

Ash Wednesday

We continue to be in unprecedented times which call us to continue to care for the common good and health of one another. As such, when it comes to the distribution of Ashes this year for Ash Wednesday, we will have a little bit of a different procedure than we may be used to. It is important to remember that ashes are used as a sacramental to remind us of our need to be humbled before our God. In our humility, we place ourselves before our God with hearts open to be filled by His love, His compassion, and His fullness. And so, just as in ancient Israel, our ancestors received the imposition of ashes by a sprinkling of ashes on the crown of the head as a sign of penance, we too enter this time of penance marked by an imposition of ashes. The way ashes will be distributed this year is the following: The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.