

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

What a beautiful Valentines Day gift! We thank the Lord for allowing us to celebrate the Eucharist together this Sunday after a long period of church closure. I would dare say that while it was God's permissive will that has allowed authorities to close our churches, it is His direct intervention that we are able to open this week. To Him alone, therefore, is our praise and gratitude..... You may pick up your tax receipts. They are on the table at the foyer or in your parish mailbox..... Please go to the parish website to sign up for Sunday Mass. Those who are no longer able to sign up because of the cap in the number of people inside the church may receive communion outside of the Mass. Feel free to call or send me a message within the week for this purpose..... The season of Lent starts on February 17 which is Ash Wednesday. The Mass with imposition of ashes will be at 7 PM. Please sign up on our parish website if you are attending..... In its website on January 12 of this year, the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in the Vatican published a note detailing a change in the manner of distributing ashes during the time of pandemic. After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water, the priest addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". He then sprinkles the ashes on each person's head "without saying anything." In other words, there will be no more crosses on the foreheads..... Another change in the liturgy that starts on Ash Wednesday is that the word "one" is to be omitted from the conclusion of the Collect, as well as from other similar

prayers in the liturgy. In place of ending with “one God, for ever and ever”, the Collect will now end, “God, for ever and ever.” With this new change, the English version will now be consistent with the Latin text as well as with French. The Decree of implementation for this change was issued in December by the Canadian Bishops Conference (CCCB) following a request from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacrament..... IMPORTANT! Ash Wednesday is a day of abstinence and fasting. Those who are 14 years of age and onwards should abstain from eating meat and meat products. Furthermore, those who are 18 to 59 years old, aside from abstaining meat, should also fast. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Being not able to come to church has made you more conscientious of our religious obligations. It is one way of producing good out of the bad situation..... We are grateful to the Del Mundo family for bringing new beautiful embroidered altar linens from the Philippines. We will be using the one in violet for the season of Lent..... Do you know what’s also on my wish list? A 4-feet statue of St. Joseph! As you have known already, the universal Church is celebrating the Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, and yet we don’t have his image in our church! Hopefully we will be able to acquire and enthrone it near the sanctuary by March 19 which his feast..... Part of our parish celebration in this Year of St. Joseph is to celebrate a votive Mass in his honor every Wednesday (unless there is another obligatory memorial or feast or solemnity). Every Wednesday also, the Rosary of St. Joseph will be prayed before the Holy Mass. The Year of St. Joseph Prayer will also be prayed before the blessing in all Masses throughout the year..... I would like to invite the members of the Children’s Rosary together in person on Tuesday, February 16 for their regular devotion to

By Father Ramon

February 14, 2021

our Lady..... Finally, be advised that our daily Mass schedule will resume this week – from Tuesday to Thursday it will be after the Holy Rosary at 7PM, then on Friday at 9 AM after the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. However, during the Fridays of Lent, the Chaplet is substituted by the Stations of the Cross. Eucharistic Adoration follows after the Mass on Friday.