

# Our Lenten Journey



Exploring the Mystery of Our Faith

# Mysteries!

At Mass, after the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus, we are invited to proclaim “**the mystery of our faith**,” which is about Jesus’ death and resurrection to new life which puts us into the right relationship with God. Lent is a time when we can learn more about these most important events.

You might think the word *mystery* means a puzzle—maybe a puzzle that only a detective can solve! Every mystery tells us that something is hidden, that there’s a secret, and a puzzle to solve.

The Church uses the word *mystery* in a different religious way. The Church uses the word *mystery* to tell us about how God creates a new relationship with us that comes through Jesus’ death and resurrection. It’s not a puzzle, but we still work hard to listen and learn. When the Church points us to the *mystery of our faith*, we know we must work to understand.

This Lent, let’s go on a journey to learn about the mystery of our faith! We’ll travel through the days of Lent to the great mystery of Easter. On our Lenten journey, we’ll travel with God’s words and the Church’s prayers. We’ll travel to the desert with Jesus. We’ll travel to a well in Samaria and then all the way to Jerusalem with Jesus—and beyond.

## So Get Ready to Go!

Do you have a backpack that you can use through the days of Lent? Every Sunday you will add one item to your backpack. **Or you can make your own backpack from a paper bag!**



### Paper Bag Backpack–You’ll need:

A brown paper lunch sack or small grocery bag  
Colorful construction paper • Scissors • Glue



1. From construction paper cut a flap for your backpack.
2. Glue one side of the flap to one side of the paper sack to cover the top. Make sure the flap is long enough to fold over the top of your backpack.
3. From construction paper cut two long straps for your backpack. Glue them to the back of your backpack.



Now you’re ready for the journey. Each day in Lent, turn to the next activity in the book.

**See you on the way!**

# Ash Wednesday

**A**t this time of year, we might be celebrating Valentine's day. At school, Valentine's Day is about funny cards and lots of candy!

But at the beginning of our journey through Lent we see a different kind of love. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus

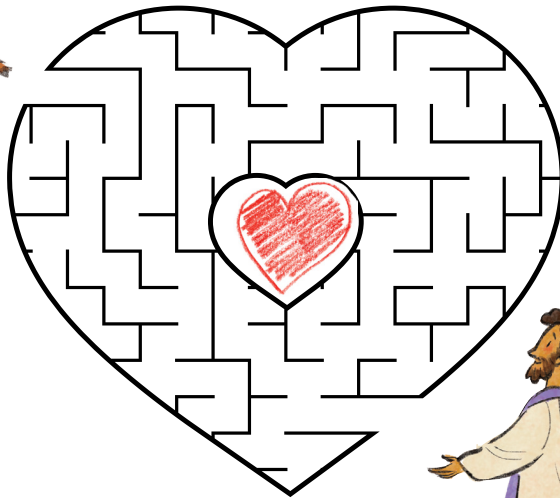
to us. Jesus loves us so much that every day he waits for us to come to him in our thoughts, in our prayers, and in everything we do.

**Return to me  
with your  
whole heart.**

Joel 2:12

## Activity

God calls out to us, "Return to me!" Can you make your way to Jesus through the maze?



# Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Day two of our journey, and Jesus invites us to follow him! How do we follow Jesus?

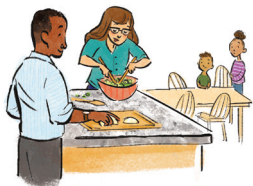
- We listen to Jesus in the Bible.
- We think about what Jesus is teaching us.

- We try to act the way Jesus teaches us to act.

**FOLLOW me.**  
Luke 9:23

## Activity

Look at the pictures below. How do you think the kid(s) in the picture can follow Jesus? Write your ideas next to each picture.



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## Friday after Ash Wednesday

**I**n 2017, Pope Francis taught us, “Lent...is a path leading to the certain goal of Easter.” As we set out on the path, the Church invites us to choose

our food carefully. Is there one treat we could give up as a family? How could we share the money we save with others?



### Activity

Place a basket in the kitchen with a sign with these words from Pope Francis: “Open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift.” Place gifts for the poor in the basket.

**Then they will fast.**

Matthew 9:15

## Saturday after Ash Wednesday

**P**urple power will guide us along the way to Easter! Purple is the color of Lent.

**The Lord will  
guide you always.**

Isaiah 58:11

### Activity

Use a purple marker, crayon, or colored pencil and match the clues on the left to the answers on the right!

Purple is a color that symbolizes deep prayer.

Only kings and queens wore purple long ago.

In Lent we remember how Jesus died.

We call Jesus our King.

Soldiers dressed Jesus in purple before he died.

The church asks us to pray more deeply in Lent.

## First Sunday in Lent

Every Sunday in Lent we'll pitch our tents in a different place of the Bible! This Sunday we go to the desert with Jesus.

All this week we'll explore the story of Jesus in the desert and the story of Noah on the ark. We'll find out why the Church tells those two stories together in Lent!

