

## St. Patrick Catholic Church, Mount Dora, FL

### **SACRISTAN ASH WEDNESDAY NOTES - —3/10/2025**

There were four 2025 distribution of ashes services: 9 AM English Mass; 12 N Liturgy of the Word without Communion; 5 PM Liturgy of the Word without Communion; 7 PM bi-lingual Mass. Both Masses should have two Sacristans assigned, one to manage the Altar and one for the ashes.

**The 9 AM Mass** should have 13 EMHCs assigned plus the Presider. Only the nine assigned “HOST EMHCs” at the Mass will distribute ashes; not the “4 CUP EMHCs”. [10 Ash positions: Presider, Capt., 2, 7, 7A, HH, 8,10,12, 13.] 431 attended this 3/5/2025 Mass. A Deacon assisted.

Plus prepare disposable ash containers to be blessed for the Ministry To the Sick. See the MTS NOTE below for the 2025 number.

**The 12 N Liturgy of the Word** service should have 7 EMHCs plus the Presider for the distribution of ashes. [7 Ash positions: Presider, Capt., 2, 7, 7A, HH, 8.] 254 attended this 3/5/2025 service. A Deacon presided.

**The 5 PM Liturgy of the Word** service should have 7 EMHCs plus the Presider for the distribution of ashes. [7 Ash positions: Presider, Capt., 2, 7, 7A, HH, 8.] 360 attended this 3/5/2025 service. A Deacon presided.

**The 7 PM Mass** should have 13 EMHCs assigned plus the Presider. Only the nine assigned “HOST EMHCs” at the Mass will distribute ashes; not the “4 CUP EMHCs”. [10 Ash positions: Presider, Capt., 2, 7, 7A, HH, 8, 10,12, 13.] 639 attended this 3/5/2025 Mass. A Deacon assisted.

Understand that not all assigned EMHC positions may be filled. Be prepared to adjust both for ashes and Communion.

There is no ‘normal Wednesday’ Adoration following the 9 AM Mass. There will be Adoration for the remaining Wednesdays of Lent.

Set the air conditioner timers for the abnormal occupied times.

The Church Office orders two bags of ashes, 'enough for 1200 applications/bag' in a small zip-lock bag. 1690 plus MTS recipients were served in 2025, an increase of 399 or 30% over 2024. There were no reports of any minister running out of ashes.

There is no liturgy involved in placing the dry ashes in the bowls; a blessing is done during the service.

Referencing the Order of Mass or Liturgy of the Word, after the homily, the ashes are sprinkled\* with Holy Water (not Chrism Oil) by the Presider and blessed. If no Deacon, the Altar Server should be prepared to hold the binder for the Priest during his blessing. \*Fr. Hank requested the small Holy Water 'squirt' bottle.

The ashes are distributed per the normal Communion Host distribution positions. Application statement: "[Repent and believe in the Gospel.](#)" Provide a copy for each EMHC at each service. [An optional statement: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."] The EMHCs are invited to the foot of the Altar by Fr. Hank during his blessing of the ashes. EMHCs receive the ashes at the foot of the altar steps; the presider signs each EMHC and the Deacon or Captain carries the tray behind him for the EMHC to take their ash bowl and then go to their assigned position.

After distribution, the Presider and EMHCs wash using lemon water in a bowl and dry their hands. (Using sanitizing wipes is not liturgically correct / Fr. Hank 2/12/24.) If no Deacon, the Altar Server should be prepared to manage the water pitcher. (Purchase 2 lemons. Place 2 quarters in the bowl for each service.)

The Prayers of the Faithful follow ash distribution for a Mass. Again, reference the Orders of Worship provided by the Liturgy Director.

## **ASH TABLE SET-UP**

Set-up on the longer table placed next to the lectern's Altar side (see photo).

1. Holy Water bottle.
2. 10 (Mass) or 7 (Lit. Word) pinch bowls with ashes at each service. Place 3/8 to 1/2 teaspoon of dry ashes in each bowl.
3. A water pitcher, bowl with lemon water, and towels as determined by the number of those placing ashes at each service.
4. A wicker basket for the used towels. (Additional towels are stored in the blue bin on the Sacristy closet shelf.)

After each service prep the water and pinch bowls and towels for the next service by draining the poured water into the sacrarium, replacing the lemon water in the pitcher and bowl, and replacing the towels. The existing ashes in the pinch bowls, if not used for MTS, are rinsed into the sacrarium and the bowls washed for the next service.

## **NOTES**

1. For the Ministry to the Sick, coordinator Lois Hennessy provided 2 oz portion cups with lids for the MTS Ministers. 10 cups for the MTS and 2 cups for the Waterman Village Mass (2 so Ron Jerla can assist Fr. Hank with distribution).

Ask Lois to remind the MTS Ministers that any remaining blessed ashes should be rinsed from the cups to the ground, not down the 'drain'.

2. The request for volunteers for Ash Wednesday should include a notice that the Host EMHCs are expected to distribute ashes. In 2024 some EMHC volunteers refused to distribute ashes when they were told this.

3. Ask the Church Office if 3 rear left pews should be reserved for the Day Care children.

4. In 2024 Fr. Hank made it known that 'he would not be distributing ashes in the Sacristy; that those wanting ashes should attend the service.

5. The Usher Coordinator should ensure ushers are assigned for each Mass.
6. A collection will be taken at the normal time during the Masses. There is no collection for the Liturgy of the Word.
7. Request a mid-afternoon refresh of the restrooms.



TABLE SET FOR 10 MINISTERS & MINISTRY TO THE SICK. (Note separate tray for MTS and Holy Water 'squirt' bottle on the tray.)