

Lent 2017

GIVE UP, TAKE UP, LIFT UP!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>During Lent, take inspiration from the words of St. Paul (2 Cor 8:9), and contemplate his invitation to live a life of evangelical poverty. Embrace the Lord’s call to being the blessed poor by “giving up” material things, including food, superfluous to your basic needs; “taking up” charitable habits directed to helping and caring for others; and “lifting up” those in need through giving alms, through praying for others, and by participating in devotional practices.</p> <p>Fortify your Lenten journey with the words of the church fathers and Pope Francis featured on this calendar, and contemplate the suggestions for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.</p>			<p>March 1</p> <p>Ash Wednesday— Lent Begins</p> <p>In many parishes today, the Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe is taken up. Please give! Meditate on today’s Mass readings with a lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>As Lent begins, consider participating in Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl Program to help you pray, fast, and give. Download the Rice Bowl app to help you along!</p>	<p>March 3</p> <p>Learn about lectio divina, a method for praying with the Scriptures, and look for links on this calendar to lectio divina guides for the Sundays in Lent.</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>This weekend, learn about and give to the Collection for Black & Indian Missions.</p>
<p>March 5</p> <p>First Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of today’s readings with this lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>March 6</p> <p>Pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter, and learn how catechists prepare them to be received into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.</p>	<p>March 7</p> <p>Today, we remember two early Christian martyrs, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, who are always mentioned together because their close friendship and faith. Read about these saints and learn more.</p>	<p>March 8</p> <p>In honor of St. John of God’s feast day today, pray for those who are ill and in hospitals. St. John of God was devoted to caring for the sick and needy.</p>	<p>March 9</p> <p>Remember today St. Frances of Rome, known for her great charity during epidemics and civil war. In honor of St. Frances, pray for all those who are marginalized.</p>	<p>March 10</p> <p>The 40 days of Lent are a good time to work on personal discipline. Strengthen your discipline by giving something up or by doing something extra, such as spending more time in prayer or volunteering more.</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>“The duty of fasting is rendered acceptable to God when it is made perfect by the fruits of charity.”</p> <p>(St. John Cassian, <i>Institutes</i>, 5.35)</p>

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<p>March 12</p> <p>Second Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of today's readings with this lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>March 13</p> <p>Today is the fourth anniversary of Pope Francis's election as Supreme Pontiff. Take time today to pray for him and to thank God for the gift of his papacy.</p>	<p>March 14</p> <p>"You are a vessel; but as yet you are full. Pour out what you have, that you may receive what you have not."</p> <p>(St. Augustine, <i>Homilies on the First Epistle of John</i>, 2.9)</p>	<p>March 15</p> <p>"If you have fasted two or three days, do not think yourself better than others who do not fast. You fast and are angry; another eats and wears a smiling face."</p> <p>(St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i>, 22.37)</p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>"Fortitude is strengthened by infirmities, and calamity is very often the discipline of virtue."</p> <p>(Minucius Felix, <i>Octavius</i>, 36)</p>	<p>March 17</p>  <p>St. Patrick, the apostle to Ireland, wrote, "Our way to repay God is to exalt him and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven."</p> <p>(St. Patrick, <i>Confession</i>, 3)</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>St. Cyril of Jerusalem said, "Strive cheerfully; for nothing is lost. Every prayer of yours, every psalm you sing is recorded. Every alms, every fast is recorded."</p> <p>(<i>Catechetical Lectures</i>, 15.23)</p>
<p>March 19</p> <p>Third Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of today's readings with this lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>March 20</p> <p>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Bl. Virgin Mary (celebration transferred from Sunday)</p> <p>St. Joseph, the model of humility, and one of our greatest saints, is known for his silence. Read about the poignant silence of Joseph.</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>"Humility is the earning of glory, glory the reward of humility."</p> <p>(St. Augustine, <i>Tractates on the Gospel of John</i>, 104.3)</p>	<p>March 22</p> <p>"The things that pertain to sobriety and temperance must be more diligently observed at this season, so that a lasting habit may be contracted from a brief zeal."</p> <p>(St. Leo the Great, <i>Sermons</i>, 68.4)</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>Today, we mark the feast day of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, a Spanish-born evangelizer who was sent as a missionary to Peru and opened the first seminary in the New World. In his honor, pray for vocations.</p>	<p>March 24</p>  <p>"Christ saved men not with thunder and lightning, but as a wailing babe in the manger and as a silent sufferer upon the cross."</p> <p>(St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i>, 82.1)</p>	<p>March 25</p> <p>Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord</p> <p>Today is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrating the incarnation of Christ in Mary's womb. It's a great day to pray the Magnificat, the Cantic of Mary.</p>
<p>March 26</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of today's readings with this lectio divina guide, and remember to support today's CRS Collection.</p>	<p>March 27</p> <p>It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. After all, Lent comes every year and we spend our entire lives growing closer to God.</p>	<p>March 28</p> <p>"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."</p> <p>(Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2017)</p>	<p>March 29</p> <p>When confronted with your own weakness during Lent, don't give in to anger, frustration, and self-pity. Be patient, and see yourself as God does, with unconditional love.</p>	<p>March 30</p> <p>Have you been to confession yet during this Lent? If you haven't been in a while, here's how to rediscover the Sacrament of Penance.</p>	<p>March 31</p>  <p>Lent helps us concentrate on renewing aspects of our lives that are less than Christ-like. We think of Christ's suffering and Death—and how he always did his Father's will—and join in these mysteries by our own sacrifice of self-denial.</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>"Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence."</p> <p>(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, no. 259)</p>

