

Ash Wednesday is this week.

Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Our schedule of liturgies will be as follows:

9:00 am Mass with the imposition of ashes

12 noon Liturgy of the Word* with the imposition of ashes

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Word* with the imposition of ashes

Two notes about the Ash Wednesday this year:

1. In order to respect social distancing, ashes will be distributed as they are traditionally imposed in Rome and in many European countries: by simply sprinkling them on the head of each person coming forward, without touching.

2. There is no offertory collection at the liturgies. Baskets are simply placed at the entrances to the church, in the usual places. Offerings will be directed to assisting the care of the retired priests of the Diocese of Worcester. Your kindness is much appreciated.

* A **Liturgy of the Word** is a brief liturgical service-without Mass- that is celebrated as follows:

-Opening Prayer

-Readings with Responsorial Psalm

-Homily

-Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

-Final Prayers, Lord's Prayer and Conclusion

May our observance of Lent help us to grow in faith, hope and love.

Fr. Steven Labaire