

SACRED SPACE FOR LENT

Lent is a time when we are given the opportunity to reconnect with God. It reminds us that when we were baptised we were connected to Jesus for life and that through our baptism we are called to be people who walk with God always. Our Lenten Sacred Space can contain symbols of baptism to remind us where our journey with God began and of our promise to always walk as a child of the light.

Consider using sand to represent Jesus' time in the desert as the base for your Sacred Space in Lent. You might also use some purple cloth. Place a bible, a bowl of holy water and a baptismal candle in the Space this week. Encourage the children to bless themselves with Holy Water during the days of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

*“If we really want to love
we must learn how to forgive”* *Mother Teresa*

This Prayer Service can be led by a priest, chaplain or teacher. It might be possible for sixth class students to go to Mass in the parish and bring back the ashes which will be distributed during this service. Otherwise you might ask the priest to bring some ashes to the school.

LEADER: The cross of ashes that is placed on your forehead on this special day is a sign for everyone to see that you are willing to keep trying to be the best person that you can be and to believe the Good News. These ashes were once the palms of Palm Sunday, so they are also ashes of hope. They remind us that we are all part of God's creation.

OPENING HYMN: **Gather Round** *(Alive-O₇ p.300)*

LEADER: Loving God, let us pray that we will try harder to love you in all the things that we say and do this season of Lent. May we always be people of repentance and forgiveness. As we remember your death, Jesus, we know that it was a sign of God's great love for us. Live in our hearts this Lent and help us to share this love with our families, friends and everyone we meet in school and at home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF CANDLE: Loving God, you know all of our needs. We light this candle as we offer ourselves to you today during this service. The light of this candle is a remembrance of our Baptism when we were welcomed into this special family. We remember today the promises that we made to try each day to live as you ask us to. May your light and love always surround us. Jesus said that a candle is not lit to be put under a basin. It's lit and put up high in order to give light. May we be lights at school and at home. May we be a light to everyone we meet each day. **Amen**

ALL SING: **Christ be our Light** *(Alive-O₅ p. 110)*

READING: Isaiah 43:2-4

Do not be afraid, for I am with you,
I have called you by your name, I love you and you are mine.
I love you with an everlasting love. You are precious in my sight.

READING: John 15:9-1

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.



DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES:

LEADER: If you are ready to carry the Good News of Jesus to everyone that you know, come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel is said as the ashes are distributed to each person.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dear God, as we wear these ashes today, help us to remember that you always love us. May we always make time for you in our busy lives. Help us to turn away from things that take us away from your love.

CLOSING HYMN:

Clouds Veil

(Alive-O₆ & 8)



ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH

L F C T U W D R D C Y O O Z U
N U R H A P E J H L F B C J H
C W F F U P Q A O S K L Z Q Y
P H W H E R L H Q J D I D O R
R D H N T L C T M A I G Y A A
A L T O E I S H D S N A Q M F
Y H M N S A A E F A S T S L Q
E L G A I T W F H R Y I B X G
R E S M M D J W X S T O H D H
S O I N O T N Y T P A N O C N
H S N E R R R F A H L N U J R
U M S R P I X B G O S P E L E
F L K G V L E L P R U P L Z Z
Z A B R W G N I N N I G E B T
X P A D E U Z T H E D S I M G

ASHES

PROMISE

HOLY DAY

GOSPEL

BEGINNING

FAST

OBLIGATION

BAPTISM

CHURCH

PRAYER

REPENT

SIN

PALMS

PURPLE

CHALLENGES

FAITHFUL