

# CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

## Ash Wednesday

7:30am, 12:10pm

*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a time of spiritual warfare, of fasting, penitence, and preparation for the Easter feast. Beginning in the tenth century ashes were imposed on this day upon penitent sinners in preparation for their restoration to full communion with the Church. Since the eleventh century, ashes have been imposed on all the faithful as a reminder that the wages of sin is death. As God said to Adam, "dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." (Genesis 3:19b) But as we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the Cross in our Baptisms, we are also reminded that we only have life in Christ, the second Adam.*

*The rises at the ringing of the bell*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and kin in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sin and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

EPISTLE    *II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

GOSPEL    *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

## LENTEN INVITATION and IMPOSITION OF ASHES

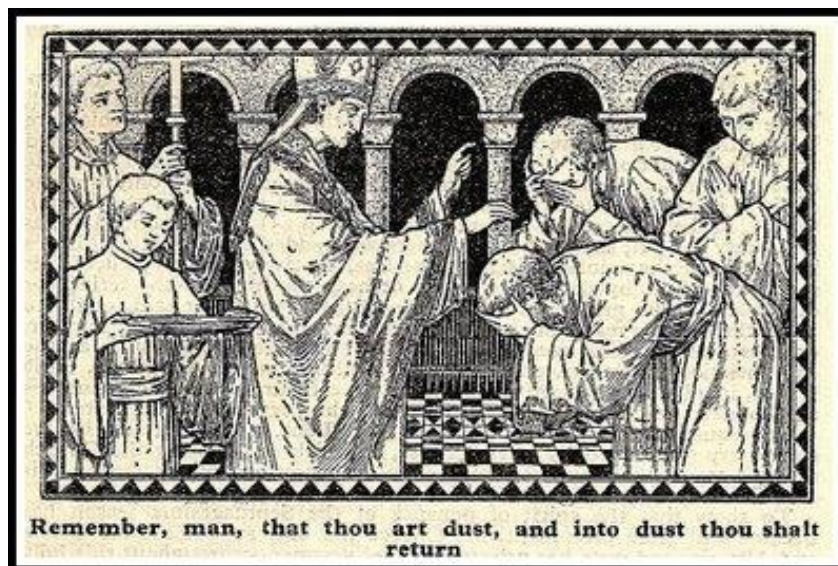
Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the Faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All kneel; silence is kept*

Almighty God, thou hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be unto us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The people may come forward to the rail for the imposition of ashes; after you have been imposed, please return to your seat and kneel, if you are able.*

Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.



## LITANY OF PENITENCE

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to thee and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

We have not heard thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**We confess to thee, O Lord.**

Our lust, gluttony, and our abuse of others,

**We confess to thee, O Lord.**

Our anger, hatred, malice, and envy,

**We confess to thee, O Lord.**

Our laziness, intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**We confess to thee, O Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to thee, O Lord.**

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

For our poor stewardship and misuse of thy creation, and our lack of  
concern for the generations to come,  
**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;  
**Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,  
**That we may show forth thy glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,  
**Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the  
death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live,  
hath given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce  
to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.  
He pardoneth\* and absolveth all those who truly repent, and with sincere  
hearts do believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that  
those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life  
hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*The people may be seated as the altar is prepared*

***The Mass begins on page 10 in the Chapel Booklet***