

Joyful Catholic Families

Ash Wednesday: The First Day of Lent

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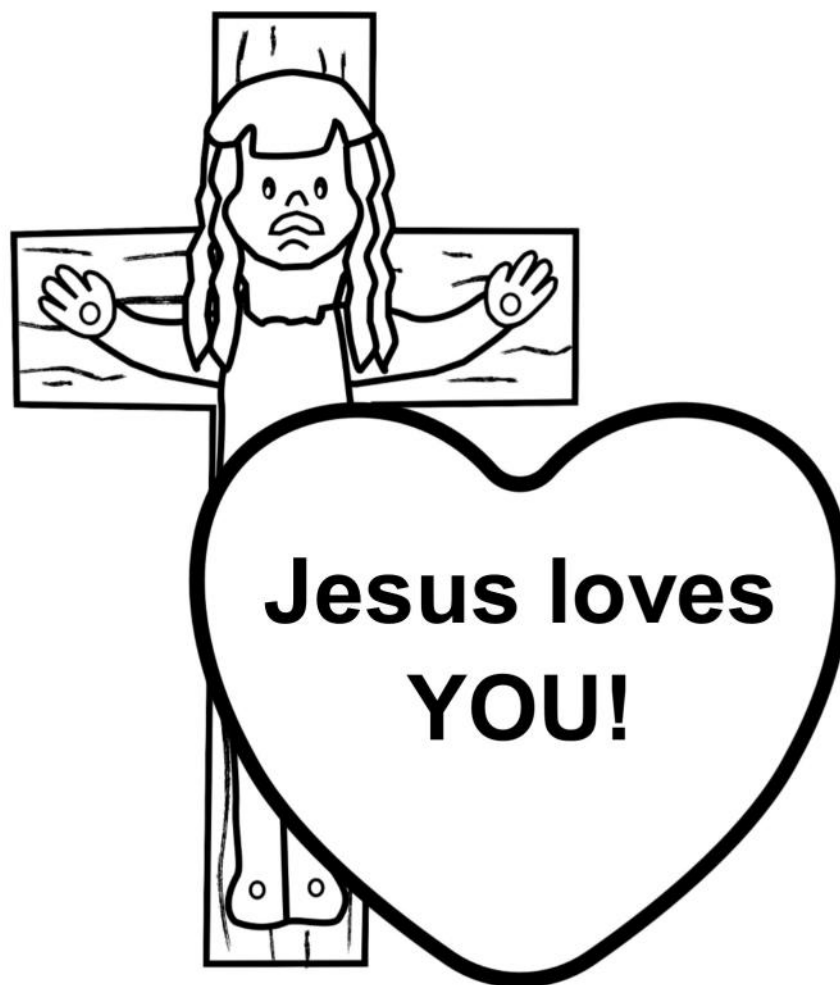
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On Ash Wednesday, we go to church.



Most importantly, during Lent we remember that Jesus loves us very much.

Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross so we can someday be with Him in heaven!





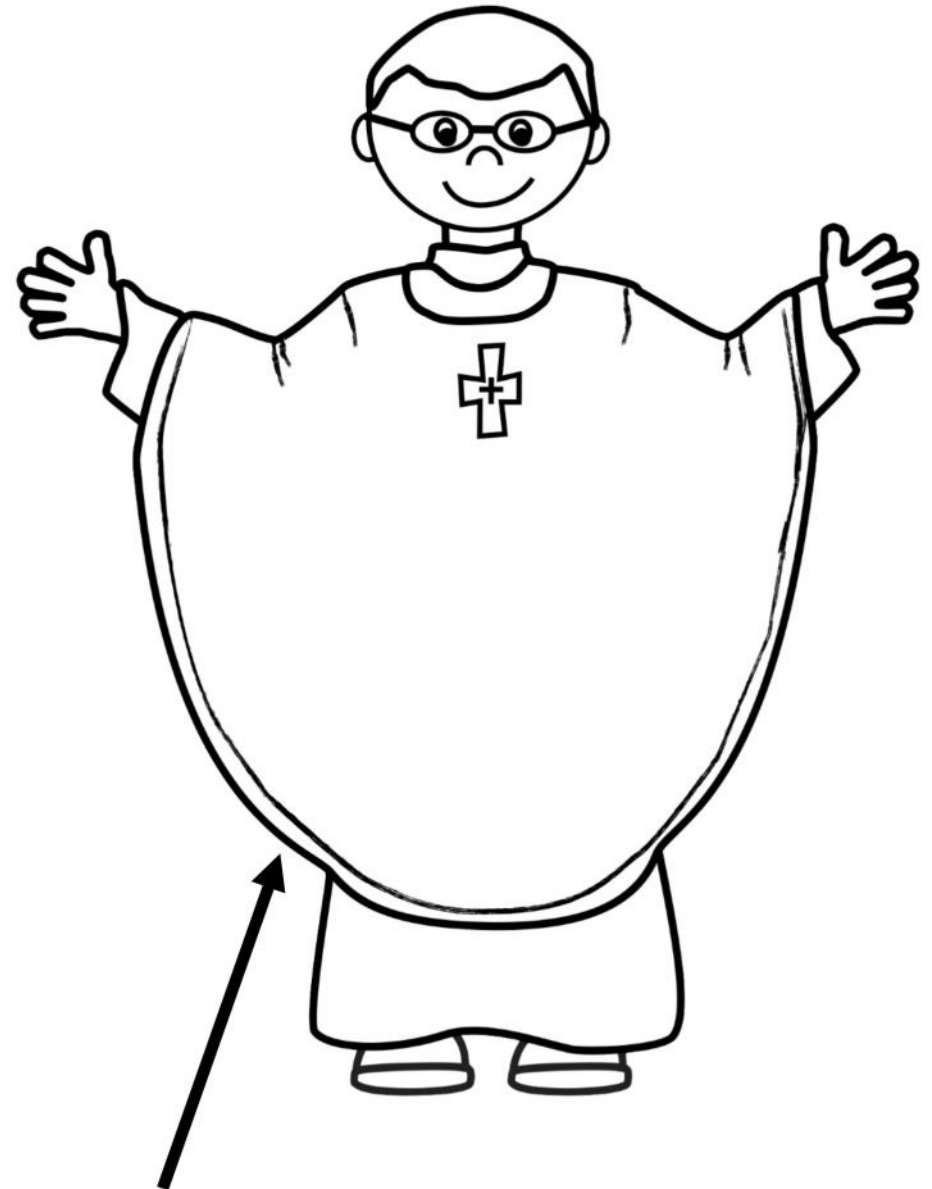
During Lent we spend extra time praying so we can know Jesus better.

