



Ashes

This coming Wednesday, February 14, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Ashes are an ancient Jewish sign of penitence. During Mass on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the faithful come forward to have ashes rubbed on their foreheads in the sign of the cross. The ashes come from the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The priest or other minister will say one of two formulas: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ashes, black and gritty, remind us of the somber character of Lent. They symbolize the darkness in our lives which must be confronted and repented. They remind us, too, that just as something that has burned up is gone, what we have and who we are on this earth are not permanent. There is urgency in the Lord's call to conversion. Worn publicly, ashes remind us that we call each other to live the Gospel.

Since Lent is a time of personal and communal conversion, it is an especially fitting time to cut back on life's "extras." We must remember that the purpose of Lent is not solely to give up things; it is to turn our lives from what does not really satisfy and fill ourselves with the Lord. Even a look at advertising on television and other media proves the point. Our culture promises fulfillment through material things. Finding something to do without can remind us that our heart's desire can be filled only with a loving relationship with Jesus, our Lord.

May this Lent be a time of growth, renewal and conversion for all of us!

Father David

Save the Date: March 18th

On Sunday, March 18, immediately after the 11:00 AM Mass, we will have our annual St. Joseph's Table. There will be a procession in the church with our St. Joseph statue, leading to the parish hall, where a meatless pasta dinner will be served. More information to follow!

Father David