

Family Perspectives



Marriage and Family
Ministry

Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Lent and Holy Week 2021 (Year B)

17 February 2021 – Ash Wednesday

21 February 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

28 February 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent

7 March 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent

14 March 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

21 March 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

28 March 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



LENT

17 February 2021 - Ash Wednesday

In today's gospel Jesus gets to the heart of humanity's great temptation to seek praise, fame and glory in what we do and in who we are. When we are motivated by the desire for others' approval, Jesus tells us we have "received our reward." Only in God can we find the peace and meaning we seek. This Lent, let us make it a point in our families to free ourselves from anxiety over how we appear to others and instead focus on our relationship with God.



Universal Prayer

For God's holy church, in this season of Lent may it be purified, strengthened, and renewed in faith, love and charity . . .

21 February 2021 - First Sunday of Lent

Before his public ministry begins, Jesus spends forty days alone with wild beasts and angels. For the people of Israel, the desert hearkened back to the time of the Exodus when God led them in the wilderness, feeding them with manna, and finally revealing himself to them on the top of Mount Sinai. How will we, as a family unit, spend time in the "desert" this Lenten season? How will we journey with one another in the "wilderness?"



Universal Prayer:

For families who are victims of violent crime and for their assailants, may the grace of God bring about repentance, reconciliation, and peace. . .

28 February 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent

The transfiguration takes place only a few days after Jesus makes his first passion prediction to the disciples, telling them how “the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.” The disciples had to question what rising from the dead meant and listen to Jesus. How do you take time in prayer not only to talk as a family, but also to listen to Jesus?



Universal Prayer:

For all who live in a prison made of their own fear and scruples, may the love of Christ and the mercy of God free them to live in joy and peace . . .

7 March 2021 - Third Sunday of Lent

In watching Jesus drive the money changers and the merchants from the temple. His disciples remember the verse from the book of Psalms: "Zeal for your house has consumed me." In John's gospel, Jesus's cleansing of the temple is at the beginning of the gospel instead of the end. In the gospel, Jesus purifies the temple. How does your family and faith community maintain a sacred worship space for the people of God to worship?



Universal Prayer:

For all families, that in their daily lives, they may find moments of solitude and silence to dwell with the Lord in prayer.

14 March 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today's gospel refers to an event that occurred as the people of Israel sojourned in the desert after their escape from slavery in Egypt and before entering into the Promised land. The people, weary from their travel, complain bitterly against God and Moses. It was for sure a time of darkness for them. In today's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus,

“The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light.” Where do you perceive light encountering darkness in your family and community at this moment?



Universal Prayer:

For refugees and immigrants who find themselves far from their homeland, may they be sustained by a welcoming community . . .

21 March 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

In the first reading God declares through Jeremiah, “I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.” How have you experienced God’s forgiveness this Lent? Jesus tells his disciples, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” How have you in your family encountered this mystery that death leads to even more abundant life in the name of Jesus?



Universal Prayer:

For all gathered here, may any suffering we encounter serve to strengthen and perfect us in faith . . .

28 March 2021 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

The passion narratives were the first part of each gospel to be written. They form the beating heart of what we believe about Jesus. At the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells the disciples, "All of you will have your faith shaken." What role does questioning or doubt have in the spiritual life? After his death, a centurion says of Jesus, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" What has Jesus done in your life that inspires you and your family to say the same?



Universal Prayer:

For oppressed peoples all over the world, may their human rights be reinstated, and their dignity assured . . .