

Call to Worship – Ash Wednesday 2025

Good morning and welcome to our Ash Wednesday Mass. Today marks the first day of lent. Lent is the liturgical season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving lasting 40 days. These 40 days of lent mirror the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert before he began his public ministry. Today after the homily you will receive ashes. As you receive ashes the priest will say, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This phrase comes from Genesis 3:19. God had just created Adam and Eve from the earth and breathed his very life into them. Shortly after Adam and Eve chose to lose trust in their creator and disobeyed Him by eating of the fruit from the tree of knowledge. The ashes are a reminder that as creatures we have limitations and are dependent on our divine creator. They also serve as reminder that that because of sin our human nature is finite, and death is inevitable. Because of Adam we are all born with original sin and live in a sinful humanity. If the story ended there it sounds pretty bleak- we are a sinful humanity destined to die. However, God in his loving goodness chose to send his only Son- Jesus- to redeem the world and have eternal life with him. That is the reason the gospels are called the “Good news.” What good news indeed- God chose to become one of us so we can have eternal happiness with him. The Pope has declared this Jubilee year the year of hope. The CCC defines hope as “the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Lent is a season of fasting and intensified prayer to help us focus on the virtue of hope. We fast not because food is bad but as a reminder we are not made for this world but for eternal happiness with Christ. Our sacrifices are meant to help us focus on Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice on the cross. There are many things in our day to day life that can distract us from having a relationship with Jesus. This lent think of what things are distracting you from Jesus- it could be Tick Tock, snapchat, social media, or just phones in general, it could be gossip, vanity, the need to fit in even if it goes against your morals. The reality is we all sin. And even though in lent we reflect on our sinfulness, lent is meant to be a season of hope. Hope is the virtue that helps me realize I can’t get myself to heaven. I. NEED. Christ! So this lent think of what distractions you can take out of your life so you can focus on Christ and the hope of eternal happiness with Him.

As mentioned after the homily you will receive ashes. all are welcome to come up and receive ashes. During communion If you are not Catholic, we invite you to join to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing. Please stand and sing our opening song.

