

DEAR DEACON BULLETIN INSERT

❖ **Dear Deacon Jim,**

How does the Church determine the date when Ash Wednesday takes place?

❖ **Response**

The date for Ash Wednesday is dependent on the date Easter falls on for the year desired. Since Easter is a “*movable feast*” the date changes from year to year, and it is not a fixed date such as Christmas.

While calculating this may all sound rather complicated, Ash Wednesday is determined based on two factors. The first is the date of Easter for the selected year which may occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

The second factor you simply take the date of Easter and subtract 46 days. The other option is to count backward six weeks from the date of Easter to get the date of the First Sunday of Lent; Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday before the First Sunday of Lent. Six weeks is 42 days; Wednesday through Saturday are another four days, which gives you 46 days.

Note: Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days before Easter. Because of this, Ash Wednesday can occur as early as February 4, or as late as March 10.

Deacon Jim