



A LENTEN JOURNEY with ST. JOSEPH FOR FAMILIES

WEDNESDAY

17 Ash Wednesday

Receive ashes at Mass or participate in Mass online.

*Fasting for those 18-59; only one full meal or two smaller ones.
Fast from meat (14+)*

THURSDAY

18

Give up television or videos today.

FRIDAY

19

Visit the Sick and Imprisoned:

Make a card for a retired priest at Regina Cleri Residence 60 William Cardinal O'Connell Way, Boston MA 02114

Fast from meat (14+)

SATURDAY

20

Counsel the Doubtful:

Think of some questions or doubts that you have about Jesus and offer them to God in prayer, asking Him to show you His Truth.

SUNDAY

21

Tell someone in your family why you are thankful for them.

MONDAY

22

Comfort the Sorrowful:

Send a note to someone who might be sad, lonely, or in need of a kind word.

TUESDAY

23

Shelter the Homeless:

Pray for those without shelter to find secure and safe housing.

24

Give Alms to the Poor:

Give your allowance to a charity, or ask your parent/guardian if you can do a chore to earn money to give to the charity.

25

Read about the Beatitudes and ask God to help you live them out.

[Matthew 5:1-11](#)

26

Attend the Stations of the Cross at your parish, online, or use a resource like [this one](#).

Fast from meat (14+)

27

Bury the Dead:

Think about the people in your family who have died and pray: "Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

28

Bear Wrongs Patiently:

Say a prayer for someone who has not always been nice to you.

MARCH 1

Pray for the Living and the Dead:

Say a prayer for religious sisters and brothers, both alive and dead, who have devoted their lives to Jesus.

2

Do something kind or helpful for someone in your family.

3

Feed the Hungry:

Only drink water today to stand in solidarity with those who often go thirsty.

4

Share your toys or belongings more generously.

5

Clothe the Naked:

Collect clothing items that you no longer wear and donate to a local charity.

Fast from meat (14+)

6

Read about Jesus' Temptation in the Desert and think about the times when you were tempted. Give God thanks for helping you through those times.

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

7

Counsel the Doubtful:

Say a Hail Mary for someone you think needs God's peace.

8

Instruct the Ignorant:

Share your favorite Bible story with a sibling or friend.

9

Give up dessert or a snack today.

10

Visit the Sick and Imprisoned:

Call or virtually visit with a sick friend or family member.

11

Give up social media, gaming devices, or technology.

12

Pray for the Living and the Dead:

Pray the Lord's Prayer for those children who have lost a parent(s).

Fast from meat (14+)

13

Bear Wrongs Patiently:

Do something nice for someone who has not been nice to you.

SUNDAY

14 Laetare Sunday

Admonish the Sinner:

Pray for those who persecute others because they appear "different."

MONDAY

15

Forgive Offenses Willingly:

Say, "I forgive you" to anyone who makes you angry today.

TUESDAY

16

Go out of your way to say something kind to someone at school or in your family.

WEDNESDAY

17 **Feast of St. Patrick**

St. Patrick is the patron saint of the Archdiocese. You can read more about his story [here](#).

THURSDAY

18

Feed the Hungry:

Gather up some non-perishables or canned goods and donate them to a local food pantry, such as the one at your church.

FRIDAY

19 **Feast of St. Joseph**

Say a prayer of St. Joseph for fathers. Prayers and more about the Year of St. Joseph can be found [here](#).

No fasting today because of the feast.

SATURDAY

20

Shelter the Homeless:

Sleep on the floor tonight as an offering for those who have no bed to sleep in.

21

Give Alms to the Poor:

Ask your parents/guardian not to buy your favorite snack this week and donate the money saved to a local food bank.

22

Help fold laundry or clean up the clothes in your room.

23

Comfort the Sorrowful:

Send an encouraging note to someone you know who might be struggling or sad.

24

Pray a decade of the rosary as a family today.

[For younger children](#)

[For older children](#)

25

Feast of St. Dismas

Pray for the Sick and Imprisoned:

Through prayer, ask St. Dismas, the Good Thief on the cross, to intercede for those in prison.

[Luke 23:39-43](#)

26

Instruct the Ignorant:

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Go around the table and fill in the word to describe Jesus in the Litany of Praise: "Praise you Jesus, you are my... (i.e. joy, friend, Savior, etc.)."

