

Media Alert

Diocese of Orlando Catholics Join Christians Throughout the World to Mark the Start of Lent

Who: Bishop John Noonan, clergy, religious and members of Christ's faithful of the Diocese of Orlando

What: Distribution of Ashes on the observance of Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent

When: Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 12:10 p.m. Mass start time

Where: St. James Cathedral, 215 N. Orange Avenue in downtown Orlando

Other Information:

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence for Catholics. At Mass on Ash Wednesday, the imposition of ashes replicates an ancient penitential practice and symbolizes our dependence upon God's mercy and forgiveness

The bishop will be available at approximately 12:45 p.m. for interviews with the media.

Other events taking place this Lent include:

Reconciliation Weekend will take place on April 8 and 9. Parishes throughout Central Florida will invite Catholics to journey back to God and experience forgiveness and reconciliation with the Sacrament of Penance.

Chrism Mass will take place on April 20. During this Mass the oils that will be used throughout the year for baptisms and confirmations are blessed. Also, 8 priests will be honored for 50 years of service and 7 priests will be honored for 25 years of service.

Catholics from around the State of Florida will gather in Tallahassee for the annual Catholic Days at the Capitol March 15-17. There will be meetings to present legislative concerns to our local senators and representatives. The 36th annual Red Mass, with the bishops in attendance, will honor our politicians and lawmakers. This is an opportunity to form relationships and live out our calling to be faithful citizens.