

Ash Wednesday

February 17th, 2020

Mass Schedule:

- 7:00 AM: Mass with Ashes, SSPP
- 12:00 NOON: Liturgy of the word with Ashes, SSPP
- 5:30 PM: Mass with Ashes, St. Mary's
- 7:00 PM: Mass with Ashes, SSPP

Fasting Reminder

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fasting & abstinence!

Distribution of Ashes:

As per the instructions issued by the Vatican, the method of blessing and distributing ashes for 2021 will be as follows:

- Father blesses the ashes with the formula from the Missal. He then sprinkles the ashes with holy water (saying nothing further).
- Father then says once for all the formula of imposition: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
- Father sanitizes his hands, put a mask on and distribute the ashes in the following manner
 - Father will come to everyone in their pews just as at communion time
 - Those distributing ashes will not say anything while receiving the ashes.
 - The ashes will be sprinkled on the top of the head, "left to fall" or "scattered" as the original text says, they are not imposed on the forehead with the thumb.

The Tradition of Sprinkling Ashes Explained by Catholic Answers:

Question: When I was in Rome, I noticed that blessed ashes were administered by sprinkling them on the crown of the head, rather than by marking the forehead with a cross, as is generally done in the U.S. Why?

Answer: Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head recalls the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance: "Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads" (Neh 9:1). The American method of putting ashes on the forehead, usually in the sign of the cross, allows the ashes to be visible to others so that the communal, penitential nature of the day might be more readily visible.