Every Sunday in Lent we'll also put a new item into our

backpacks. Each item is a clue to the great mystery: Easter! This week's clue is WORD: the Word of God. Can you put a Bible into your backpack? Or copy a favorite verse onto a card for your backpack?

**Then Jesus  
was led  
by the spirit  
into the desert.**

Matthew 4:1

### Activity:

Can you solve this rebus to learn why the Church chose the Word for this week's clue? (A rebus is a picture puzzle!)



Answer: One does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

# First Monday in Lent

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, but we'll only spend a week exploring his desert story. There are plenty of other desert stories in the Bible, too. Let's use a few of them to practice

**He remained in the desert for forty days.**

Mark 1:13

looking up verses in the Bible. Here's how to do that!

## Activity:

How to find any verse in the Bible

1. Can you find the Table of Contents?  
Write its page number here: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Now look at the Table of Contents. Can you find the book of Luke? Write its page number here: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Now go to that page to find the book of Luke. Can you find Luke 9:23? That's *chapter 9* and *verse 23*.  
Write its page number here: \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This is how you can find every verse we use this Lent!



Moses led God's people in the desert for 40 \_\_\_\_\_. (*Numbers 32:13*)



\_\_\_\_\_ brought [Elijah] bread and meat in the morning. (*1 Kings 17:6*)



John the \_\_\_\_\_ appeared in the desert. (*Mark 1:4*)

## First Tuesday in Lent

Okay, now that we know how to find any verse we want, let's go back to our two stories: Jesus goes to the desert and Noah leaves in the ark with all his family.

How can these stories be alike? The desert is hot and dry. The ark sails on the cool waters. Jesus is all alone. Noah takes his family along for the journey.

The Church teaches us that these stories are alike in at least three ways:

1. In both stories we hear a promise from God.

2. In both stories we see God's People at peace with wild animals.
3. In both stories God takes care of God's People in the hardest times.

Let's start with the promises from God! In the story of Noah, we hear a promise from God to protect life on earth. God calls this promise a covenant and sets a rainbow in the sky so we can see it and remember God's love.

**God patiently waited in the days of Noah.**

1 Peter 3:20

### Activity:



When Jesus leaves the desert he tells everyone about a promise from God, too! We've written the first two words of the promise on the rainbow below. Can you finish the promise?

*Look in Mark 1:15 for the words of this promise!*



# First Wednesday in Lent

Now let's look at the second way these two stories of Lent are alike. When Jesus is in the desert, he was with the wild beasts. When Noah was on the great ark that sailed upon the

**He was among wild beasts.**

Mark 1:13

waters, it was filled with two of every kind of animal.

## Activity:

Can you find the wild animals in the word search below?

- |             |             |                |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Antelope | 5. Dog      | 9. Hyena       |
| 2. Camel    | 6. Elephant | 10. Lion       |
| 3. Cat      | 7. Giraffe  | 11. Rhinoceros |
| 4. Cheetah  | 8. Rabbit   | 12. Zebra      |



Answer:

# First Thursday in Lent

**F**inally, the stories of Jesus and Noah show us that God is with God's People. God sent angels to take care of Jesus. God set a rainbow in the skies to promise Noah that God would

always care for all people. God is with God's People because that is what God is like!

**Believe in the gospel.**

Mark 1:15

## Activity:

Right at the start of Lent the Church hears words that tells us what God is like. Look at the angels and put the words they carry in the right order to find out what God is like!

You can look at Joel 2:13 for help.



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# First Friday in Lent

So the stories of Jesus and Noah invite us to a whole new way to live. They show us a world at peace—even with the wild animals! They show us a world where God can be counted on to keep every promise. They show us a world where God cares for us, always.

How do we live in this new way? Do we have to go to the

**The kingdom  
of God  
is at hand.**

Mark 1:15

desert? Do we have to live on an ark?

No: We live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

## Activity:

Look back through the verses we've had so far. Pick out your favorite verse and write it here:



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Now also write it on a card, and put the card in your Lenten backpack.



## First Saturday in Lent

Jesus is ready to leave the desert and we are ready, too. We are ready to follow Jesus where he goes next!

As we leave, Jesus has something to say to all people. "This is the time!" Time for what?

**Be children of  
your heavenly Father.**

Matthew 5:45

For good news! That's what the word gospel means: good news!

### **Activity:**

We'll hear more of the good news from God every day this Lent. What good news have you heard so far? How could you tell it to others? Write or draw your good news about God in the space below.





## Second Sunday in Lent

**G**et your backpack ready, because we're on the move again. This Sunday's stop on the mysterious journey is far away from the hot desert.

This week we follow Jesus up, up, up to the top of a high mountain. Peter, James, and

John follow their friend Jesus, too. All week we will explore this place and the amazing story that happens here.

**He was transfigured  
before them.**

Mark 9:2

### Activity:

Every Sunday in Lent we also put a new clue into our backpacks, a clue to the great mystery: Easter! This week's clue is LISTEN: we learn to listen to Jesus. What would be a good reminder of listening?

