

Daily Homily
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Lent
[18 February 2021](#)

It's always been a curiosity to me, as far as, why the Church does what she does? Any other liturgical season begins on a Sunday... this is true of Advent and Easter. The Christmas Season and the beginning of Christmas floats from year to year. But what about Lent? Why does Lent begin on of all days, a Wednesday? Why not, on Sunday? There's probably a couple of different answers.

One answer:

In some liturgical circles we call this time between Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent the porch of Lent, as in a front porch. A porch is a place of meditation and reflection. I imagine myself in a rocking chair on this front porch of Lent asking myself the question, "What am I getting into this year with this time of Lent?"

While coming to Mass to receive ashes and Eucharist to begin this Lenten retreat is all great and important, the days after Ash Wednesday and leading to the First Sunday of Lent are just as important. These days are just as important as Ash Wednesday. These days, through God's Word, really sets up the whole of the Lenten Season for us.

Yesterday's Gospel was about prayer, fasting, and giving alms.

Today's Gospel is about the cross.

Tomorrow's Gospel (Friday) is about fasting.

Saturday's Gospel is about Jesus sitting with sinners.

These are the days, through God's Word, that are setting up the whole of the Lenten Season. So today, the cross. Saints have suggested this, as a way to really come to know our connection with the cross. Take a crucifix, hold it in your hand if possible, and simply meditate on it. Look at it, melt into it and experience all the emotion that one should experience in looking at another suffer and another die. Do this throughout Lent. Pray with a crucifix for as long as you want... or 5, 10 minutes a day. It's not easy to do initially – who wants to see someone suffer and die? But it is a necessity if we are to do the same by taking up our own cross, daily. There is also something that changes, transfigures perhaps, in which the cross does become, not just a meditation on suffering and death, but also deeply an expression of selfless, sacrificing love – a deep love of selflessness, for you, for me.

The cross. Take some time with it this Lent. It is a necessity.