

## Bishop Scott Mayer invites us to a Holy Lent

The season of Lent begins this week.

Our Ash Wednesday liturgy begins with an invitation, which reads like this – it says

*(Reads from Prayer Book)*

“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.”

The ashes for this liturgy come from the burning of palms from Palm Sunday.

The cross of ash is put on our foreheads as an echo of the cross put on our foreheads at our baptism, when we are marked as Christ's own forever.

The cross of chrism marks the new life of Christ. The cross of ash reminds of us of our mortality.

Just as we were created out of the dust of the earth, so too shall we return to the dust even as we obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

I invite you to a Holy Lent.