Copy the verse below onto a card for your backpack—once you unscramble the words on the mountain! (*Use Mark 9:7 for help*)



## Second Monday in Lent

**F**irst imagine a big change happening to you. Imagine you were once a caterpillar, but now you are wrapped up in a tight, silky cocoon. You are wrapped up in your own wings, too, and now you begin to make a cut in the cocoon around you. You put tiny holes in the cocoon, and breathe in great gulps of air. The air makes you bigger, and now you burst

**HIS CLOTHES  
became dazzling.**

Mark 9:3

out into the sunny air: you're a butterfly!

On the mountain, a big change happened to Jesus, too. As his friends watched his clothes shone as brightly as the sun. We call this change by a special name.

### Activity:

Can you change the word below to make a new word? The new word is what we call the change that happened to Jesus.

(**HINT:** Change each letter to the letter that comes just *before* it in the alphabet.

We did the first letter for you!)



U s b o t g j h v s b u j p o

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## Second Tuesday in Lent

**T**he word transfiguration means “change.” Yesterday we read how Jesus changed when his clothes became as bright as the sun.

The friends of Jesus were amazed! And next to Jesus they saw two great leaders of God’s People. One leader was Moses, who led God’s People to freedom, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The other leader was the prophet Elijah.

Elijah and Moses spoke to Jesus as if they all lived at the same time!

Elijah and Moses spoke to Jesus about what he would do once he came down from the mountain. The friends of Jesus spoke to him about how good it was to be there with him.

**He was transfigured  
before them.**

Mark 9:2

### Activity:

What would you say to Jesus if you were there on the mountain with him? Write your answer in the space below!

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## Second Wednesday in Lent

**N**ext, the most amazing thing happened! The friends of Jesus heard a voice. Somehow they all knew: this is the voice of God! The voice said, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!”

We listen to Jesus when we listen to stories about Jesus. We listen to Jesus when we listen

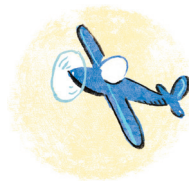
to the Church pray in Jesus’ name. We listen to Jesus when we know what God wants us to do—and ask for help to do it.

**From the cloud  
came a voice.**

Mark 9:7

### Activity:

Practice listening! Go outside if you can, or just open a window to the outside. Be very quiet and practice listening for 10 minutes. Can you list 10 sounds that you hear?



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_





## Second Thursday in Lent

Now let's practice listening with scripture, too.

Listen to him

Mark 9:7

### Activity:

Ask an adult to read aloud to you the story of the Transfiguration. You'll find it in Mark 9:2-8. Listen for the 10 words below as you hear the story. Circle each word that you hear. Can you hear all 10 words?

1. Cloud
2. Jesus
3. Voice
4. Peter
5. Sun
6. Mountain
7. Moses
8. Three
9. Listen
10. Transfigured



## Second Friday in Lent

Jesus and the disciples hear beautiful words from God: This is my Beloved Son. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, too. Our journey as beloved children of God began when we were baptized.

That's part of our mysterious journey to Easter! Easter is the

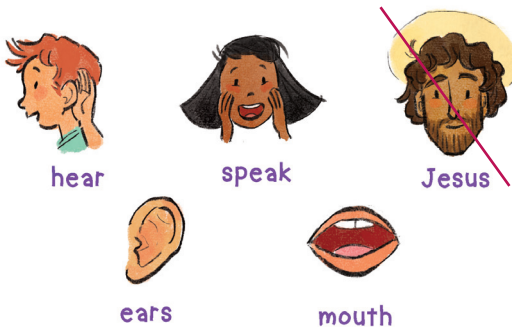
Church's best time for baptism. People are learning about Jesus and how to follow him all through the season of Lent, so they will be ready to be baptized in Easter.

**This is my  
beloved son.**

Mark 9:7

### Activity:

Oops! Some of those words were missing! Can you figure out which word goes where in the verse below?



Then when they are baptized, they will hear these words from the priest: "Lord Jesus made the deaf \_\_\_\_\_ and the mute \_\_\_\_\_. May He soon touch your \_\_\_\_\_ to receive his word, and your \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

Answer: Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

## Second Saturday in Lent

**P**eter was so happy to be on the mountain with Jesus that he wanted to stay there and make a special place to worship Jesus! But Jesus led Peter and James and John back down the

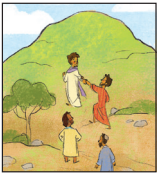
**It is good that  
we are here.**

Mark 9:5

mountain. It was time to continue on his mysterious journey.

### Activity:

We have to put on our backpacks and keep moving, too. Along the way we think of all that we saw and heard on the mountain. We can tell the story now, too! Write the story in your own words next to the pictures below. *(Look in Mark 9:1-8 for ideas.)*



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## Third Sunday in Lent

**D**own from the mountain, we've come a long way. We are no longer in the country where Jesus grew up or taught. We're in a land called Samaria.

Let's plop down our backpacks and take a rest! This is a good time to put our Sunday clue into our backpacks! This

week's clue is WATER. What would be a good reminder of water? A water bottle? A favorite cup? Something we put in water? A tea bag?

