Ash Wednesday

The Day of Ashes is a day of repentance when Christians confess and mourn their sins, and profess their devotion to God. During a Mass, a priest places the ashes on a worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross.

Date
- Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday.
- Link to Interfaith Calendar for exact date/year lookup.

Greetings
Wishing a celebrant a Happy Ash Wednesday is welcome.

Common Practices and Celebrations
- Observers are likely to attend mass and leave the smudge of the ashes on their forehead throughout the day as a way to show their faith publicly.
- It is a penitential celebration that involves fasting, abstinence and prayer.

Common Dietary Restrictions
- Ash Wednesday is a day of obligatory fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics.

Impact to U-M Community
- Ash Wednesday observers may suspend work on this day and request to have this day off. Observers may be fasting.
- Link to U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.

U-M Campus Resources
- Maize Pages - Christian, U-M
- Association of Religious Counselors, U-M

Information Sources
- National Catholic Register
- Indy Star

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