During Lent we remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us. We make small sacrifices — like giving up candy or doing something for someone else.

What sacrifice can you make?



On Ash Wednesday, the priest wears purple vestments.



Color the chasuble purple.

On Ash Wednesday the priest (or his helper) puts ashes on our forehead in the shape of a cross.

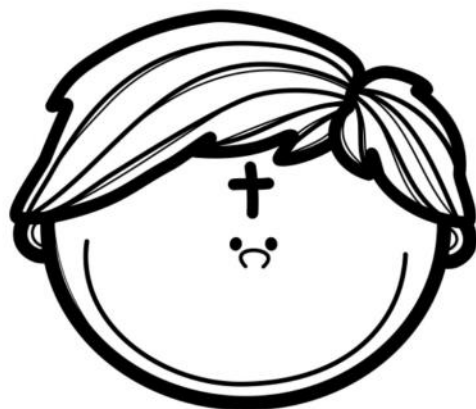


Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday we begin 40 days of preparing to celebrate Easter. We call these 40 days Lent.



These ashes help us remember that we have done things that hurt other people and God.

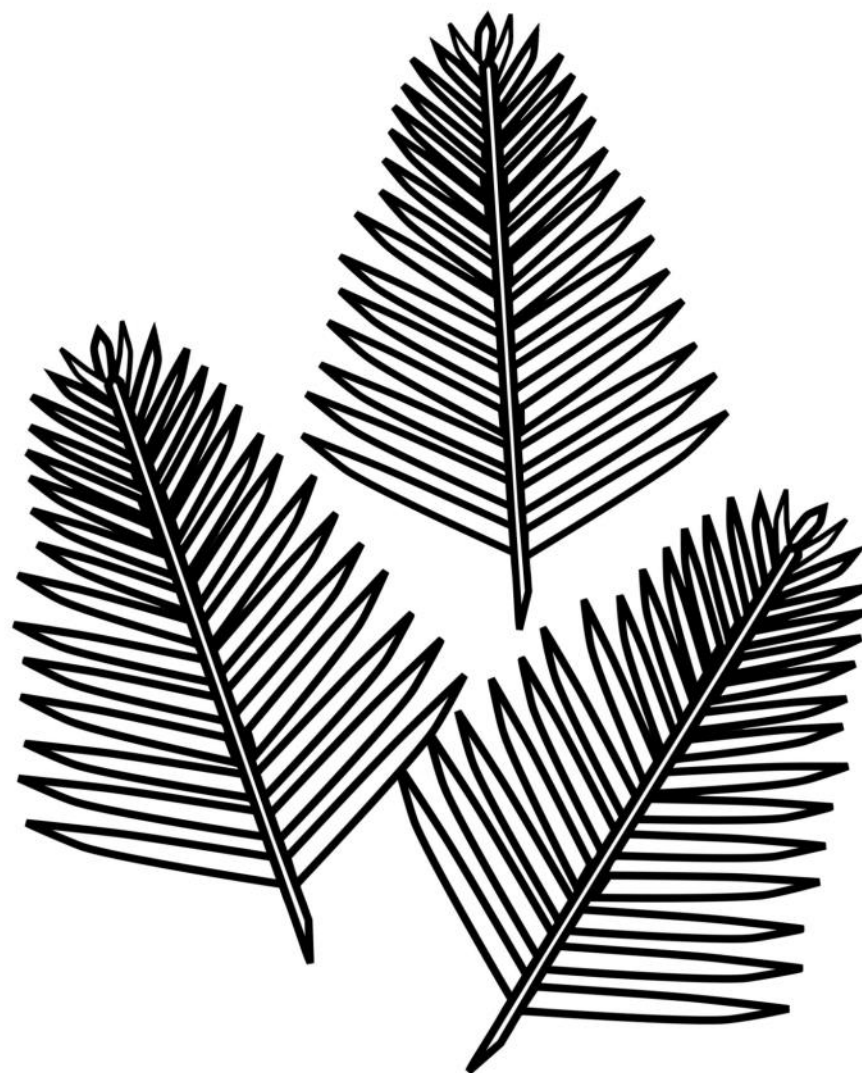


These ashes help us remember that we need to once again try hard to do what God wants us to do.



Where do the ashes come from?

Do you remember the palms you were given last year on Palm Sunday?



Each year on the Sunday before Easter we celebrate Palm Sunday.

The palms remind us how the people waved palm branches as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

The people knew Jesus was our Messiah, our Savior, our King.



There are usually palms left over on Palm Sunday.

Also, people sometimes return their palms to church.

All of these palms are burnt and become ashes.

The ashes are used on Ash Wednesday.