**He came to  
a town  
of samaria.**

John 4:5

### Activity:

You can also copy the verse below onto a card for your backpack—once you sort the words out! They're all mixed up in the bucket of water. (See John 4:14-15 for hints)



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## Third Tuesday in Lent

Jesus finds a woman at the well: a woman of Samaria. The people of Jesus and the people of Samaria treated each other as strangers—even as enemies! So the woman was surprised when Jesus walked right up to her and spoke to her.

They talked together. They joked together. They asked

questions together. And before long, the woman saw Jesus as God's Chosen. She even used the special name for God's Chosen.

**A woman  
of samaria  
came to  
draw water.**

John 4:7

### Activity:

HIS names are left unfinished below. Can you use the 3 letters in the word HIS to finish each name?

(Hint: Each name means "anointed" or "Chosen one"!)

C **H** R \_ \_ T

M E \_ \_ S \_ \_ A \_ \_



## Third Wednesday in Lent

**M**mm! Just like us, Jesus enjoys a cool cup of water when he is thirsty. Water is so important to us that we sometimes forget to think about it—it's always around us. But in Jesus' day and in some parts of the world, you have to walk

**Jesus said  
to her,  
"Give me  
a drink."**

John 4:7

a long way to find water that is safe to drink.

### Activity:

Take a walk around your house. How many places can you find in your house that have water?



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# Third Thursday of Lent

**W**ater was important to God's People many, many years before Jesus. Moses was chosen by God to lead God's People to freedom. He led Israel (God's People) out of Egypt. He led them through the dry land. He led them to the mountain of Horeb. When the people cried

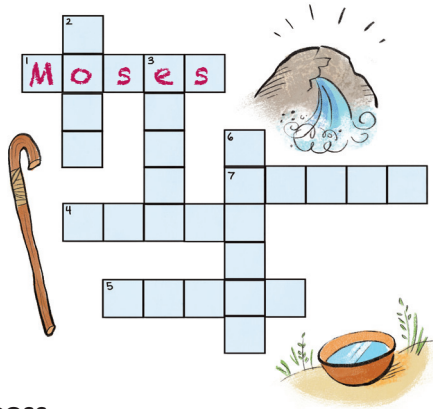
**Strike the rock,  
and the water  
will flow.**

Exodus 17:6

out, "We're thirsty!" he struck a rock with his staff and water came pouring out for God's People.

## Activity:

How much of this story of Moses can you remember as you solve this puzzle?



### ACROSS

1. He led God's People to freedom.
4. This came pouring out of the rock.
5. The mountain Moses led God's people to.
7. Moses used this to strike the rock.

### DOWN

2. Another name for God (4 letters).
3. Moses led God's People away from here.
6. Another name for God's People.

## Third Friday of Lent

**F**irst the woman helped Jesus by giving him water. Then she gave him an even greater gift. She ran into her town. She told all the people to come and listen to Jesus. She said to them all, "Could this be the Messiah?"

Could this be God's Chosen One?"

**could he possibly be the Messiah?**

John 4:29

### **Activity:**

Men, women, and children ran to see Jesus. What do you think Jesus said to them? What do you think they said to Jesus?



## Third Saturday of Lent

**W**e'll find water at the end of our mysterious journey, too: in Baptism! Easter is the best day of all for baptism.

**The love of God has  
been poured into  
our hearts.**

Romans 5:5

### Activity:

Just as we need water to live, we need the water of baptism to live in Christ. The priest pours water on our heads three times as he prays,

"I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and the \_\_\_\_\_,  
and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_."

*(We left the names out for you to fill in! Use the same holy names you use when you make the sign of the cross.)*



Then the priest tells us that God has "brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit." Water is for life!



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

**G**ot your backpack ready? We're ready for a mysterious stop on our mysterious journey! Today we travel to the pool of Siloam.

Why is this a mysterious stop? Because for almost 2000 years no one knew where the pool had gone. In 2004, workers found the pool again when they dug away hundreds of years of dirt that covered it up.

Jesus knew the pool of Siloam very well, as did all God's People. It was large enough to swim in. It brought fresh water from a valley spring to the city. The pool had great stone steps going down into it so people could walk down into the fresh water.

**GO wash in the  
pool of siloam,  
which means "sent."**

John 9:7

### Activity:

So come to the side of the waters and find out what happens. For this Sunday's clue, here's another mystery. The clue is LIGHT. What light could you put into your backpack? A candle? A glow stick? A flashlight?

Or you can put this week's verse on a card for your backpack. Circle every other letter to read the verse. (*We circled the first three letters*)

I x a y m z t f h j e m l p i s g j h i t r o b f u t w h z e  
k w b o g r e l m d c s c a z y u s p t e h v e q L l o x r d d .



I am

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## Fourth Monday of Lent

**I**n Jesus' day, people believed an angel from God would "stir up" the water so that people could find healing in the water. One man waited by the pool for a long time. He had been blind his whole life. He wanted the water to heal him.

But when Jesus saw the man, he spat on the ground to turn

the dirt into clay. He put this clay on the eyes of the blind man. He told him to go wash in the pool now. The blind man obeyed—and he could see!

