

Ash distribution changes during the pandemic

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments of the Vatican put out instructions for Ash Wednesday: **Sprinkle the ash on the believer's head** instead of wiping a cross on each one's forehead.



BEFORE

The priest traces a cross on the attendant's forehead while reciting: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", from the Roman Missal.

Source: Congregation for Divine Worship

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a period 40 days before Easter (Sundays are excluded). The ashes represent death and repentance.



NOW

The priest recites one of the two formulas in the Roman Missal to everyone at the mass. With a mask on, he sprinkles the ashes on the believer's head without saying anything.

CAROLINA VÁSQUEZ/Missourian