

Welcome to St. Martin's Ash Wednesday Prayer Walk

No matter who you are or why you are here, we're grateful you are joining us. This prayer walk is intended to be a self-paced, self-guided experience and to meet you where you are.

We encourage you to take a map with you to guide you from station to station around the church property, as well as a booklet of reflections. In addition to the collecting the reflections in the booklet, we have also recorded all of the them as an audio podcast. **If you prefer to listen to the reflections, go to www.churchofstmartin.org.**

There are five stations after this welcome table. These stations cover the following reflection topics: Dirt, Brokenness, Ashes, Baptism, and Permission. At each station you will find materials for an activity and some bullet points outlining the purpose of that station and how the activity works.

While you can walk the stations at any pace (some might interest you more than others), we do think they will have more impact if you go through them in order, one through five. Of course, ultimately the path you take is up to you!

If your time today is limited, you can always go through them quickly and then listen to the podcast or read the reflections at home when you have more time to reflect. **Finally, if you just want "ashes to go," we have those available at Station 3.**

Two quick definitions:

Lent is a six-week period of time when the church has a special focus on self-reflection, repentance, prayer, and acts of charity. It is also a season of preparation for Easter, the most important day in the Christian calendar. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare for Baptism.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is traditionally a time for fasting and other acts of penance. The meaning of the ashes will be explored in Station 3.

We will have an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Eucharist at 7pm. You can join us in person at the church, or virtually on Facebook or Zoom. Information about how to join us online is on our website. We look forward to sharing together in this spiritual journey.

Finally, a note of gratitude for All Saints Parish in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Episcopal News Service published an article about an Ash Wednesday prayer walk they offered in 2020, which gave us the inspiration for this event.