Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a penitential season observed by many Christians (It is not a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics.), and it is the start of one of the most important seasons in the Christian liturgical year, a period of somber reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection. Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted forty days to prepare for his ministry, a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation. By observing Lent, Christians join Jesus on His retreat. During Lent, ancient Christians mourned their sins and repented. In some traditions Lent serves as 40 days of preparation for Holy Baptism at the Easter Vigil. The Imposition of Ashes is a sign of remorse and repentance and a way of reminding ourselves that “We are dust and to dust we shall return.” Biblical references include 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6 and Jeremiah 6:26.

Ashes will be offered on all patient units throughout the day at the MGH main campus.

Ashes will be offered at Ash Wednesday Mass at 11am and 3:30pm in the Chapel at Ellison 1.

Ashes will be offered outside the chapel on Ellison 1 from 8am-4pm.

Imposition of Ashes Offered at the Following Locations

Charlestown Health Center
Basement Conference room 11-11:30am and 1:30-2:00pm.
Contact Jennifer Pacheco 617-724-8136

Chelsea Health Center
Winnisimett Conference room (RM 434) 8:00-9:00am
Contact Susan Thomas 617-889-8535

Revere Health Center
Administrative conference room first floor 8:00am-9:00am
Contact Donna 781-485-6375

Massachusetts Eye and Ear
11th Floor Patient Lounge – 10:00a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
10th Floor then ED 10:55a.m.-11:15 a.m.
6th Floor OR lounge – 11:25a.m.– 11:55 p.m.
Contact 617-726-2220