# HISTORY OF KING CAKE

The season of Carnival begins on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the day the Christ Child was visited by the three kings. And with this date comes an old Louisiana tradition – King Cakes!

The creation of "King Cakes" began in 12th century France when a cake was baked on the eve of Jan. 6 with a small token hidden inside. Whoever got the token in his or her slice became the royalty of the night.

The king cake tradition made its way to Louisiana, but like all good things we tend to keep it going as long as we can. Cakes are enjoyed on Jan. 6, usually with a small baby inside and whoever gets the token must buy the next cake and so on it goes.

Louisiana king cakes come plain, with decoration on top, or filled with wonderful things like cream cheese, fruit preserves and pecan praline or created in other unique and wonderful ways. We enjoy our King Cakes, decorated in the Carnival colors of purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power, until Ash Wednesday, the day following Mardi Gras.

Ask anyone in town who makes their favorite king cake and you'll get a dozen answers. You can find king cakes in mini marts, grocery stores and coffee shops as well as bakeries. Visit LafayetteTravel.com/KingCake for more details on where to get King Cake in Lafayette.

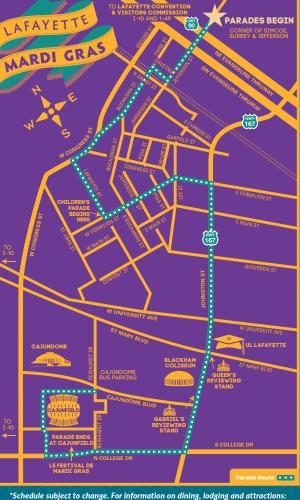


# VISIT OUR

Intersection of I-10 & I-49 1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway I-49 South of I-10

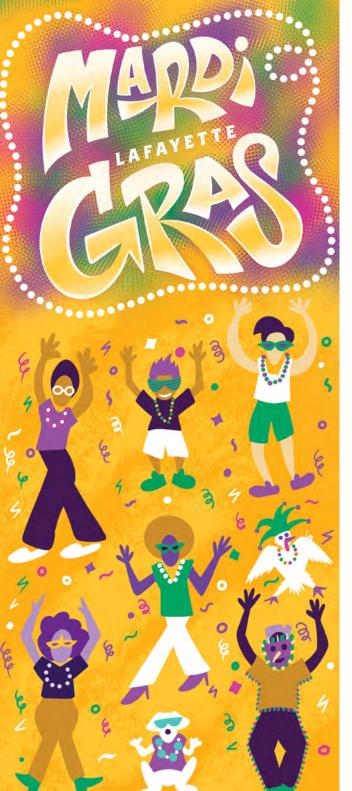
## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



LOUISIANA

Convention and Visitors Commission LafayetteTravel.com



# HISTORY OF MARDIGRAS

#### When is Mardi Gras?

The fluctuating date of Mardi Gras was established by the Catholic Church that designed the Gregorian calendar with a fixed date for Christmas and moveable dates for other religious holidays. Easter, which can fall on any Sunday from March 23 to April 25, is set to happen with the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Mardi Gras is always scheduled 46 days preceding Easter (the 40 days of Lent plus six Sundays). The carnival season officially opens on the Epiphany 12 days after Christmas and ends on Mardi Gras Day, the day before Ash Wednesday.

#### The Colors of Mardi Gras

In 1872, King Rex, the king of New Orleans' carnival, selected the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold and green). Rex assigned a meaning to the colors in 1892 for his parade entitled Symbolism of Colors: purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold signifies power.

#### Mardi Gras Krewes

A Mardi Gras Krewe is the membership organization for a parade. Krewes also get together throughout the year for the Coronation Ball (where the Maids, Dukes and King are announced) and Mardi Gras Ball or Tableau (where the Krewe usually appears in their parade costumes). Undisputed as the favorite event of the Krewes is the parade itself, where riders throw trinkets to throngs of people calling, "Throw me something, mister!"

#### **Throw Me Something Mister/Sister**

"Throw Me Something Mister" (or sister) is a shout that can be heard as the parade floats roll past. Parade-goers will use any technique to get the attention of the float riders so they can go home with more "throws" than anyone else. Throws are inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. The most popular throws include doubloons (a coin-like souvenir of a carnival krewe, usually with the name and crest of the krewe on one side and its theme of the year on the other), plastic cups, Mardi Gras beads (necklaces) and even stuffed toys. The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers and is a time-honored expectation for young and old alike.

#### Lafayette's Mardi Gras

The first formal Mardi Gras ball and parade in Lafayette dates back to 1869. In 1897, King Attakapas, the first Mardi Gras king, was crowned and the first organized parade was held in Lafayette. Formal Mardi Gras balls and parades after 1897 seemed to come and go until 1934 when the Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association was created. Today as in 1934, Queen Evangeline and King Gabriel, who symbolize the Acadian sweethearts separated during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in Longfellow's Evangeline, are reunited each year at Mardi Gras to rule over the Mardi Gras festivities.

