



If you are participating in the candle lighting, please light all 6 candles together. These 6 will remain lit on the 1st Sunday of Lent as well.

There at kits at the River City Campus you may pick up on Sunday morning or simply take 6 candles from home and place them in the shape of a cross.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the season of fasting and preparation for Easter. It is an imitation of the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert before his ministry. The church has a long standing tradition on Ash Wednesday of receiving ashes on our foreheads and hearing "from dust you came and to dust you will return. "

This statement is a reminder that we are completely dependent on God. This is what gives us the freedom to live as children of God, knowing that God is in control and he will not harm us. We are limited by our humanity but God wishes to give us life eternally. This season is meant to move us into a deeper prayer life and closer to the love of God.

Rend Your Hearts

An Ash Wednesday Family Devotional

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.

16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. 17 Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a by word among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Joel 2:12-18

Reflection Questions

What does It mean to "rend your hearts,
not just your garments"?

In what ways have you received God's
love?

How can you come closer to God this
lenten season?

How can you come closer to each other
this lenten season?

Dear God,

As we enter this season of fasting and preparation as a family, draw us nearer to you. Allow us to celebrate Lent with an open heart. Help us to see one another, ourselves and you more clearly. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see. This Ash Wednesday, we come to you and we thank you for this reminder of our humanity and your abundant love.