

# From Dust to Life

This Lenten season we will slowly be building on an Easter Sunday surprise for children. **It starts on Ash Wednesday with a dish of dirt and ashes.** Each family can pick-up a small candle and container with a lid as they enter the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday. Extras will be available on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for those who cannot attend Ash Wednesday services. When your family goes to the altar to receive ashes, bring the container up and Fr. Sean will put a sprinkle of ashes into your container. Put the lid back on and take the container home. At home, add some soil to the container and place it on your dining room table with the candle.

**Quiet Observation:** From Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday, allow this bowl of dry earth stand on a barren dinner table with the unlit candle. During the week, or daily, choose a time for your family to sit quietly at the table for 1-2 minutes, and just listen or watch. Perhaps open the window and listen to the birds or the frogs making music. Or, after school sit with the children to have a small tea party with a snack. If the children can be up late, watch the moon come up.

**Palm Sunday:** Build a small garden in an old pie tin. Gather small stones and one large stone in your yard or during a walk at the park. Find a small terra cotta style pot of clay or plastic (Dollar Store etc.) Build a small garden similar to the picture to the right and add your dirt and ashes to form the hill covering the tomb. Sprinkle the dirt with grass seed or wheat grass seed, water thoroughly and put it near a sunny window. (We will have a few pots and some seeds at church on Palm Sunday for children to take home). Add a few blue colored glass stones to make a small pond, if desired.



**Good Friday:** Children will receive small crosses on Palm Sunday, keep them for Good Friday or make your own crosses from sticks. Add the crosses to the garden on Good Friday, if desired, or simply add a small branch that is dry or has small buds.

**Easter Sunday:** By Easter Sunday, your dust and ashes should be bringing forth new life! If you used a dry branch on Friday, see if you can find (in your yard) a small branch or flowers that are blooming and add them to the garden before the children awake.

Bring your garden to the dining room table for breakfast morning and light the candle that has been dark for the 40 days of Lent.