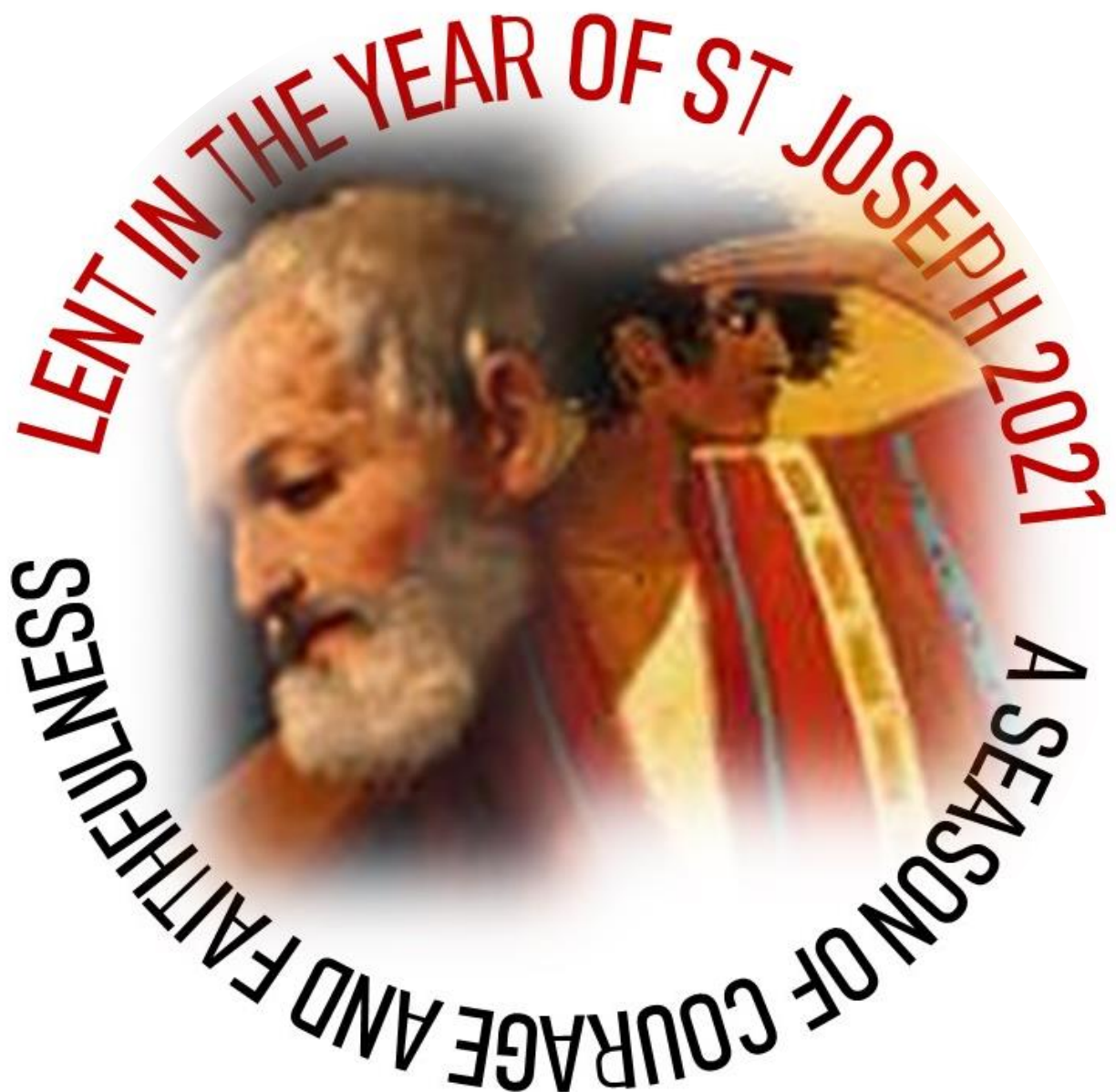


PARISH OF ST JOSEPH

ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

**DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
OUTSIDE OF MASS**



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES OUTSIDE OF MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

When the family has gathered, it is desirable that they attend the celebration of Ash Wednesday Mass on the Parish of St. Joseph's YouTube channel. If this is not possible, they should gather around a table with a crucifix and lighted candle, the leader says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The leader greets those present in the following words:

Praised be the God of grace, mercy, and peace. Blessed be God for ever.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

In the following words, the leader prepares those present for the distribution of the ashes.

My brothers and sisters, the hour of God's favour draws near, the day of his mercy and of our salvation approaches, when death was destroyed and eternal life began. As we begin this season of Lent, we gather today to acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow, may God be merciful to us and restore us to his friendship.

OPENING PRAYER

The leader then says the opening prayer.

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, the light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader, another person present, or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet Joel:

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASHES

The leader then places the ashes on those who come forward, saying to each:

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

Or: Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.

After the giving of ashes, the leader's hands are washed; the rite concludes with the general intercessions and the final blessing.

INTERCESSIONS

The leader says: Our merciful Father does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they should turn from their sins and have life. Let us pray that we who are sorry for our sins may fear no future evil and sin no more.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: By human weakness we have disfigured the holiness of the Church: pardon all our sins and restore us to full communion with our brothers and sisters. **R.**

Leader: Grant the forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life to those who will be baptized this Easter. **R.**

Leader: Your mercy is our hope: welcome us to the sacrament of reconciliation. **R.**

Leader: Give us the will to change our lives, and the lives of others, by charity, good example, and prayer. **R.**

Leader: Make us a living sign of your love for all to see: people reconciled with you and each other. **R.**

After the intercessions the leader, in the following or similar words, invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. Now, in obedience to Christ himself, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

All: Our Father . . .

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

May the Father bless us, for he has adopted us as his children. **R.** Amen.

May the Son come to help us, for he has received us as brothers and sisters. **R.** Amen.

May the Spirit be with us, for he has made us his dwelling place. **R.** Amen.

(Ashes that remain, please return to the Parish Office or scatter in your garden.)

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, and in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments published a note containing guidelines for priests on how to distribute ashes during Ash Wednesday that falls on February 17, 2021.

Note on Ash Wednesday

Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic

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.

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 12 January 2021.

Robert Card. Sarah
Prefect
Arthur Roch
Archbishop Secretary