

Ash Wednesday 2019

99 year old lady called wanting to receive ashes.

- **Not a member of the parish**
- **Catholic**

WHY did she want to receive ashes?

The way we encounter Jesus ... and are changed!

Gospel story: Jesus' sermon on the mount:

- **Right after the beatitudes**
- **Jesus give us ways to grow closer and encounter him**

Comical charactatures;

- 1. Give alms: blow a trumpet on the streets**
- 2. Pray: in the synagogue and street corners**
- 3. Fast: look glum and disfigure their faces**

They already have received their reward

Go where only your Father can see you

And your Father who sees you will reward you

How will he reward you: by coming closer to God; by encountering God!

(Pause)

The Church exists to help us come closer to God!

With all the problems and scandals in the Church today, our mandate remains the same:

to help people encounter Jesus and be changed!

(review opportunities for growth this year)

Woman who is 99 and wanting ashes: Why is it so important?

Ash Wednesday reminds her of death.

Reminds her of hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Ash Wednesday reminds us of the BIG picture of life because it is so easy to get absorbed in the small things of life.

Now is the acceptable hour; now is the time of salvation!

Come and encounter Christ...and be changed forever.