

ASH WEDNESDAY

Prayers during the sprinkling with ashes of the family members.

The family prepares the following things:

Table, covered with the white tablecloth. On the table in the middle you put the Bible and the cross. Next to the Bible and the cross you put 2-lighted candles. On the table you put also the bag with ashes, which were blessed by the priest in the church on Ash Wednesday.

All the family members gather together in the House. The Father or Mother or someone else preside over the celebration. He/she gives also to others to read the readings or to sing the songs.

When all are present you start the celebration with lenten song.

P. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All. Amen.

P. Today all Christians around the world start the 40 days period of preparation for the Easter Celebration. In this we follow the example the 40 days of fasting of Jesus Christ in the desert before he started his public teaching of the people of Israel. Today the priest blessed the ashes in the church to encourage us to start the time of conversion, time of changing of our lives from listening to the temptation of the Satan to obeying God's commandments as Jesus did in the desert during his time of fasting.

Today Jesus is calling us to do penance for our sins, to leave our sins behind and to start new life with him.

And today our family wants to respond to Jesus' calling to conversion through accepting the ashes of conversion and praying together for God's help to remove our sins from our lives.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, before you started the teaching of the people you went to lonely place to pray to God, to find his will for your life, help us to pray together to God, our Father so that we also will be able like you to reject the temptations of Satan and follow your teaching in everyday of our family life. As the family we want to confess our sins that have made against God and against other people, especially against the family members. We want to express the regret for all our sins and ask you forgiveness and the forgiveness of others, especially other family members.

Give us Lord the strength to continue our lives together with you as your children, as the true followers of Jesus Christ, so that we can at the end of the Lenten penance rise with you in the glory of resurrection. With our prayers we want to embrace all the sick, lonely, orphaned, poor, those who are dying and we ask you Lord to give us courage that during this lent time we will help them in their suffering and their problems and in this way we will bring your love and peace to them. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All. Amen.

All present sit down and listen to scripture readings done by other member of the family.

Reading:
Corinthians 5:20-6:3 (from Ash Wednesday)

After the reading – all can reflect and share what God through his Holy Spirit spoke in their hearts.

Then, After the reflection all stand up and the Father or Mother takes the ashes that were blessed in the church, place them on the heads of the family members saying:

Turn away from your sin and be faithful to the gospel

During the giving the ashes the following song can be sung:

After the giving the ashes all stand and the presider continue with the prayer of intercessions.

Let us beg our God who does not want the death of the sinner but his conversion by saying the following verse:

Have mercy Lord on your people.

1. Lord, whom we offended through our sin, have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

All. **Have mercy Lord on your people.**

2. Lord, we beg you for our family present here and all who are in different places, unite us in your love and peace and give us strength to support each other in our problems.

All. **Have mercy Lord on your people.**

3. Lord, we pray for all those from our family and community who have rejected you as their Saviour and Lord, give them grace of conversion and coming back to you who gives us the fullness of life and happiness.

All. **Have mercy Lord on your people.**

4. Let us pray for all those who are sick, lonely, orphaned, widowed, poor: may your love, courage and help come to them through our care and love for them.

All. **Have mercy Lord on your people.**

Now other members of the family can say their prayers of intercessions.

After that the presider finish with the prayer:

Our Father

P. Lord Jesus Christ, you have sacrificed your life on the Cross for our salvation, accept our sincere will of conversion which we offer to you in our family prayer as your small-home church in the unity of all brothers and sisters in faith. Who lives and reign forever and ever. Amen.

The presider now saying the words of blessing make the sign of the cross.

All also make the sign of the cross with him/her.

P. May the Lord through our penance bring us all to the fullness of eternal life.

All. Amen. **Then all sing the Lenten song:**