

Remembrance | Imposition of Ashes

The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday serves two purposes. First, we remember that we are created by God from the dust of the earth. Second, we wear ashes as a sign of repentance from our sin. This comes from an ancient Jewish custom that was passed on to Christians.

You are dust, and to dust you shall return. — Genesis 3:19

I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes. — Job 42:6

In this station, you will receive the sign of the cross on your forehead in ash. This is a sign that may be personally significant for you but is also outwardly visible to others. After you receive ashes, meditate and pray on one or more of the following questions:

- Think about a time when you knew that your life depended upon God alone, a time when you could not survive on your own strength. How does that experience inform your life and faith today?
- How does remembering the fragility of life affect your relationships with other people?
- Is there a particular sin in your life that you are called to repent of today?
- Are others able to see repentance from sin in your life the same way they see the ashen cross on your forehead?

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