

Ash Wednesday Family Service Booklet



Wednesday, February 17
4:00 pm

What is Ash Wednesday?


Ash Wednesday is the day in the church year where we mark the beginning of the season of **Lent**. During this season, we are all invited to think about the things in our lives that may be causing us to be distant from God and distant from others.

To learn more about Lent, go to page 8

On Ash Wednesday, blessed ashes are put on your forehead in the shape of a cross and the words, **"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return"** are said.



**"Remember you are
dust, and to dust
you shall return"**

This can be a startling statement to hear! However, the purpose is not to scare us but to remind us that we have been created by God and that it is God who holds us wherever we go, in life and when we go to heaven. 

Saying Sorry Together

Dean Penny: Lent is a time to think about things that distract us from loving God or other people. Everybody makes mistakes; sometimes we speak harshly, tell lies, or don't think about the feelings of others. Lent is a time to tell God you're sorry for the times you have made mistakes. We also say sorry to the people we hurt. It is a great feeling to know that, even after we tell God about our mistakes, He still loves us no matter what!

In the language of your choice, you can respond with "Lord, we are sorry". Please keep your family's mic muted.

Maya: We have not loved you or others as much as we could.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have not helped others as Jesus helped us.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have been impatient.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have been angry.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have been jealous of others.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have told lies.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Maya: We have forgotten how much you love us.

Lord, we are sorry. // Dios, lo sentimos.

Dean Penny:

God of Forgiveness, you love all that you have made. You forgive the mistakes of all who are truly sorry. Make our hearts clean, that we, confessing our mistakes and knowing that we need your help, may receive your forgiveness and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Ashes

Dean Penny:

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings + Imposition of the Ashes



After each reading, take turns putting ashes on each other's foreheads and say the bolded words. While you wait for your turn, **try tracing your finger in the labyrinth on page 6.**

Reader 1:

Be careful! When you do good things, don't do them in front of people just to be seen by them. If you do that, then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás

Reader 2:

When you give to the poor, don't be like the show-offs. They blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They do that in the churches and on the streets. They want other people to honor them. I tell you the truth. They already have their full reward. So when you give to the poor, give very secretly. Don't let anyone know what you are doing. Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás

Scripture Readings + Imposition of the Ashes



Reader 3:

When you pray, don't be like the show-offs. They love to stand in the churches and on the street corners and pray loudly. They want people to see them pray. I tell you the truth. They already have their full reward. When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás

Reader 4:

"When you give things up, don't put on a sad face like the show-offs. They make their faces look strange to show people that they are giving things up. I tell you the truth, they already have their full reward. So when you give up things, comb your hair and wash your face. Then people will not know that you are doing something hard. But your Father, whom you cannot see, will see you. Your Father sees what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás



"Remember you are
dust, and to dust you
shall return"

6

"Recuerda que eres
polvo y al polvo
volverás"

Closing Prayer

Dear God of our whole selves,

As we journey through this season of Lent,
teach us how to give, so that we can joyfully
respond when you call us to serve.

Teach us how to pray, so that we can be closer to
you in all that we do throughout the day.

Teach us how to let go, so nothing can stand in the
way of our connection with you.

Teach us how to prepare, so we can be ready to
receive your love, wisdom, and blessing.

