

## MEANING

- *Lent* means “Spring season.”
- Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent as observed by Christians in the Roman Catholic tradition and some Protestant traditions.
- Clean Monday is the first day of Great Lent as observed by Christians in Eastern Orthodox traditions.
- For some Christians, ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Most Eastern Orthodox Christians do not use ashes.
- Many Christians view Ash Wednesday and Clean Monday as a time of prayer and observance.

## GREETINGS

- “Happy Ash Wednesday.”

## WHEN

- Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter, marking the beginning of the important religious season of Lent.
- Clean Monday takes place seven weeks before Easter Sunday in the Eastern Orthodox religious calendar.
- All Christian holidays relating to Lent and Easter are moveable rather than fixed. Due to differences in religious calendars, Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians tend to celebrate holidays on days that are different than those observed by Eastern Orthodox Christians.

## COMMON PRACTICES

- Some Christians will attend religious services, leave the ashes on their forehead throughout the day and fast intermittently or continually throughout the period of Lent.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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Type of Calendar:

Gregorian, Julian



# Ash Wednesday

English

[Ae·sh Wenz·day](#) 

- Observers may be fasting
- Students, staff, and faculty should be given the opportunity to reschedule any tests, exams or study or work activities that must be scheduled at this time.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[provost.msu.edu](http://provost.msu.edu)