



**DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
*OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS*

**NEWS ADVISORY**

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**BISHOP HURLEY BEGINS LENTEN SEASON**  
**WITH MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

*Grand Rapids, Mich.*, February 19, 2007- The six-week Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21. In parishes throughout the diocese, parishioners will gather to participate in the centuries old tradition of receiving ashes. During the Lenten season Catholics take part in the traditional practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley, bishop of Grand Rapids, will begin the Lenten season with the celebration of Mass and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 21, at the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 265 Sheldon SE, Grand Rapids.**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 170,000 Catholics in 102 parishes and missions throughout an eleven county area.

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