#### Courir de Mardi Gras

The rural Mardi Gras celebration, the Courir de Mardi Gras, dates back to the earliest days of the area's settlement and is still considered a rite of passage for many in the area. With its roots firmly in the medieval tradition of ceremonial begging, bands of masked and costumed horseback riders roam the countryside "begging" for ingredients for their communal gumbo. "Le Capitaine," a caped but unmasked captain, stops his revelers at a distance while he approaches with a white flag and asks permission for his riders to enter the owners' property. If permission is granted, the captain lowers his white flag and the riders charge towards the house. There, they dismount and proceed to dance and sing for live chickens and other donations such as rice, onions and flour to be used in the gumbo. The captain and his group of masked riders return to town in the late afternoon with their loot. The day's festivities usually end with a fais-do-do and lots of gumbo for Mardi Gras revelers.

# LAFAYETTE PARISH

#### February 14

Krewe de Canailles Walking Parade Downtown Lafayette, 6:30 p.m. KreweDeCanailles.com.

#### February 15

**Carencro Mardi Gras Parade** Starts at Carencro High ends by Carencro Community Center. 11 a.m. 337-288-5589, CarencroParade.com.

\*Map on Back Cover

#### February 15

Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. 337-984-6522, RioLafayette.com.

#### February 15

Krewe des Chiens Downtown, Lafayette. 2 p.m. 337-984-6522, KreweDesChiens.org.

#### February 16

Courir de Mardi Gras Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run. Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette. 337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org.

#### February 16 Scott Mardi Grad

Scott Mardi Gras Parade Scott. 1 p.m. 337-269-5155, ScottsBA.org/Mardi-Gras.

#### February 21-25

Le Festival de Mardi Gras à Lafayette Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music, food vendors, parades roll through festival grounds. Times vary. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

#### February 22

Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, KreweofBonaparte.org.

#### February 22

**Children's Parade** Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 22 Krewe of Triton Mardi Gras Ball Cajundome, Lafayette. 6 p.m.-1 a.m. KreweOfTriton.com.

#### February 22

Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade Youngsville. Public Works building to Fountain View. 337-856-4181, Youngsville.us.

#### February 24

**Queen Evangeline's Parade** Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 25 Mardi Gras Show at Miami Moon Miami Moon, Lafayette. SDFLafayette.org/Events/.

#### February 25 King Gabriel's Parade Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com. February 25

Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

#### February 25 TownSauare Media Inden

TownSquare Media Independent Parade Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m. 337-237-1500, GoMardiGras.com.

#### February 25

Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany Convention Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette. 337-291-5540, GoMardiGras.com.

# ST. LANDRY PARISH

Imperial Mardi Gras Ball Delta Grand Theatre, 120 5 Market St., Opelousas. 7 p.m. 337-948-8004, CajunTravel.com.

February 21-25 Eunice Mardi Gras Celebration Walnut & 2nd St., Eunice. 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 22-23 Lil Nate's L'Argent Tailride, Chicken Run & Parade Yambilee Arena, 1939 W Landry St., Opelousas. 337-319-0639, CaiunTravel.com.

#### February 22 Sunset Mardi Gras Parade Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset. 11 a.m. 337-322-5374, CajunTravel.com.

February 23 Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras 461 Sittig St., Eunice, 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 24 Lundi Gras Boucherie Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Eunice. 337-457-2881, CajunTravel.com.

#### February 24-25

**Opelousas Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration** Parade runs down E Landry, turn left on Liberty and travel back up Vine St. Opelousas. 337-948-8004, CajunTravel.com.

#### February 25 Courir de Mardi Gras & Chicken Run 501 Samuel Dr., Eunice. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 337-580-3365, CajunTravel.com.

# **IBERIA PARISH**

January 25 Bayou Mardi Gras Parade New Iberia. Family styled Mardi Gras celebration, on the banks of the Bayou Teche on Historic Main St., 6:00-8:00 p.m. 337-367-2844. IberiaTravel.com.

#### February 25

Krewe of Ezana Jeanerette Mardi Gras Parade Canal, MLK & Main St., Jeanerette. 1 p.m. 337-255-9539, IberiaTravel.com.

#### February 8,15

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Teen's Dances Mon Ami, 7304 E Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, Sat., 6-11:30 p.m. Admission fee. 337-365-8655, Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

#### February 9, 16

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Children's Dance Mon Ami, 7304 E Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, 2-6 p.m. Winners will be announced and will ride in the parade. Admission fee. 337-365-8655, Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

# February 25 Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Jeanerette. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

337-365-8185, IberiaTravel.com. February 25

Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88, Coteau. 1 p.m. 337-577-5099, IberiaTravel.com.

#### February 25

Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m. 337-229-6001, IberiaTravel.com.

