

FEBRUARY 18, 2015
ASH WEDNESDAY

taking+ faith home

Lent is a time to come back to the Lord
our God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	The practice of faith
Thursday	Joel 2:1-2, 11-13	Return to the Lord your God
Friday	Isaiah 58:1-12	True fasting
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	Have mercy on me, God
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	The temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful!
Please wipe away my sins. Psalm 51:1 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Make us new, Lord, for this new day. Make our hearts pure and give us a faithful spirit. Amen. (Psalm 51:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as Lent begins, we thank you for the gift of life and for all that sustains it. Help us to depend on you, serve you and worship you this Lent. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God help you to focus on him this Lent. May he bless you with a prayerful heart and a giving spirit. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you became really dirty. How did it feel to become clean again?
- Ash Wednesday is a day for reflection and repentance – for thinking back on our lives, bringing our sins to God and asking for the Lord’s forgiveness. Name one thing that you feel you need to confess to God today.
- God is always ready to forgive us. What does that mean for you? For God?

DEVOTIONS

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. The weeks of Lent are a time to refocus our lives on God. One important spiritual practice that Christians emphasize during Lent is prayer. Make this Lent a time of prayer for others. Cut out 40 pieces of paper and on each one write the name of a person your household can pray for during Lent. Place these into a jar. Each day of Lent, pull out a slip from the jar and ask God to care for and bless the person named.

SERVICE

Lent is a season for serving and giving. As a household, take up a “40-Minute Service Challenge” this Lent. Each week, commit to an act of community service for 40 minutes, either separately, or preferably, together as a household. This may involve contributing time to a community service program, doing something kind for a neighbor, visiting a person who is elderly or homebound, or helping someone who has a particular need. Each time you finish your service, discuss what it meant to you with the other members of your household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Fill a pot or a tray with good soil and organize some seeds for planting. Talk about ways in which you would like to grow or change as a follower of Jesus. Then have each household member plant a seed as a symbol of their desire to grow or change. Say a prayer asking for God’s help to do so. Make sure to water the soil during Lent and look for signs of new life and growth. At the end of Lent, reflect on how God has been working in your lives as the seeds have been sprouting.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



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