



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON
OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

Regarding the distribution of ashes this coming Ash Wednesday, this office recognizes the inability, due to the pandemic, to make the sign of the cross on parishioners' foreheads as is the tradition in the United States.

The more ancient method, still used throughout much of the world, should be adopted. This method allows for a small amount (pinch) of dry ashes to be sprinkled on the crown of the head, ensuring that there is no physical contact. The current rubrics of the Roman Missal state: *Then the Priest places ashes on the head of all those present who come to him...*

Priest, deacons, and other ministers should always wear a face mask during the distribution of ashes.

7 January 2021