

+Dear Parents,

Lenten blessings to you and your family. While in one of the middle school classrooms, I heard the students sharing their Lenten plans. One of the students explained that she took down all the posters and pictures from her bedroom walls to make her room more desert-like in imitation of Jesus Who spent forty days in the desert. Another explained that she would be doing less shopping, and another, giving up treats during Lent, and they would then give the money that was saved to the poor.

At our Ash Wednesday prayer service, when Father Windle asked the children what they were doing for Lent, one of the little ones told Father that the reason we give up things during Lent is to show Jesus our love. One of the younger students also responded to Father's question that besides giving things up for Lent, we should also **do** things for Lent, for example, helping Mom and Dad at home, or being kinder to a sibling. Father, the teachers, and I were quite touched by the students' sincerity. Through these discussions in school and at home, we recognize that Lent is a liturgical season that invites us to draw closer to God through extra prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May Jesus guide and inspire us to make this the best Lent ever!

Well, Parents, another virtual day due to winter weather. I do not know about you, but I am definitely looking forward to spring. I love the snow, but the faculty and I really prefer in-person instruction, as I am guessing you do too. Nothing beats seeing the students' beautiful smiles and bringing their exuberant life to the school community. Perhaps this will be the last snow/ice event of the season! We can only hope 😊

In Mary's Immaculate Heart, I am,
Sister Mary

Some Lenten resources for you and your family: <https://teachingcatholickids.com/fasting/rb.gy/ruwuz4> from NCEA

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/arts-and-faith-for-lent/cycle-b/>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/>

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/lent>

