

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

Lent

Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 27)

Overview

In this chapter the children will learn that the season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 540 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

Do you find yourself welcoming Lent or wishing it away? Why?

In Lent as in Advent and most importantly at the Easter Vigil, the Church “re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the ‘today’ of her liturgy” (CCC 1095). We, the faithful, guided by the Holy Spirit, are given this seasonal opportunity to open ourselves to a conversion of heart and a renewal of our baptismal commitment.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending before the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, Lent is our season of preparation for the Triduum and for Easter. These three seasons all together make up the Paschal season of the Church. During Lent, the assembly of believers renews its faith in Jesus, God’s only Son, through whom we have eternal life (John 3:16). By his cross, Death, and Resurrection, Jesus saves us from sin and death.

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

These saving mysteries happened only once in historical time. However, they last forever as saving events that we continue to experience in the present. “Times, feasts, and seasons for celebration are observed so that through the liturgy the Church can be drawn into Christ’s paschal mystery” (“Liturgical Theology,” Kevin Erwin, Liturgical Press, ©1993).

By the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and abstinence, penitence, and almsgiving, we can observe Lent as a fruitful time to recommit ourselves to Christian living.

What area of your life could use conversion of heart and renewal?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 171
Introduce the Season

- Read the *Chapter Story*.
- Introduce the season of Lent.
- Make a Lenten time line.
- Proclaim the words on the banner.

- long strips of butcher paper (one for each child)
- rulers, purple markers, scissors

page 172

- Discuss preparing for family get-togethers.

2 WE BELIEVE

pages 172–174
The season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

-  Listen to and sing the song.
- Read and discuss the importance of Lent.
- Read and discuss the sacraments connected to the season of Lent.

-  “Ashes,” Tom Conry, #17, Grade 3 CD

3 WE RESPOND

page 174

- Brainstorm ways to observe Lent.
-  Complete the Lenten faith and love activity.
-  Make baptismal shells.

- paper scallop shells or pattern
- crayons or markers

Text page 175
Guide page 175–176
We Respond in Prayer

- Listen to Scripture.
-  Respond in prayer and song.

- prayer space items: a Bible, a bowl of ashes, bowl of holy water, piece of rough fabric, a cactus, a candle, purple cloth.
-  “Ashes,” Tom Conry, #18, Grade 3 CD

Text page 176
Guide pages 175–176, 176A
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Complete the Reproducible Master 20 activity. See guide pages 176A and 171C.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** guide page 176B.

- pencils, colored pencils or crayons
- copies of Reproducible Master 20, guide page 176A
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 176B

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier’s

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com