

- **ASH WEDNESDAY** instructions: Here is the instruction for the distribution of ashes from the Congregation of Divine Worship: The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued this instruction for the distribution of ashes for Ash Wednesday during this Covid-19 pandemic time: After blessing the ashes, then sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
- At that point, the note continues, the priest “cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.” He then sprinkles the ashes on each person’s head without saying anything.
- Note that the formula is said only once. To avoid any touching of foreheads, the congregation says the priest “sprinkles ashes on each person’s head.”
- That procedure is the custom in Europe and many other parts of the world. In the United States the custom has been to impose the ashes on the forehead. However, the Roman Missal itself only says: “the priest places ashes on the head”. So, this year in this time of the pandemic, the custom of sprinkling ashes on the head will be used instead of imposing ashes on the forehead.

The above instructions will be used as the manner of distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, here at Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic parish. **The Masses will be celebrated at 9am and 5:30pm** on that day. Please remember to call the office to reserve your place. Social distancing will apply as you come forward by sections to receive your ashes as you do at communion time.

Thank you! Blessings+

Fr. Larry