**He saw  
a man  
blind  
from  
birth.**

John 9:1



### Activity:

What could the man see when Jesus healed him? Solve the puzzle below. First fill in the five answers. Then copy the answers to the blank lines below and read the letters in the circles from top to bottom.

1. This season helps us get ready for Easter: Lent.
2. This week's story is about the man born \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Lent (and every day!) we pray to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the man born blind.
5. To heal the man, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground.

1. L e n t  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

# Fourth Tuesday of Lent

**I**n the Gospel of John Jesus tells his followers that he is the light of the world. At last Sunday's Eucharist, we heard that verse before the reading of the Gospel.








**I am  
the light  
of the  
world.**

John 9:5






## Activity:

There was a second line, too. To find out what it was, solve the puzzle below. Use the lights code to finish each word!

 = a	 = i	 = u
 = e	 = o	

Wh   v  r      f  ll  ws

Whoever

m  w  ll h  v  th 

I  ght       f      I  f .

## Fourth Wednesday in Lent

**W**e also heard these words last Sunday: Live as children of light. What do you think it would mean to live as a child of light?

When the man in this week's story could see again, the first thing he saw was Jesus. When he was looking at Jesus, he saw

just what it would mean to live as a child of light.

Think about it: when we look at Jesus we see just how God wants us to live.

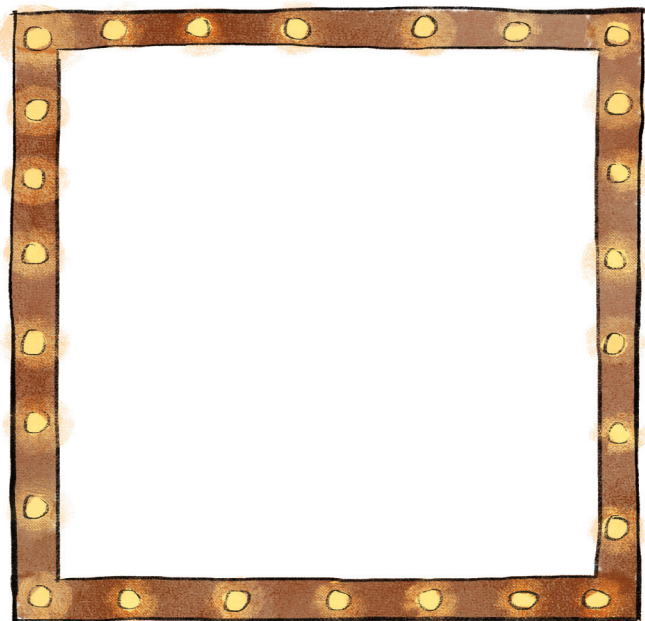


**Live as children  
of light.**

Ephesians 5:8

### **Activity:**

What do you see in Jesus? How did Jesus live? What did Jesus do? How can we live more like Jesus? Write or draw your ideas in the place below.



## Fourth Thursday in Lent

The words below might have been part of the first Christian hymn ever written. The words are:

**Awake, O sleeper,  
And arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light.**



**Christ will  
give you  
light.**

Ephesians 5:14

### Activity:

We don't know what the tune would have been! Ask your family to help you make up a tune for the words. Can you sing it together before you eat?



## Fourth Friday in Lent

**S**cripture says, “Light produces every kind of goodness.” Sometimes we feel worried for the world. Sometimes we feel afraid for the world. We might hear stories of people who are hurt, or people who fight, or people who have died.

The beloved children’s entertainer Mr. Rogers told us

**Light produces  
every kind  
of goodness.**

Ephesians 5:9

something to remember in hard times. He said, “Look for the helpers.” When you see someone helping in a hard time, you see the light God wants to see in the world.

### **Activity:**

In the picture below, who are the helpers?





## Fourth Saturday in Lent

The Pool of Siloam reminds us of baptism. We'll find both baptism and light at the end of our mysterious journey. We'll light a fire to begin the Easter vigil. Then during the vigil, we usually see a baptism, too. After the priest baptizes someone, he takes a new candle. He lights it from the great Easter candle, then hands it to the newly baptized or their parents, saying,

"Receive the light of Christ."

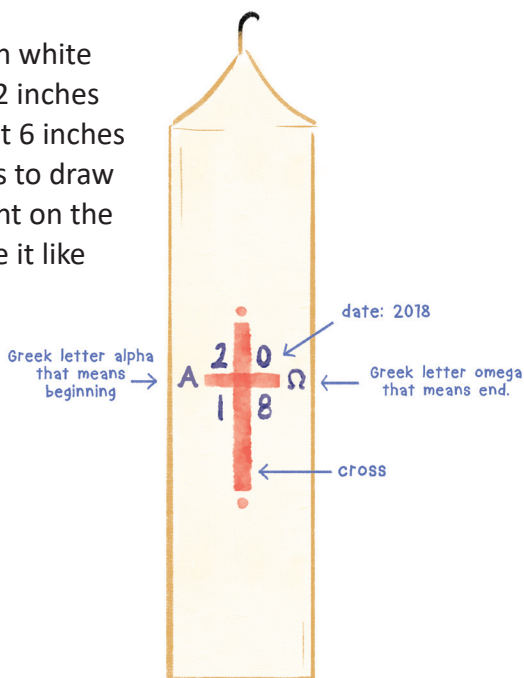
The Easter candle will burn every day at Mass throughout the time of Easter. You and your family can make an Easter candle, too.

