

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

On this day, as we have listened to God's message and have accepted the ashes with humble and contrite hearts, let us now ask for God's forgiveness and help.

*Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer*

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, our Bishop Paul, priests, religious and catechists, that through their preaching and holy life they may lead to God's kingdom the people entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord:

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. For this our Christian community, that we might come together to a more intense time of prayer and diligent attentiveness to the Word of God during this season of grace, let us pray to the Lord:

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

3. For each one of us, that we may challenge ourselves throughout Lent and the year, to stay in God's light and make the choices that bring us closer to him, let us pray to the Lord:

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. For all Christians, that during this Lent may abandon their spiritual laziness and indifference and use this opportunity for their personal renewal and charitable works, let us pray to the Lord:

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. For all people, that they may grow in charity by generously sharing with the poor and the less privileged, the material blessings they have received, let us pray to the Lord:

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Father in heaven, the greatness of your love is beyond words to describe. By the power of Your Spirit, liberate us from all self centeredness, that we may be free to love others as Christ loves us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.