

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of six and a half weeks of repentance, fasting and abstinence in preparation for Easter

For Christians, ashes are a symbol of penitence for things they have done wrong and for which they wish to be forgiven. It is also a reminder that we all come from ashes, and to ashes we all will return. The ashes are prepared and blessed by the priest, and placed on the forehead of the worshiper. Christians believe this marks the physical and spiritual beginning of a personal Lent season.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20



What are the Ashes? The priest first burns the palm crosses that were kept from the previous year's Palm Sunday services and then mixes the ashes with holy water (which has been blessed) to make a greyish paste. The priest delivers the blessing by dipping his thumb in the paste and uses it to make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead.