**He went  
and washed  
and came back  
able to see.**

John 9:7

### Activity:

Start with a plain white candle, at least 2 inches wide and at least 6 inches tall. Use markers to draw your designs right on the candle. Decorate it like this:



# Fifth Sunday in Lent

**R**eady to move again? This week, we travel with Jesus to a town called Bethany. There's one special house we will visit: the house of Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Jesus loved this family of two sisters and one brother. Jesus loved to be with them because they were all his very dear friends.

Sometimes you hear people talk about their best friends by saying they are "best friends forever" or "friends for life." We first find our life in our fami-

**Jesus loved  
Martha and her sister  
and Lazarus.**

John 11:5

lies—and in Jesus. Let's take a closer look at our families and friends this week while we visit this family of Jesus' friends.

What should we put in our backpacks? How about a favorite picture of your family or friends? You can even make a scrapbook with pictures of all the family and friends you love best!

## Activity:

Solve the puzzle below to find the life in this week's gospel verse. If A=1, B=2, and Z=26, can you read the verse?

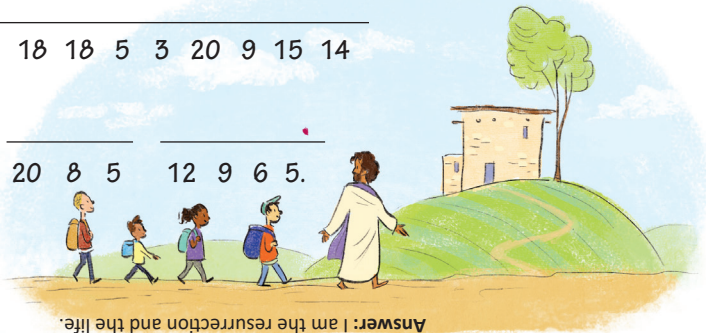
  I  am  \_\_\_\_\_    
9  1 13  20 8 5

\_\_\_\_\_

18 5 19 21 18 18 5 3 20 9 15 14

\_\_\_\_\_

1 14 4  20 8 5  12 9 6 5.



# Fifth Monday in Lent

The name of the town where Jesus traveled next was Bethany. We can't be sure what the name Bethany means but long ago St. Jerome taught us that it meant the "house of need." We do know that it was

in a place where many people cared for the poor and for the sick.

**You will see  
the glory of God.**  
John 11:40

## Activity:

In 2016, Pope Francis sent us a Lenten message about caring for others. The pope taught us, "to open our hearts to others because each person is a gift." Look at the gifts below. How could we open our hearts to each of these people?



## Fifth Tuesday in Lent

**N**ow a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, so Jesus traveled to Bethany because he knew something sad had happened: his friend Lazarus had died four days ago. His sisters Mary and Martha were so sad, but Jesus

knew a secret. He knew that God would do something new—something great.

**our friend  
Lazarus is asleep.**

John 11:11

### Activity:

Jesus knew this family so well. Get to know your family even better than you do now! Write each of the questions below on a separate card. Mix them up. At the next family meal, deal out one card to each family member. Ask family members to try to answer the questions the best they can.

*At the end of the game ask:*

What did we learn today that surprised us?

### Questions:

- What's your favorite outfit to wear? Why?
- If you were given one super power, what would you ask for?



- If you could swap places with anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?
- What makes you happy?
- If you were a color, what would it be? Why?

## Fifth Wednesday in Lent

**W**hen Jesus came to Bethany, Martha came out to meet him. She said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

But Jesus answered her in a surprising way. He said, “He will rise.” And he said, “Even those who die will live, if they believe in me.”

Then Jesus gave himself two names. He said, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Martha gave him two more names! She said, “I believe you are the Christ. I believe you are

**I have come  
to believe.**

John 11:27

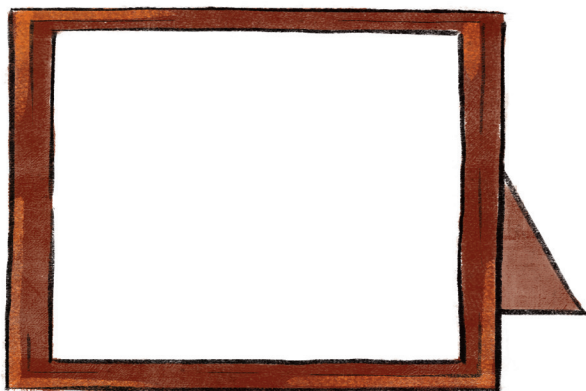
the Son of God.”

Each name of Jesus tells us something about who Jesus is and what he gives to us. Jesus is the resurrection, the one who is stronger than death. Jesus is the life, the life that God wants each of us to live. Jesus is the Christ, the one Chosen by God. Jesus is the Son of God, the one closest of all to God. The name Jesus itself means “God saves.”