Help us to remember that in all ways we belong to
you, **Amen.**



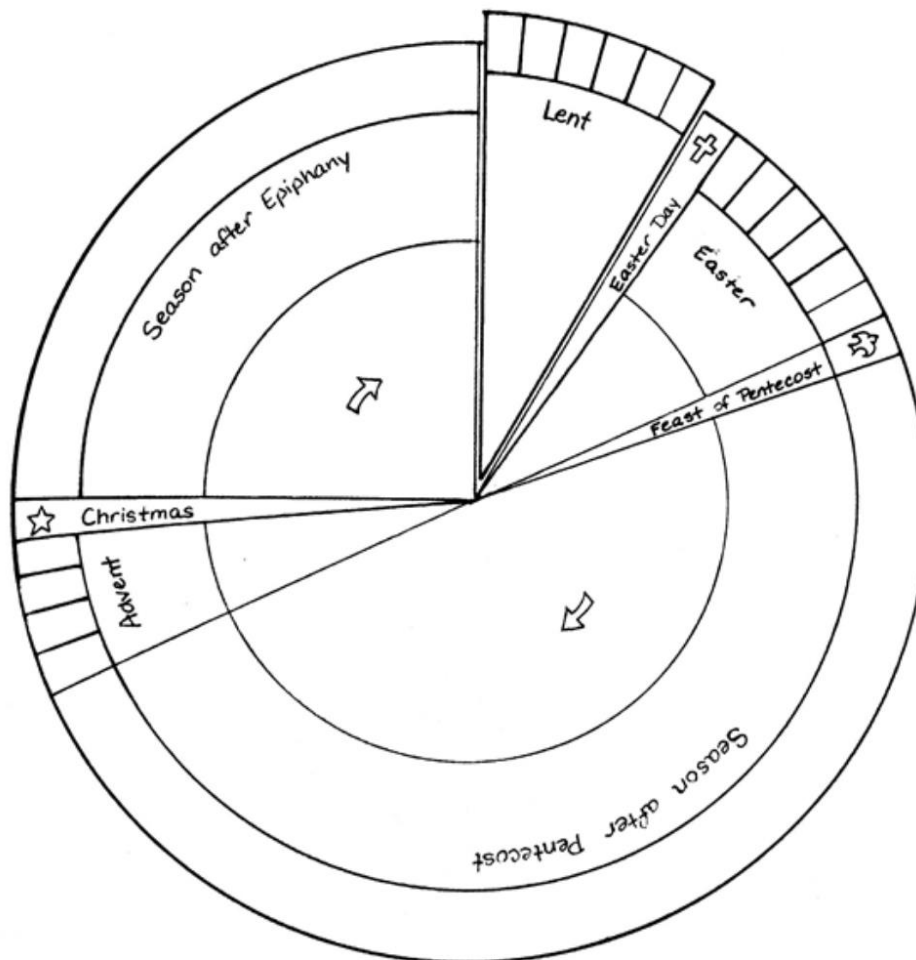
What is Lent?

february 17-April 3

Lent is the church season leading up to Easter. It lasts for **40 days**, beginning on **Ash Wednesday** and ending the day before **Easter**.

The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week** because we remember Jesus's last week on Earth before he died.

You may see a lot of **purple** during Lent because purple represents preparation. We are preparing for Jesus's death and resurrection!



Each Church season has a different color. Color the seasons according to the key:

Lent – Purple

Easter – Gold

Feast of Pentecost – Red

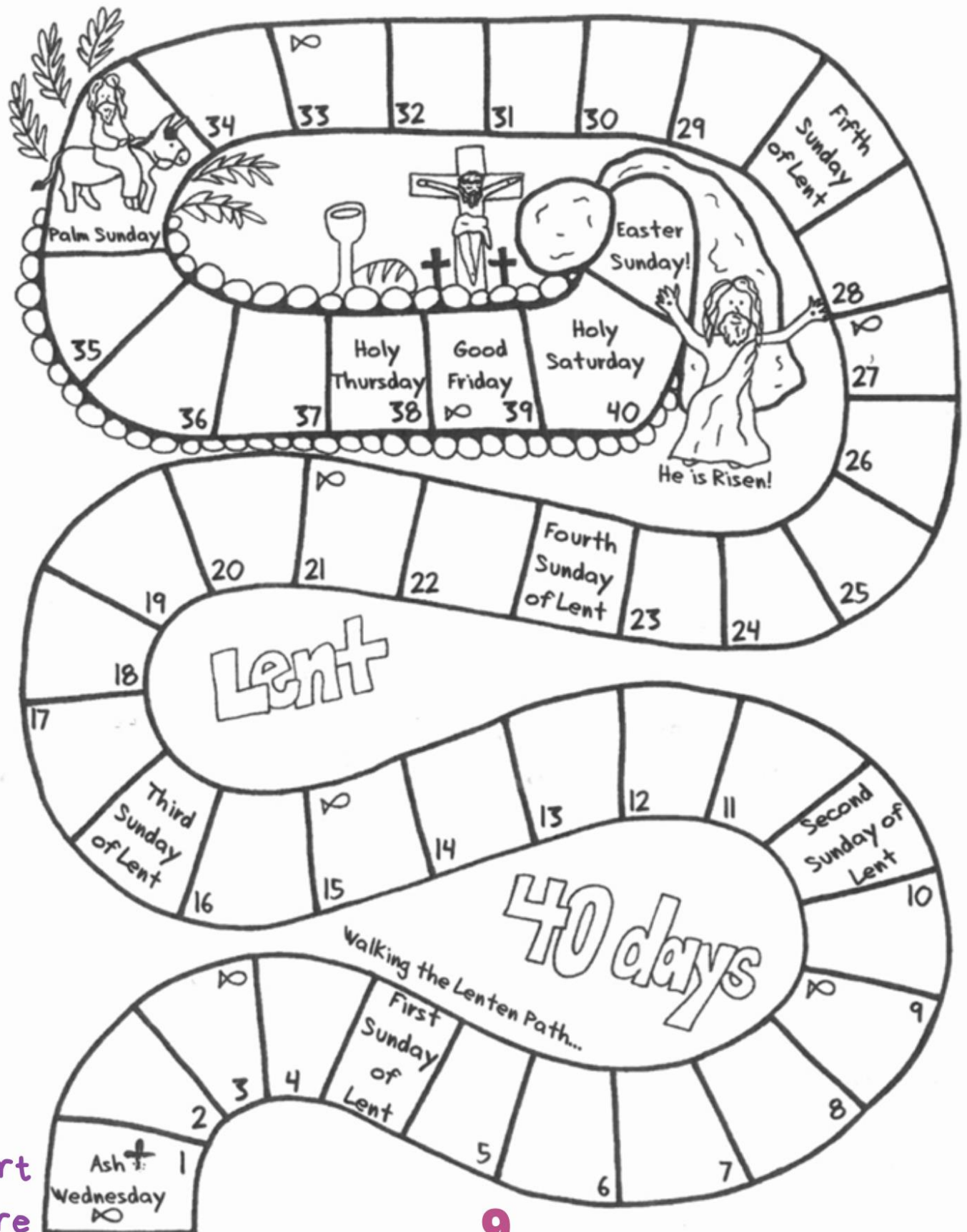
Season after Pentecost – Green

Advent – Blue or Purple

Christmas – Gold

Season after Epiphany – Green

Walking the Lenten Path



Start
here

What We Do in Lent

february 17-April 3

We Pray

Family prayer ideas:

- Use the Prayer Catcher
- Bedtime reflections
- Pray before meals
- Make a prayer jar

Lent is a prayerful time where we focus on our relationship with God. God wants us to trust him and talk to him about our lives.

There is no right or wrong way to pray!

We Give

Family giving ideas:

- Donate to a food pantry
- Do extra chores around the house
- Call someone who may need extra support

Jesus taught us to love our neighbors. This means we give time, resources, and extra care to people who need it. Lent is a great time to focus on the needs of others.

We Practice

Family practice ideas:

- Cut down on screen time once a week and spend that time praying or giving.
- Do midweek Lent reflections.
- Commit to kindness.

Lent is a time to try things that bring us closer to God. Just like a star soccer player, we have to practice prayer, giving, and loving a lot.

During Lent we give up somethings or try new exercises to be a better friend to God and to each other, and to remember how much we love God.

What Will **You** Practice?

This Lent, I will focus on God by practicing:

This Lent, my family will focus on God by :



If you still need some ideas, scan these QR codes to explore Lenten practices for kids and families.



LENT 2021

FAMILY MINISTRY OFFERINGS

ALL AGES TOOLKIT PICKUP

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10am-12pm

Lenten Toolkits for ages 4-18 and ashes for the Ash Wednesday Family Service can be picked up at the 5th Avenue entrance of the Cathedral.

ASH WEDNESDAY FAMILY SERVICE

Wednesday, Feb 17, 4pm

Enter the season of Lent with song, prayer, and ashes! This brief worship service will be on Zoom and have bilingual elements.

SERIES

KIDS CREW: REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER

Sundays, Feb. 21-March 21, 12-1 pm

Kids ages 4-10 and their families are invited to a five part Zoom series about to expand and enrich their experiences with prayer through storytelling and art + BONUS midweek YouTube reflections and crafts!

YOUTH CREW: HOLDING LENT

Tuesday Nights, Feb 22-March 23, 6:30-7:30 pm

Youth ages 11-18 will learn new ways to experience the divine during this special Lenten Zoom series. Toolkits will include prayer journals, prayer beads, Visio Divina cards, and more!

HOLY WEEK: STAY TUNED FOR PROGRAM UPDATES!

MARCH 28-APRIL 3

COMING SOON!

Our Lent Learning Space will have links to our midweek video reflections, Faith To Go resources, and more!



Explore the interactive space at
www.stpaulcathedral.org/family-ministry/