and light for darkness... (Isaiah 5:20)*

When you celebrate something, you participate in it.
When you wear the mask, you share in its message.
When you laugh at the sin, you become its student.

And the cost?
It's not measured in beads or beer.
It's measured in what's left of the soul.

♦ The Slow Searing of the Conscience

Every year the parades get wilder.
The costumes more obscene.
The celebrations more aggressive.

Why?
Because sin never stays satisfied.

It always demands more.

And when the conscience is slowly dulled —
What once convicted now amuses.
What once grieved the spirit now draws a crowd.

That's the danger.
Not just in what's done...
But in what we stop feeling.

♦ **What You Normalize, You Nurture**

Call it culture. Call it tradition.
But once sin becomes normal, it becomes desirable.
And what's desirable gets passed down to children.

Mardi Gras teaches generations that

“Flesh can have its day — and God will understand.”

But YHWH does not understand.
He grieves.
He calls.
And eventually — He judges.

So no, It's not *“just for fun.”*
It's just another foothold for darkness, disguised in sequins and sugar.

Because what you laugh at today...
you may live with tomorrow.

What Scripture Says About Feasts Like These

YHWH has a calendar.
He has Appointed Times — sacred, set-apart, and commanded.
But Mardi Gras is not one of them.
Not even close.

It's not just that it's absent from Scripture.
It's that everything about it violates what the Word says about worship, holiness, and how we are to walk.

Let the record speak.

There is no middle ground.
There is no neutral zone between clean and unclean.

If a celebration is rooted in darkness, no amount of music, beads, or church blessing can make it light.

♦ No Offering of Strange Fire

You shall not worship YHWH your Elohim in that way...
(Deuteronomy 12:31)

YHWH does not accept man-made worship.

He doesn't want what's popular — He wants what is pure.

When we bring Him traditions soaked in paganism, dressed up with piety, it is strange fire on His altar.

And strange fire gets consumed.

Mardi Gras is built on what the Hebrew Scriptures condemns.

- Orgies? Check.
- Drunkenness? Check.
- Flesh celebrated? Check.

Scripture doesn't whisper about these things — it shouts.

If YHWH's people are supposed to look different from the world,
why are so many lining the same streets, catching the same beads, shouting the same songs?

The truth is clear:

Mardi Gras is not holy.

It's not harmless.

And it has no place in the life of someone who claims to love YHWH.

♦ The Feasts YHWH Does Want

Instead of Mardi Gras, He gave us Pesach, Matzot, Shavuot, Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot — each one a doorway into His presence, not a playground for the flesh.

These are feasts that feed the spirit — not fatten the sin.

*These are the Appointed Times of YHWH, set-apart convocations
which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. (Lev. 23:4)*

The question is not whether we will feast.

The question is whose table we will sit at.

And Mardi Gras is not the table of YHWH.

It is the banquet of Babylon.

Come Out from Among Them — A Call to Purity

YHWH never told His people to blend in.
He told them to stand out.
Not to be trendy — but to be set-apart.
Not to walk in the rhythm of the world — but in the steps of His Ways.

Mardi Gras is not just a celebration.
It is a choice.
To stay in the crowd... or to step away from it.

♦ The Narrow Road Always Looks Empty

When you step away from the festivities — from the masks, the music, the madness — you'll hear something new.
Stillness.

The sound of the Spirit of YHWH whispering,

This is the way, walk in it. (Isaiah 30:21)

It may be lonely at first.
But Heaven is never found in the crowd.
It's found in the wilderness.
It's found in obedience.
It's found in the secret place — the place Mardi Gras can never enter.

♦ A Calendar of Righteousness

While the world follows Rome's counterfeit calendar, we are called to realign with Heaven's rhythm.

YHWH's year begins in Abib, not January.
His feasts are holy convocations, not carnivals.
His seasons lead to cleansing, not corruption.

To return to His calendar is to return to His heart.

♦ Purity Is the New Revolution

You want to rebel?
Try righteousness.
Try walking in holiness when the world says "*join the fun.*"
Try choosing modesty when the parade offers beads for shame.

