



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226
www.AODcommunications.org
TEL 313-237-5943
FAX 313-237-4644

To: News Editors and Assignment Desks
From: Ned McGrath | 313-237-5943
Date: Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009

**Archbishop Allen Vigneron
to Celebrate Mass and Distribute Ashes**

Wednesday, February 25, is Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of Lent, forty weekdays of prayer and penance in preparation for Easter. **Archbishop Allen Vigneron will be the celebrant and homilist at the 12:15 p.m. Mass at St. Aloysius Church, 1234 Washington Boulevard, (1½ blocks north of Michigan Avenue), in downtown Detroit.**

Following his homily (at approximately 12:45 p.m.), Archbishop Vigneron will bless and distribute ashes. The ashes are made from the palms used in last year's Passion (Palm) Sunday liturgy. They are a symbol of penance and are used to mark foreheads with the Sign of the Cross.

Installed to lead the Detroit archdiocese four weeks ago, this will be the archbishop's first Ash Wednesday liturgy as chief shepherd to southeast Michigan's Catholics. For more information on Lent and Archbishop Vigneron, go to www.AODonline.org.

###

***Reporters, photographers and videographers are invited to cover this event. We ask that you not interfere with the liturgy and that you abide by any instructions you may receive from the staff at St. Aloysius Church.**