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<p>April 2</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of today's readings with this lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>April 3</p> <p>“There is a joy that is affliction; misery is hidden within it. There is a misery that is profit; it is a fountain of joys in the new world.”</p> <p>(St. Ephrem of Syria, <i>Nisibene Hymns</i>, 4.13)</p>	<p>April 4</p> <p>Today, we remember St. Isidore of Seville, patron of a medium that didn't exist when he lived, the Internet! Read what Pope Benedict XVI has to say about this saint.</p>	<p>April 5</p> <p>Today is St. Vincent Ferrer's feast day. In honor of this great 14th century missionary, pray that all Catholics respond to the call for missionary discipleship.</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>“The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.”</p> <p>(Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2017)</p>	<p>April 7</p> <p></p> <p>St. John Baptist de la Salle is the patron saint of teachers. He gave up a life of wealth to found the Christian Brothers, which opened free schools for the poor.</p>	<p>April 8</p> <p>“In every act we do, in every step we take, let our hand trace the Lord's cross.”</p> <p>(St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i>, 22.37)</p>
<p>April 9</p> <p>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</p> <p>Deepen your understanding of the Passion Sunday readings with this lectio divina guide.</p>	<p>April 10</p> <p>Holy Week is here. Reflect on how God's grace has helped you to live your Lenten promises to give up, take up, and lift up during this journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross.</p>	<p>April 11</p> <p>“The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.”</p> <p>(Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>, no. 47)</p>	<p>April 12</p> <p>Lent officially ends tomorrow as the Mass of the Last Supper begins. Plan to participate in the Stations of the Cross and the moving liturgies of the Triduum in your parish.</p>	<p>April 13</p> <p>Holy Thursday</p> <p>“To encounter the living God it is necessary to tenderly kiss Jesus' wounds in our hungry, poor, sick and incarcerated brothers and sisters.”</p> <p>(Pope Francis, Homily, July 3, 2013)</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p></p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>The Franciscans take care of the places in the Holy Land where Jesus walked and care for the living stones—Christians—who live today. Please give today to the Holy Land Collection.</p>	<p>April 15</p> <p>Holy Saturday</p> <p>“We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history.”</p> <p>(Pope Francis, Audience, Jan. 8, 2014)</p>
<p>April 16</p> <p>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord—<i>He Has Risen!</i></p> <p>Mediate on the Exsultet, the Proclamation of Easter, and read a commentary on its meaning.</p>	<p>The Triduum</p> <p>The summit of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day, unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.</p> 					