



**ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Religious Formation Office

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February 17/18 2010

Ash Wednesday

Dear Parents:

As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 17, I urge you during this Holy Season to foster your personal spiritual enrichment. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to welcome spiritual richness and rediscover prayer as a family. The meeting of Christ in thanksgiving, praise, adoration and devotion brings families together at home and in unity with their parish.

The cross must mark our Lenten journey. The cross teaches us to understand the seriousness of sin and the power of the blood of Christ. Take time to pray the Stations of the Cross as a family. Take time to visit the Sacrament of Penance. Let us place ourselves in prayer and devotion to Jesus as we journey through this Lenten season. Through prayer we enter into communion with Jesus. As the Apostle Peter stated, "Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed." (1 Peter 4:13).

Be assured that I join my prayers with you in daily devotion to our Lord. Trust in the power of God's grace to transform human hearts and shape a future of peace and justice for all children of our world. Christianity offers us reasons of hope by showing us our God as merciful and loving. In the sacrifice of the Son, God's immense love is revealed to us. When we choose to share in authentic faith and a moral life God's immense love is revealed through His gift of Jesus. We simply need to choose celebrating the Eucharist to share in this inexhaustible gift and source of love, which Jesus instituted at the Last Supper.

In devotion to Ash Wednesday there will be no class on Wednesday, February 17 or Thursday, February 18. Families should attend one of the Holy Masses to celebrate the beginning of Lent and receive ashes.

Together as we enter into prayer with the Church proclaiming the death of Jesus on the cross, let us see Christ's death as commencement of new life. Observing reverently the darkened hours of Lent in our Lord's self sacrifice of infinite sadness and love we believe the shining light of Christ never abandons us.

"I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16:22).

Share prayerful moments during Lent with your children and your devotion will be rewarded in the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday.

Yours in Christ's Peace,

Sandi Morgan, Director of Religious Education