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## **Distribution of Ashes During the Coronavirus Pandemic January 15, 2021**

As we enter the holy season of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, the question of how ashes will be distributed to the faithful is being addressed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments.

In a Note (Prot. N. 17/21) issued on January 12, 2021, the Congregation writes:

**The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general:**

**“Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or  
“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.**

**The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a facemask, and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.**

**The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on [top of] the head of each one without saying anything.**

Please note that parishes must continue to observe all necessary [Liturgical Protocols](#) (*Español*) for the celebration of the Sacraments already in effect.