Fast from meat (14+)

27

Bury the Dead:

Visit the grave of someone who has died and pray a Hail Mary for their soul.

28

Palm Sunday

Bear Wrongs Patiently:

Practice patience today when you're frustrated.

29

Admonish the Sinner:

Discuss what sin is. Pray the Jesus Prayer: "Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner."

30

Visit your parish website and make a plan to go to confession before Easter.

31

Forgive Offenses Willingly:

Say the Pardon Prayer for all who have sinned: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You."

APRIL 1

Holy Thursday

Go to Mass or watch it online. If neither are possible, read [John 13:1-20](#) and discuss what happened.

2

Good Friday

Attend the Veneration of the Cross at your church or do the Stations of the Cross at home. (see links on Feb. 26th)

Fasting for those 18-59; only one full meal or two smaller ones.

Fast from meat (14+)

3

Holy Saturday

Attend the Easter Vigil at your parish or online.

4

Easter



A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH ST. JOSEPH FOR FAMILIES

This year, which Pope Francis has named the Year of St. Joseph, is a time to reflect on the life and witness of the great patron saint of fathers. We are also entering into the season of Lent, a time when we solemnly reflect on the life, passion, and death of Jesus and practice selfless works of love through which we grow closer to Jesus and His most Sacred Heart. As we walk together through this sacred time of sacrifice and mercy, let us embrace the humble ways of St. Joseph, who was the devoted spouse of our Blessed Mother, Mary, and the earthly father to their Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Although we do not hear much at all about St. Joseph in the scriptures, we know that his humble obedience to God and faithfulness to his family made him a primary example of faith, hope, and unconditional love. Let us invite St. Joseph to accompany us during Lent as we embrace the Spiritual and Corporal Acts of Mercy. (CCC 2447) Ask St. Joseph to teach you, as he taught Jesus, to be obedient to God the Father and to embrace all people with the compassion and mercy.

As a parent or guardian, please guide your child(ren) through this Lenten journey. Each day contains an offering either in word or deed. If you feel one of the suggestions is not doable, replace it with one of your own. In-kind or monetary donations can be set aside and made all at once at the end of Lent for your convenience. For reference, the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are as follows:

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. **Admonish the Sinner: James 5:19-20** - "My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone bring him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his ways will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."
2. **Instruct the Ignorant: Matthew 16:15-16** - "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"
3. **Counsel the Doubtful: John 14:27** - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do, I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."
4. **Comfort the Sorrowful: Matthew 11:28** - "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."
5. **Bear Wrongs Patiently: Luke 6:27-28** - "But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."
6. **Forgive Offences Willingly: Matthew 6:14** - "If you forgive others their transgressions [sin wrongdoing], your heavenly Father will forgive you."
7. **Pray for the Living and the Dead: Ephesians 6:18** - "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones."

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. **Feed the Hungry: Matthew 25:35** - "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."
2. **Clothe the Naked: Matthew 25:36** - "I was naked, and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."
3. **Shelter the Homeless: Matthew 25:35** - "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."
4. **Visit the Sick and Imprisoned: Matthew 25:36** - "[I was] naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."
5. **Bury the Dead: Tobit 1:17** - "I would give my bread to the hungry and clothing to the naked. If I saw one of my people who had died and been thrown behind the wall of Nineveh, I used to bury him."
6. **Give Alms to the Poor: Proverbs 19:17** - "Whoever cares for the poor lends to the LORD, who will pay back the sum in full."

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Possible places to donate food, clothing, or money outside of what may be available at your church:

Catholic Charities - <https://www.ccab.org/>

St. Francis House day shelter in Boston - <https://stfrancishouse.org/>

Pregnancy Help Boston - <https://www.pregnancyhelpboston.org/>

St. Vincent de Paul in your local community - <https://ssvpusa.org>

My Brother's Keeper shelter on the South Shore - <https://mybrotherskeeper.org/>

Friends of the Unborn home for homeless pregnant women in Quincy - <https://www.friendsoftheunborn.org/>

Pine Street Inn shelter in Boston - <https://www.pinestreetinn.org/>

Greater Boston Food Bank - <https://www.gbfb.org/>

New England Home and Center for Veterans (monetary donations only at this time) - <https://www.nechv.org/give-nechv/ways-of-giving/>

Salvation Army drop off center locator - <https://satruck.org/DropOff>