# ST. MARY PARISH

#### February 21 Krewe of Adonis

Morgan City. Begins at the intersection of Brashear Ave. and Federal Ave. turning onto Onstead St. and continuing down Sixth St. to Marguerite St., Ninth St./Hwy.70, Brashear onto Victor II Blvd. and ending at the Morgan City Auditorium on Myrtle St. 7 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 22

Baldwin Mardi Gras Parade

Baldwin. Begins on Hwy. 182/Main St. at the Sager-Brown facility, continues down Hwy. 182/Main St., turns left onto Martin Luther King Blvd., turns right on Bollard St., ending at Baldwin Community Center on Bollard St. 1 p.m. 985-380-8224, CajunCoast.com.

#### February 22

**Cypremort Point Boat Parade** Cypremort Point State Park, Hwy. 319. 1 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 22

Krewe of Dionysius Parade Bayou Vista. The parade will start at Gilmore proceed to John St., turn right onto Robichaux St., turn right onto Mount St., turn left onto Gilmore, turn right onto Hwy. 182 to Tournament Blvd. From Tournament Blvd., the parade will turn onto Fairview Dr. to Pattie Dr. ending at Berwick Junior High School. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 23

Krewe of Galatea Parade Morgan City. The parade route will begin on Second St. under the LA. 182 bridge the Municipal Auditorium on Myrtle St. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 24

Krewe of Amani Parade Parade begins at Patterson High School on Hwy. 182/Main St. and continues down Hwy. 182/Main St. to Place Norman Shopping Center. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 25

Franklin Mardi Gras Parade Franklin. Begins at Franklin Senior High School on Main St., proceeds east on Main St., making a U-turn and then continues onto Willow St. The parade then turns right onto Third St., disbanding at the end of Third St. 1 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

#### February 25

Krewe of Hephaestus Parade Morgan City. Begins on the corner of Sixth and Sycamore St., proceeds on Sixth St. to Marguerite St. to Ninth St./Hwy. 70, to Clothilde, to Victor II Blvd. and ending at the Morgan City Auditorium on Myrtle St. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

# ST. MARTIN PARISH

#### February 15

Rotary Club Mardi Gras Ball Cade Community Center, 1688 Smede Hwy., St. Martinville. 337-394-2233, StMartinville.org.

#### February 21-22

**Cornucopia Ball** Children's and teens' gala Mardi Gras. Gala with selected theme. 7-11 p.m. 337-789-3592, StMartinville.org.

#### February 23

Newcomers Club Mardi Gras Festival St. Martinville City Fairgrounds. 2-10 p.m. 337-380-6051, StMartinville.org.

#### February 23

Henderson Mardi Gras Parade Henderson. Starts at Picard's Auto Parts on the Henderson Hwy. 352 ending at Hendry Guidry Park at the end of Amy St. 12:30 p.m.

# ACADIA PARISH

## February 15

Mermentau Cove Courir de Mardi Gras de L'anse 1174 Lafosse Rd., Morse. Traditional run down the back roads of Mermentau Cove making several stops including private homes and Istre Cemetery. Day ends with a fais do-do and gumbo. 337-356-6045, AcadiaTourism.org.

#### February 22

Rayne Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration Gossen Memorial Park, 206 Frog Festival Dr., Rayne. 3-7 p.m. 337-334-2332, AcadiaTourism.org.

#### February 22

**Church Point Children's Courir de Mardi Gras** 1036 E Ebey-Saddle Tramp House, Church Point. Begins 8:30 a.m. Downtown for parade at 12:30 p.m. Awards at 1 p.m. 337-684-2026, AcadiaTourism.org.

#### February 23

**Courir de Mardi Gras in Church Point** 1036 E Ebey-Saddle Tramp House, Church Point. Courir begins at 8 a.m. and ends downtown for a parade at 1:30 p.m. 337-684-2026, AcadiaTourism.org.

February 25

Tee Mamou-lota Mardi Gras Folklife Festival Downtown, lota. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 337-523-6557, lotaMardiGras.com.

#### February 25

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Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras) Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance, costume contests, parade. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 337-783-0821, AcadiaTourism.org.

#### **EVANGELINE PARISH**

February 25 Mamou Mardi Gras Downtown, Mamou, 337-468-3175, EvangelineChamber.com

### **VERMILION PARISH**

Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Run & Parade

Elton Town Park. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 337-584-2992.

Jennings Mardi Gras Festival & Parade

Elton's Children Mardi Gras Run

Elton's Adult Mardi Gras Run

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 337-584-2992.

CityOfJennings.com/Events.

February 25 Krewe Chic A La Pie Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Kaplan. 2 p.m. 337-652-8463, MostCajun.com

### JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

Founder's Park, 341 N Main St., Jennings. Squeeze Box Shootout

at 10 a.m. Festival at 10:30 a.m. Parade at 4 p.m. 337-821-5532,

Lake Arthur. Run starts at 9 a.m. Parade starts at 4 p.m. 337-774-2211.