

## Ash Wednesday – 03-02-2022

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning... Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation...”

Return to me with your whole heart, says the Lord.

Tell my people: if their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only turn to me with your whole heart and say, “**Father**,” and I will listen to you as to a holy people.

“Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

The gospel is a love story – God’s infinite love for his often wayward children.

And it’s from the cross that God’s love was made manifest to the world. Jesus pleaded with his Father, “Forgive them for they know not what they do.”

If we take a little time every day during this Lenten season to mediate on the cross God will open our hearts to his infinite love, draw us to repentance and share with us his vast plan for our lives.

Today we will be signed with the cross on our foreheads and instructed to “Repent and believe in the gospel.”

The Father loves each one of us right now just as we are. His love is unconditional. But he loves us too much to allow us to remain where we are.

However, we have role to play in our own sanctification and salvation.

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning...”

Now is the time to pray like no other time in our lives and to fast like we’ve never fasted before.

Our Lady has promised time-and-time again that we can change the trajectory of history through prayer and fasting.

For sure we can change our own futures but there is no better time to begin than right now.

Now is a most acceptable time to be reconciled to God. Now is the day of salvation.

“Repent and believe in the gospel.”