



Ash Wednesday Message

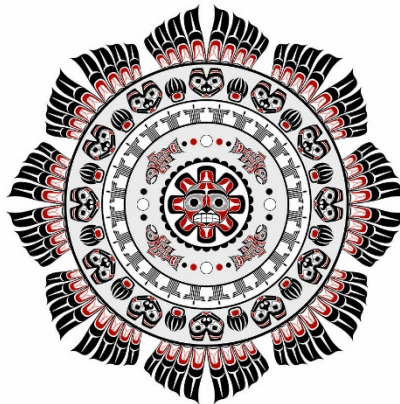
“Our Walk Home Begins...changing course”

Greetings Blessed Ones and welcome to again to All Saints. Tonight, we begin the season of Lent, and it just feels weird to me. The spiritual and emotional “pivot” required from yesterday to today...from the joy and brightness, the starriness of Epiphany to the traditional “starkness” of Lent is almost too much for me. It is a perfect example of the liturgical “bipolarity” of the Church Year. Here we were, joyfully cruising through the Epiphany Season together, learning and following the star and then, bam! We crash headlong into the wall of Lenten sacrifice, piety and self-denial...with all of our airbags deploying, and our spirits deflating. Forty days and nights of scarcity, fasting and “giving up” ahead as we reel from the shock of the impact.

But Blessed Ones, this Lenten Season here at All Saints is going to feel a lot different. Yes, we will begin our journey of Lent in a good way, with a clean heart as is traditional for Ash Wednesday, but there is “course change” coming. I am going to ask you to consider joining us for a little walk for the next couple of weeks as we engage the Season of Lent in a different way. Here at All Saints we are “Walking Home” this season and would invite you to come along. Home is different for most of us, with different visions and different feelings. ***“Home,” our own Pat Stevens reminds us, “...it conjures up memories of family and friends, warm fires, the smell of familiar foods cooking in the kitchen. Safety and security, a sense of belonging. Home is, in many ways, as much a***

state of mind as a geographic location. And for many of us, home also connotes a particular place, one that we return to after a journey."

“Home” ultimately is “where we live” Different places, different spaces.... We have a home with ourselves, with family, with community, with the Earth and with the Universe. And on our walk home here at All Saints for the next 5 weeks of Lent, we will have a look at all of the homes that we touch and impact. We will have a good look around while we are walking. Sometimes we will be contemplative and introspective, insightful. Sometimes we will be brilliant and sometimes we will be goofy. We’ll make some observations and a decision or two along the way, and maybe even a change for the better. And our goal on our Walk Home this Lenten Season is just not to get home, but to make the stops along the way just a little bit better, just a little brighter, just a little more sacred because we were there. So, come along for the “Walk Home.” We would love your company and companionship. And we promise you this Lent, you won’t have to give up a thing. See you on the trail. ~Father Joe



*"We are stardust, we are golden,
and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden."*

Crosby, Stills and Nash