



**The Lenten Season of the Church
Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday
February 22-April 8, 2023**

This season of the church year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten Season in the Christian Church calendar. It is the day for the imposition of ashes on our foreheads and to remind us that from dust we came and to dust we shall return, of our humanity and His divinity, our frailty and His omnipotence, and our helplessness and His provision.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated (lapsed) from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

I invite you to contemplate further on Ash Wednesday by reading Stuart Malloy's thoughtful article, "[Reflections on Ash Wednesday](#)".

For by God's grace in Christ, we do not have to stay the way we are.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Charles Travis

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