

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

A week from now we once again enter the season of Lent. Perhaps you have found yourself saying, 'Already?' It seems just few a days ago that I put away my Christmas decorations in the attic.

Yes we again begin the 40 days and nights before the suffering and death of Our Lord Jesus. As usual, we open the holy season with Ash Wednesday in which we are reminded 'that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.'

I was asked how is the imposition of the ashes to be administered since we still have the pandemic? It is a good and valid question. In a letter sent to all priests in the Archdiocese the Cardinal wrote that due to the pandemic, instead of tracing the ashes on the foreheads of the faithful, the ashes will be sprinkled on the heads of each person. The words 'remember that you are dust' will only be said once to all those present and then each person can come forward to be sprinkled with ashes on their head.

This new 'way' of sprinkling ashes on the head is interesting because it brings us back to the Old Testament practice of repentance. To demonstrate sorrow for their sins people wore sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads. Although we will not be wearing sackcloth on Ash Wednesday, the sprinkling of ashes on our heads is a potent reminder of our sinfulness and the need of repentance in our lives.

We will still wear masks and observe social distancing during the services. Please take note that our service times are 6:30am ashes only; 8:30am Mass and ashes; 12:00pm ashes only; 5:30pm Mass and ashes; 7:00pm ashes only.

Peace

Fr. Dwight

P.S. Remember the KC drive-thru **FOOD DRIVE this evening from 4:00pm - 6:00pm** Please come to the portico outside the Family Life Center to drop off your non-perishable food items or donations for our SVdP food pantry.