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### Activity:

Which name of Jesus do you like best? Write it here, then decorate the name with words or drawings that show what you think about Jesus.



## Fifth Thursday in Lent

On other days Mary had sat at the feet of Jesus just to be near him and to learn from him. That's what prayer is: we come near to Jesus. We spend time with Jesus. We might listen to Jesus teaching us. We might tell Jesus what we are thinking.

And we can also remember

**Mary came  
to where  
Jesus was.**

John 11:32

the friends and family we love when we pray to Jesus. Make this prayer chain to use when you pray for those you love.

### Activity:

#### Prayer Chain

- Cut colorful construction paper into strips one inch wide.
- On each strip write the name of a friend or family member.
- How many can you make? Join them together in a chain for your room.
- Each day, touch one name. Thank God for that person you love. Pray to Jesus for that person.





## Fifth Friday in Lent

**J**esus prayed to God. Jesus prayed for Lazarus, for Martha and Mary, and for all the people who were there. Jesus wanted all of them to see the glory of God.

And next came one of the most mysterious moments on our mysterious journey:

**Because of  
the crowd here  
I have said this.**

John 11:42

Jesus called out to Lazarus. And Lazarus rose. Lazarus was alive, ready to live with his sisters, his friends, and with his best friend, Jesus.

### **Activity:**

Imagine you are reporting this story on the evening news! A news story tells us the 5 Ws: who, what, where, when, and why! Can you get your news report ready with the 5 Ws of this amazing story?

**WHO was there?**

**WHEN did it happen?**

**WHAT happened?**

**WHERE did it  
happen?**



**WHY did it  
happen?**

## Fifth Saturday in Lent

Jesus didn't travel alone to Bethany. His disciples were always with him. We are disciples, too. We follow Jesus together.

This is another great gift of baptism: the community of Jesus' friends and disciples. At baptism, the priest says to each new Christian, "The Christian community welcomes you with great joy."

**He said to his disciples,  
"Let us go."**

John 11:7

A community is like a family: it works together, plays together, and shares together. Talk this over with your family:

- What things does our family share?
- When is it hard to share?
- What makes it easy to share?

### Activity:

Remember the basket of gifts for the poor your family started? (Look again at Friday after Ash Wednesday if you need a reminder!) Ask each family member to find one way this week to add money to the basket.



## Palm Sunday

**N**ow we start a whole week of journeys. In Holy Week, we parade into Jerusalem with Jesus. We travel back and forth to Bethany. We find a secret room for the most important meal ever, and then we walk a last hard road with Jesus. But

don't be afraid: the mysterious journey won't end there.

**Jesus and  
his disciples  
are near  
to Jerusalem.**

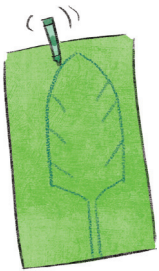
Mark 11:1

### Activity:

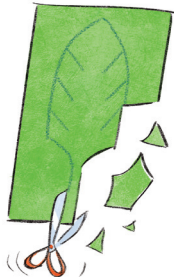
What should we put in our backpacks? A palm from Mass would be best of all! If you didn't get one to bring home, try cutting one from green construction paper. Follow the instructions below. On each leaf, you can write one or more of the words from this week's verse:

**Christ became obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.**

**Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.**



1.



2.



3.



4.

# Monday in Holy Week

Jesus journeys back to his friends in Bethany today. Martha serves us her good food. Lazarus sits with us at the table. Mary pours the most precious oil she has on the feet of Jesus.

In another few days there will be an even greater meal with Jesus. But today Jesus and his

**Jesus  
came to Bethany.**

John 12:1

friends are happy together at Bethany.

Put yourself in the party!  
What will you do? What will you say?

## Activity:

At the table with Jesus, I \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Tuesday in Holy Week

**A**t all the meals Jesus ate there were special prayers he sang with his friends—just as we sing special prayers together at the great meal of the Mass.

Many of Jesus' prayers and songs came from the favorite songbook of the Bible: the book of Psalms. All these prayers were written to be sung aloud by God's people. We don't know the tunes that Jesus and

his friends used, but people today still sing them, to tunes written in every century.

Today the Church sings from psalm 71. "You are my hope, O Lord." Who knows? This may have been one of Jesus' favorite tunes!

**you are my hope,  
O Lord.**

Psalm 71:5

### Activity:

Find the book of Psalms in your Bible. Then write the first words of three different psalms on the phone below to make your own "playlist" of God's greatest hits!



## Wednesday in Holy Week

**T**he journey of Jesus took him throughout Jerusalem this last week of his life. He taught in the temple. He taught his friends. He taught lessons we still read today in the Church.

Jesus knew he did not have many days more to live. He sent his disciples to get ready for his

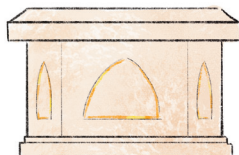
**The disciples then  
did as Jesus  
had ordered,  
and prepared  
the Passover.**

Matthew 26:19

last meal with them on earth. Every Sunday we remember this holy meal at the holy Mass.

