

**Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2012**

Scripture Reflection:

The prophet Joel:

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart,
With fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
And return to the Lord, your God.

Response: Be Merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

From Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and Sisters:
We are ambassadors for Christ,
As if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
Be reconciled to God.

Response: Be Merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

From the Gospel of Matthew:

“When you pray, go to your inner room,
Close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

Response: Be Merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Blessing with ashes:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Let us pray: May the Blessed Sacrament we have received sustain us, O Lord,
That our Lenten fast may be pleasing to you
And be for us a healing remedy.
May Almighty God bless us,
Protect us from all evil
And bring us to everlasting Life.
Amen.

**May we walk with one another on this new Lenten journey of 2012!
Peace, sr pat**