

# ASH WEDNESDAY

*is a Christian holy day that marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of penance and preparation for Easter.*

*Lent is also a time to remember that Jesus was tempted by Satan, but stood firm against him.*



## DEVOTION:

—**Genesis 3:19** God says to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return"

A personal devotion from my family from our Ash Wednesday experience:

We came from a Baptist Church, and I am not sure I ever recall us having a service like this. 2024 was my first Ash Wednesday service, and I remembered being a bit confused on what it was, what it meant, and then what the purpose was behind it. Although majority of services I am up running the sound board, I still get to deeply experience those same feelings and thoughts that I probably would if I were sitting in the pew's downstairs. I always enjoy our regular Worship services every Sunday morning, but there is nothing like the services that start with Ash Wednesday; that then leads us to Easter morning! Sometimes our lives get busy and chaotic, which sometimes leaves us with less time and focus to reflect on other important things. For the life of me I could not figure out what I wanted to give up, so I was hoping that after the service, God was going to reveal it to me. It took me awhile to get to sleep last night not knowing what it was going to be. Starting to type this devotion led me to what it was. (even if that means I have to extend another day by going to April 18th, instead of the 17th, lol) When I first started thinking what I was going to give up, I'll admit that I was being selfish; thinking to myself "why would I want to give up something I enjoy" but then I had to humble myself and think "imagine all of the things Jesus gave up, and how he must have felt about it." I mean, can you imagine not eating for 5 days straight, let alone 40 days.....

Yesterday morning I said to my kids: "think about what you are going to give up for 40 days and I will be doing the same."

My kids were not happy on our drive to Church last night; they were being selfish too, and wanted to stay home because they were tired. In my heart I knew they were going to feel the complete opposite by the time we left, and they certainly did! Talk about Joy & Love filling your heart. I often would look down at them in the pews to take note of their body language, and of course to see if they were paying any attention. I witnessed the both of them singing a hymn together which was pleasing in itself. Especially when they aren't fans of singing. Together, and with others whom we love, we received our ashes and partook in communion. The Holy Spirit really knows how to rock this place if I do say so myself!

Jaedyn said "I felt eh hh going to Church because I was tired and wanted to sleep, but during the service I felt good because Camden and I sang and participated together. I felt even better afterwards seeing how much better Camden felt"

Camden this morning said "thank you all for last night. I'm very glad I came to that service. I feel like I have a ton of weight lifted off of me"

As their mother, I am nothing shy of PROUD! **PRAISE BE TO GOD!**

I noticed last year and this year how low attendance was for these services, so I wanted to share with all of you how it personally affected us. If you are interested, Carol has the recording of the service posted, and I hope you'll be more inclined to attend with us next year!

**Love, Jassmine, Jaedyn, and Camden**