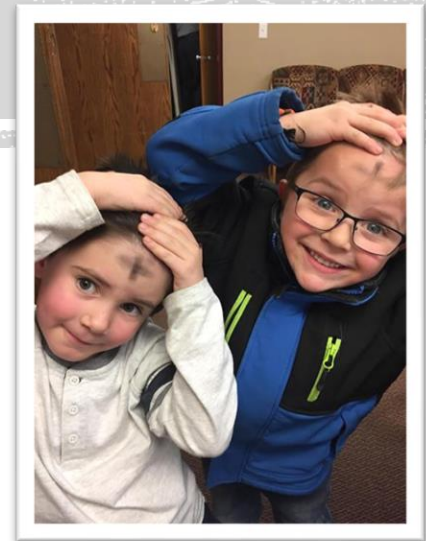




FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
CELEBRATION

February 17, 2021  
4:00 pm



LENT IS A VERY SPECIAL TIME.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS  
THE FIRST DAY OF LENT.



NORMALLY WE WOULD  
GATHER IN CHURCH TO RECEIVE  
ASHES ON OUR FOREHEAD.

SINCE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GATHER IN CHURCH, WE CAN STILL ASK GOD TO BLESS OUR ASHES IN SONG AND PRAYER.



YOUR ASHES WERE BURNT  
FROM LAST YEAR'S PALM  
SUNDAY PALMS



LENT IS A 40 DAY JOURNEY. THE CATECHISM OF THE CHURCH TEACHES US:

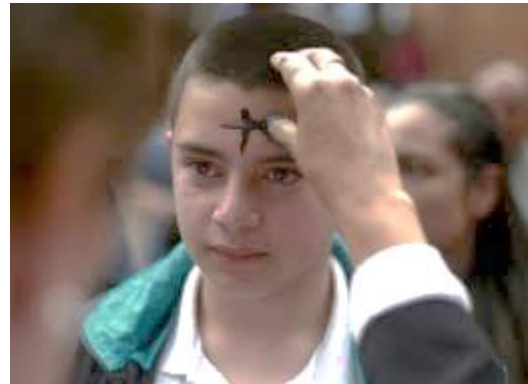
“BY THE SOLEMN FORTY DAYS OF LENT THE CHURCH UNITES HERSELF EACH YEAR TO THE MYSTERY OF JESUS IN THE DESERT” (CCC 540).



**THIS MEANS THAT JESUS INVITES US INTO HIS  
LIFE AND SHOWS US THE WAY –  
HE CALLS US TO FAST ( GIVE UP SOMETHING)  
HE CALLS US TO GIVE ALMS ( SHARE WITH THE POOR)  
AND HE CALLS US TO PRAY.**



WE PLACE THE ASHES ON OUR FOREHEAD  
IN A CROSS SHAPE TO REMIND US THAT  
JESUS DIED FOR US ON A CROSS.



**WE USE PURPLE AT SPECIAL TIMES IN THE CHURCH YEAR. LENT IS ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL TIMES AND STARTING TODAY OUR CHURCH AND OUR PRIESTS WILL BE DRESSED IN PURPLE. YOU CAN DRESS A SACRED LENTEN PLACE IN YOUR HOME IN PURPLE TOO!**



MOST IMPORTANTLY DURING LENT WE MUST  
REMEMBER TO PRAY LIKE JESUS AND SHOW  
EACH OTHER ACTS OF KINDNESS.

LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK OF THE  
MANY GIFTS WE CAN GIVE TO JESUS DURING  
LENT.



# OPENING SONG EVERYTING I AM

<https://youtu.be/n3iG1gkW9R0>





LET US PRAY



**Prayer Leader:** Let us begin our prayer marked by the sign of our faith:

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,  
AND OF THE SON,  
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
AMEN



## GREETING:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*All: And also with you.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*All: God's mercy endures forever.*



## OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, as we begin this holy season of Lent, help us to see that your merciful love is with us always, even when we wander far from you. We ask you to change our hearts, that we might become better followers of your Son Jesus. With the help of your grace, may our prayers and sacrifices over the next forty days lead us to welcome Him in each other, in the poor, sick and lonely so that together, we can greet Him as one family at Easter. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen**



## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel

Even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with your whole  
heart,  
with fasting, and weeping, and  
mourning;  
Open your hearts, not your  
garments,  
and return to the LORD, your God.  
For gracious and merciful is he,  
slow to anger, rich in kindness,  
and relenting in punishment.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!  
proclaim a fast,  
call an assembly;  
Gather the people,  
notify the congregation;  
Assemble the elders,  
gather the children and the infants.

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Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD  
say,  
Spare, O LORD, your people”  
Then the LORD was stirred to concern for  
his land  
And took pity on his people.

The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**



## PSALM

Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness;  
in your compassion blot out my offense.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned**



# GOSPEL

## A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (6:1-6, 16-20)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

**Prayer Leader: Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**



Prayer Leader:

Today we opened our prayer with the Sign of the Cross on our forehead and now the marking of the ashes recalls our baptism and reminds us that in both life and life beyond life we belong to God; we are “marked as Christ’s own forever.”





## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Now we will ask God to bless our ashes. Lord our God, we ask you to bless these ashes, symbol of our desire to turn away from sin, and to follow Jesus your Son. May the Holy Spirit give us the strength to pray, do good works and make sacrifices during this holy season of Lent, as we joyfully wait to meet Jesus, risen from the dead, at Easter. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**



# IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Family Leader dips a thumb in the ashes and make a cross on the forehead of each person.*

**AND SAY:**

**REPENT, AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.**



**JESUS REMEMBER ME**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGB2E0NzO2A&feature=youtu.be>



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy  
Kingdom come, Thy Will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven. Give us  
this day, our daily bread, And  
forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against  
us. And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.



Prayer Leader:

Father, our source of life,

You know our weakness.

May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand

And walk more readily in your ways.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**



## DISMISSAL

May almighty God bless us,  
Protect us from all evil  
And lead us to everlasting life.

ALL: AMEN

CLOSING SONG: RISE AGAIN IN ASHES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPi9j0yuPUM>