### Activity:

Some of these items were on the table of Jesus' meal. Some of them we see on the altar at Mass. Can you match the items to Jesus' table or the Church's altar?



# Holy Thursday

**N**ow we journey to the land of memory. We remember. We remember our beloved Jesus. We remember the last days of his life. We remember how he died and rose again to new life.

And we remember his last meal with his friends. He did

four things: He took bread. He blessed it. He broke the bread. He gave it to his friends.

**DO THIS IN  
REMEMBRANCE  
OF ME.**

1 Corinthians 11:24

## Activity:

Each Sunday, the priest does the four same things. Can you put a number from one to four to show the four actions of the Mass?







## Good Friday

**T**oday we walk with Jesus on the saddest journey of all. Jesus walks with the cross. Jesus dies on the cross. On this hard, sad day, Jesus chooses to love God and love God's people, even to the very end.

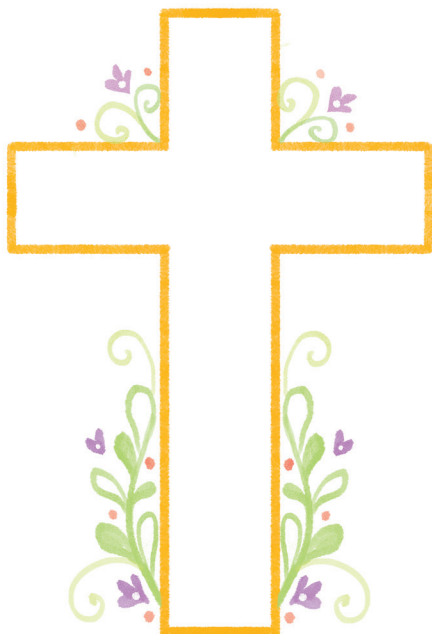
**we have  
a great  
high  
priest.**

Hebrews 4:14

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### **Activity:**

On the cross below write or draw all you love most. Jesus loves all that you love, too. Jesus was willing to die for every person and every part of God's creation.



# Holy Saturday

**T**onight the Church lights a new fire to celebrate the new life of Jesus. Tonight the Church sings out: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**My love  
shall never  
leave  
you.**  
Isaiah 54:10



## Activity:

Tonight the Church calls the newly baptized by name. Tonight we remember what the Church sang about Jesus a week ago: God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Write a prayer to Jesus that uses the letters of his name to start each line:

**J** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**U** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Easter Sunday

**E**aster is always close to April Fool's Day! Who gets fooled? Not us! Death gets fooled--because life wins.

Sin gets fooled--because goodness wins. Anger, hatred and war get fooled--because love wins.

We don't always see how God wins when we are alive, but

we trust God. We follow our leader Jesus. We listen to God's Word. We are baptized into God's People. We help God's People bring God's love to the whole world—and we never get fooled one bit!

**Your life is hidden  
with Christ in God.**  
Colossians 3:3

## Activity:

The puzzle below might try to fool you! Use the letter key to color in the spaces. The word you read is the word we save all Lent long for this special day.

**W**=leave white

**G**=green

**P**=purple

**Y**=yellow

**B**=blue

**R**=red

G	G	G	P	P	P	B	B	B	B	Y	Y	Y	B	G	G	P	P	
G	G	G	G	P	P	B	B	B	P	Y	Y	Y	B	B	G	G	G	P
G	G	G	G	P	P	B	B	P	P	P	B	R	R	B	G	G	G	P
G	G	G	G	Y	Y	B	B	G	P	P	R	R	R	B	G	G	G	B
B	G	G	G	Y	Y	G	G	P	B	B	R	W	W	B	G	G	B	B
B	B	W	R	R	W	G	G	G	W	B	R	R	W	R	B	B	G	B
B	W	B	W	R	W	G	G	G	W	P	P	R	W	W	B	W	W	B
B	W	W	W	B	W	G	G	R	W	P	P	Y	W	R	B	B	R	R
B	W	B	W	B	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	Y	W	W	B	P	R	R
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	R	R	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	P	R
B	B	B	B	P	B	B	B	B	R	B	Y	Y	Y	B	B	P	Y	B
B	R	W	P	P	P	W	B	W	B	W	B	P	W	B	B	Y	Y	Y
R	R	W	B	P	B	W	P	W	B	W	P	W	P	W	G	G	G	Y
R	R	W	B	B	B	W	P	W	G	W	P	W	W	W	G	G	G	G
R	R	W	W	W	B	W	W	W	G	W	P	W	B	W	B	G	G	G
B	R	R	R	Y	B	B	G	G	G	R	R	B	B	R	R	R	G	G
R	R	R	Y	Y	B	P	G	G	G	R	R	B	B	R	R	G	G	G
B	G	G	Y	Y	P	P	G	G	Y	Y	R	B	B	G	Y	Y	P	P
G	G	G	B	B	B	P	P	Y	Y	Y	B	B	G	G	Y	P	P	P
G	G	B	B	B	B	B	B	Y	Y	Y	B	B	G	G	G	Y	Y	P