

***The Cross in My Pocket***

*I carry a cross in my pocket a simple reminder to me  
of the fact that I am a Christian  
no matter where I may be.*

*This little cross is not magic nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me from every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification for all the world to see.  
It's simply an understanding between my Savior and me.*

*When I put my hand in my pocket  
to bring out a coin or key*

*The cross is there to remind me  
of the price He paid for me.*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful  
for my blessings day by day*

*And to strive to serve Him better in all that I do and say.*

*It's also a daily reminder  
of the peace and comfort I share.*

*With all who know my Master  
and give themselves to His care.*

*So, I carry a cross in my pocket reminding no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life if only I'll let Him be.*



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

### **Opening Song: Change My Heart**

Refrain: Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. (Refrain)

### **First reading from the prophet Joel 2:12 -18**

#### **Response to the reading**

**Leader:** For our sins of unkindness

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Leader:** For our sins of selfishness

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Leader:** For our sins of thoughtlessness

**All:** Lord have mercy.

### **Proclamation of the gospel according to Matthew 6:1-16**

#### **Response to the reading: Skit: "I'm free, I'm free"**

#### **Blessing and Distribution of Ashes**

The minister of the ashes will make the sign of the Cross on our foreheads with the ashes as she says:

**Repent and believe in the gospel.** And we respond:  
**Amen.**

#### **As the ashes are distributed. The cantors will sing: Refiner's Fire**

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.  
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my master, ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within  
and make me holy.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my master, ready to do Your will.

#### **Intercessory Prayers -- Our Father**

#### **Closing Song: Solemn Leavetaking**

**Keeping a reverent silence, please exit the gym to the beat of the drum.**

### **LENTEN PRACTICES**

**Fasting**, for Catholics age 18 through 59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. One full meal, two smaller meals

**Abstinence from meat**, for Catholics age 14 and up on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

### **PRAYER--FASTING--ALMSGIVING**