That is real rebellion.
That is the mark of the remnant.

Who may ascend the hill of YHWH? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart...
(Psalm 24:3–4)

Mardi Gras offers you full hands — full of beads, drinks, and pleasure.
YHWH offers clean hands.

And only one set of hands will rise on Judgment Day.

This is your call, beloved:
Come out. Be separate. Choose the feast that feeds your soul — not the one that fattens your flesh.
Put down the mask, and lift up your eyes.
YHWH is waiting.

Conclusion – Will You Join the Parade, or Step Off the Route?

The drums are beating.
The costumes are glittering.
The crowd is swelling.
And the world says:

“Come. Let loose. It’s just a party.”

But now you know better.

Mardi Gras is not just noise and beads.
It is a spiritual rehearsal for rebellion.
A ceremony of the flesh, masked in culture, crowned by the Church, and baptized in compromise.

It is the golden calf all over again — but this time it rolls down Bourbon Street.

Sin never stays in the streets.
It marches into homes.
It settles in hearts.
It becomes tradition — and tradition becomes bondage.

And when the music fades... when the beads are swept away...
when the last mask is pulled off — What will be left?

Will there be clean hands?
Will there be a pure heart?
Or will YHWH look and see that we danced while the fire of judgment was drawing near?

You cannot walk with YHWH and dance in Babylon.

You cannot serve the flesh and claim the Name of the Most-High.

You cannot keep your mask... and see His face.

*Choose this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house
—we will serve YHWH. (Joshua 24:15)*

Questions to Ponder

Is Mardi Gras found anywhere in the Bible as an approved celebration?

Answer:

No. Mardi Gras has no roots in Scripture. It is built on pagan festivals and wrapped in church tradition, not divine command.

Would YHWH or any of His prophets ever participate in a festival like this?

Never. The prophets cried out against idolatry, revelry, and unclean feasts. They were called to expose sin — not dance in it.

Does calling a festival “Christian” make it holy?

Answer:

No. Holiness is not granted by labels. It is defined by obedience to YHWH’s Torah. If the roots are rotten, the fruit is forbidden — no matter what you call it.

Can sin be excused if it’s “just for fun” or “just tradition”?

Answer:

No. YHWH never excuses sin based on intent. Fun is not a defense in the courts of Heaven. What’s unclean remains unclean — even if the music is catchy.

Who is being honored in Mardi Gras — the Creator or the creature?

Answer:

The creature. Mardi Gras glorifies the flesh, indulges the senses, and encourages self-gratification. It is a feast of self, not a festival for YHWH.

Which spirit governs Mardi Gras — the Spirit of YHWH or the spirit of the world?

Answer:

The spirit of the world. The Spirit of YHWH leads to self-control, modesty, and holiness. Mardi Gras leads to indulgence, immodesty, and moral decay.

If the fruit of Mardi Gras is drunkenness, lust, and pride, what does that tell us about the root?

Answer:

That the root is corrupt. A tree is known by its fruit (Matthew 7:17–18). You cannot harvest righteousness from a root of rebellion.

Is it possible to truly repent after willfully participating in sin “because you planned to later”?

Answer:

Only if the repentance is genuine — not premeditated. Planned sin with planned repentance is not repentance at all. YHWH is not mocked.

What example are we setting for the next generation when we participate in these festivals?

Answer:

We teach them compromise. When we justify sin for tradition’s sake, we model spiritual double-mindedness — and pass on confusion, not conviction.

Will you follow the crowd, or follow the Cloud?

Answer:

You must choose. One leads to destruction. The other to the wilderness — and eventually to the Promised Land. But you cannot walk both routes.

*See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil...
Choose life, so that you may live — you and your seed — by loving
YHWH your Elohim, obeying His voice, and clinging to Him. For
He is your life...” (Deuteronomy 30:15, 19–20)*

☆ ... █ YHWH █ ... ☆
“Choose life... that you may live.”
(Deuteronomy 30:15, 19–20)