



Desert Wanderer

An EDGE night on
The Season of Lent

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Leaderboard

CAN I COME IN?

FORM A CIRCLE
WITH 1 PERSON
IN THE MIDDLE

MIDDLE PERSON
WALKS AROUND
ASKING, "CAN I
COME IN".

PEOPLE FORMING
CIRCLE ANSWER,
"NO", BUT USE
NON-VERBAL
CUES TO SWITCH
PLACES

NO SWAPPING WITH PERSON NEXT TO YOU! IF
MIDDLE PERSON CATCHES YOU, THEY GET YOUR
SPOT!



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Lent

the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer.

Penance

A conversion of heart toward God and away from sin, which implies the intention to change one's life because of hope in divine mercy

Almsgiving

Money or goods given to the poor as an act of penance or fraternal charity

Fasting

Refraining from food or another material thing as an expression of interior penance, in imitation of the fast of Jesus for 40 days in the desert.





- During **Lent** we see a drastic change in the decorations in our parish. The altar is stripped bare of any extra decorations, flowers and plants are also taken down. Sometimes you'll see empty jars on the altar. The liturgical colors also change to purple, much like during Advent, because Lent is also a time of preparation.
- Lent is a time to enter into **penance**, deeper prayer, and **almsgiving** – all which will be later explained. We should take notice of how the environment of the Church changes because it indicates to us that there is something new happening in the life of the Church. In this case, the parish often resembles the barren desert in which we are called to enter into spiritually.
- During the season of Lent, we follow Him into the desert.
- When we hear the word Lent, many of us relate it to just simply giving something up, and usually it ends up being chocolate, ice cream, cookies, or other food items. Although part of Lent does involve sacrifice, the season of Lent is a time of repentance and renewal for each of us as we unite ourselves to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.


Into the Desert



Lent is a time when we are called into a
SPIRITUAL desert for 40 days.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert for 40 days without any food to be tempted by the devil. Can you imagine going 40 days without food? Can you even imagine going just a couple days? Take a moment to imagine how Jesus might have been feeling. He was probably tired, starving, dirty, and worn down by the sun. Despite all these many feelings, He stayed faithful to His heavenly Father when the devil tempted Him. We know that it was not easy for Jesus to say no to the devil's temptations, for St. Paul writes, "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin."

Just as Christ went into the desert for 40 days, we are called into a spiritual desert for the 40 days of Lent



Time for Penance

- Symbolized by the color purple
- We are called to turn away from sin and return to God

Ash Wednesday

- Ashes are a reminder to repent of our sins.
- Only by repenting can we have new life

We must follow the example of Christ, and perform acts of penance.

Pray, Fast, Give Alms

- Lent is a time for penance, symbolized by the color purple, where we turn from sin and return to God. Jesus came not “to call the righteous, but sinners.” Throughout our lives, we may find that the material things of this world become more important than loving God. Lent is a time for us to concentrate on making God first in our lives.
- This solemn journey begins on Ash Wednesday, when we receive ashes upon our forehead. When we receive these ashes, we hear this prayer, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ashes are not a sign of how holy we are but rather a reminder to repent of our sins, humble ourselves, and renounce our own pride. Just as God formed man out of the clay of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life, He can breathe new life into all of us who have fallen to sin.
- During Lent we are called to perform acts of penance as a way to help us turn away from our own sinfulness and follow Christ. Jesus even undertook acts of penance, so we must follow His example. These acts of penance can be done through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

PRAYER

- God created us out of **love** & we are called to **love** in return
- We experience God's **love** through PRAYER
- During Lent we dedicate more time to **prayer**

You can pray the rosary, read scripture, or just talk to God about your daily life!

Within each one of us is a desire that cannot be satisfied by anyone or anything, except for God. God created each of us out of love and also calls each of us to love. This is "the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being." Through prayer, which is a conversation with God, we experience God's love for us while also loving Him. Throughout Lent, we should strive to dedicate more time to prayer. There are so many ways we can pray. We can pray the rosary, read and reflect on Scripture, or simply sit and talk with God about our daily lives.

FASTING

- Fasting is a **sacrifice** to repent for our sins
- It is also “spiritual exercise” to **strengthen** our wills
- Fasting keeps our **focus** on God

Giving stuff up for Lent reminds us that we are living for something more!

Explain: a small self sacrifice. Prophets and other of God's chosen instruments would sacrifice up to him even small luxuries: meat, wine and even looking/smelling nice.

ALMSGIVING

- Giving alms means to give to the poor as an act of **charity**
- Attending to the needs of others is another way to **love** one another

Almsgiving should be a regular practice for Christians. But during Lent, we are called to do more!

Another way of doing penance is through giving alms or giving money or goods to the poor. This includes helping those who are poor not just in wealth, but also poor in spirit, health. There are many people who are less fortunate than we are. Every good thing is a gift from our heavenly Father, and we are meant to share what we have with those who are less fortunate.

Remember, it is not about the amount but the intentions of our own heart. Maybe you cannot donate money or resources, but hopefully you can donate your time to a charity or someone who is in need. Talk with your parents about different ways that you might be able to give of yourself to others.



Return to the
Lord

During the season of Lent, we die to ourselves so that we might wait in hope for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday!

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The season of Lent is not simply about what we are giving up, but rather it is a time to return to the Lord who first loved us. God's greatest gift was the gift of His only begotten Son on the cross. Christ died so that we might have life everlasting. During this season of Lent, we also die to ourselves so that we might wait in hope for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Wandering with a Purpose
How will you wander through Lent
with a purpose?

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- *Sometimes we can feel that we are just wandering through life, but during Lent we are reminded to wander with a purpose.*
- *Each of you will receive a blank footprint. Your blank footprint needs a purpose. Take some time to reflect and decide on how you will wander through Lent with a purpose. Write your commitment on your footprint to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. (5min)*





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- Every Friday during Lent there will be drive thru fish plates sold here at church from 5:30pm till they run out. Plates are \$10
- There will also be stations of the cross starting this next Friday in the church. English will be at 6:30 and Spanish will be at 7:15.
- Leaderboard update
- Class next week!