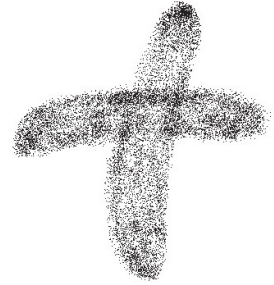


Celebrating Lent

PRAYER ON ASH WEDNESDAY



*O Jesus, in honor of the forty days
you spent in the desert praying and fasting,
we begin this season of Lent.*

*During this holy time of sacrifice, prayer, and good works
may we prepare our hearts, our souls, our minds and bodies
for the greatest feast in the Church,
the feast of Your Resurrection.*

*May we follow in Your footsteps
as we journey with You to Jerusalem.
At each Mass that we participate in during this Lent,
may we be reminded of the Last Supper
and Your gift of Eucharist.*

*May we continue with You to Calvary,
accepting the crosses that are given to us each day.*

*May we stay with Your Mother Mary
as she stands by Your Cross.*

*We ask You to forgive us our sins
and thank You for the sacrifice You have made for us.*

*Grant us, O God, the perseverance
to strive each day of this holy season of Lent
to become better Christians.*

*May our preparation for Easter
make us one with the Risen Christ on Easter
and every day of our lives. Amen.*