



Perhaps you will rise from the ashes; perhaps you will not.

Today's bulletin cover features scenes from the life of Our Holy Redeemer that manifest the depth of God's love for us. It wasn't enough for the Word "simply" to become flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be carried there-in for nine months, to be born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, and to grow in grace and wisdom before God and man in Nazareth. After eighteen hidden years, He allowed Himself to be Baptized by John, led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and there-in to fast for forty days and forty nights. The Anointed One emerged from that desert experience and for three years "went about doing good and healing those oppressed by the devil" (Act X:38). He sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was betrayed by a friend, denied by a friend, abandoned by friends, scourged and crucified. All this because *God so loved the world ...* (cf. Saint John III:16)

With Ash Wednesday only a few days away, take the opportunity to consider the depth of God's love for you. Perhaps you will rise from the ashes and offer Him more **time** by attending daily Mass, visiting the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, and/or making Stations of the Cross on Friday nights during Lent. Perhaps you will rise from the ashes and offer Him more **talent** by becoming an Altar Server, a member of the choir, and/or a Catechist. Perhaps you will rise from the ashes and offer Him more **treasure** by adding *25 Cents More a Week* to your Sunday offering, and/or participating in the *2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

Those of you who journey past Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday know that God's love for you did not remain in the ashes of the tomb. It rose from those ashes. And while you may not rise from them in the offering of more **time, talent, and treasure**, perhaps you will consider rising from them in other ways *for God so loved the world ...*



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