

# Kids



**St. Joseph,  
pray for us!**

**PULL OUT ACTIVITY INSIDE!**

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

# Welcome to March!

This month, spring will begin. The days are getting longer and warmer. The Church is still celebrating the season of Lent. We are getting ready for Easter! What is your family doing that is special for Lent?

## St. Joseph, pray for us!

Right now, the Church is celebrating the Year of St. Joseph. It's a special time to honor the man who was the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. We celebrate St. Joseph's feast day on March 19.

**PARENTS:** Look for the light bulb throughout the issue, then visit Page 19 to learn more.



OSV  
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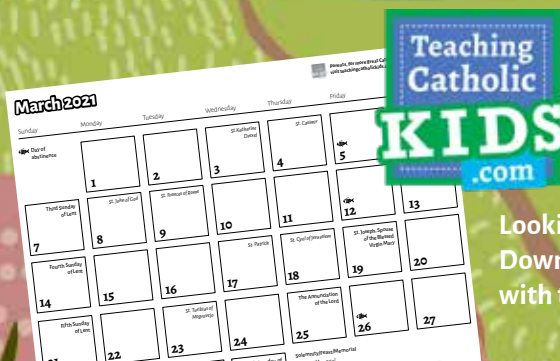
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Draw an  
image of St. Joseph  
and put it somewhere  
special. Ask him to help  
you be obedient to  
God (and your  
parents, too!).

Parents, for more great  
Catholic content visit  
[teachingcatholickids.com](http://teachingcatholickids.com).

Looking for the calendar?  
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with the password KIDSMORE







**DID YOU KNOW?**

# All about Lent

Lent is a special time that helps us get ready for Easter. It began on Ash Wednesday. During Lent, we can learn to love Jesus better. To do this, the Church asks us to do three things: pray, fast and give alms.

## **Pray**

Talking to God helps us know him better.

## **Try it**

Before bed, tell God one thing about your day that made you happy. Tell him "thank you."

## **Give alms**

God wants us to love the poor by helping them with our money or our time.

## **Try it**

Donate a toy to a family in need.

## **Fast**

By giving up things that we like, we show Jesus how much we love him.

## **Try it**

Skip dessert on Fridays this month — without complaining!



# Hosanna!

**Listen close!** We hear this Gospel reading at Mass this month.

When Jesus got close to Jerusalem, he told his disciples: “Go into the village and you will find a young donkey. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, tell them,

“The Master needs it and will send it back.”

They brought the donkey to Jesus and put their cloaks over it.

Jesus sat on it and rode the donkey into Jerusalem. Many people spread their

coats and palm branches on the road.

The people shouted: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

*Based on Mark 11:1-10*



Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter and the beginning of Holy Week. On this day, we remember when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem just days before his death. On Palm Sunday, we ...



## Receive a palm branch at Mass

At church, we are given a palm branch like the ones spread on the road for Jesus. They are blessed with holy water and taken home.



## Go for a special walk

Usually at the beginning of Mass, the priest reads the Gospel story about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Then we come into church singing.



## Learn about the Passion

The Gospel reading is long, but very important. It tells the story of how Jesus suffered and died on the cross. We are sad when we remember this, but we know the story doesn't end with sadness.

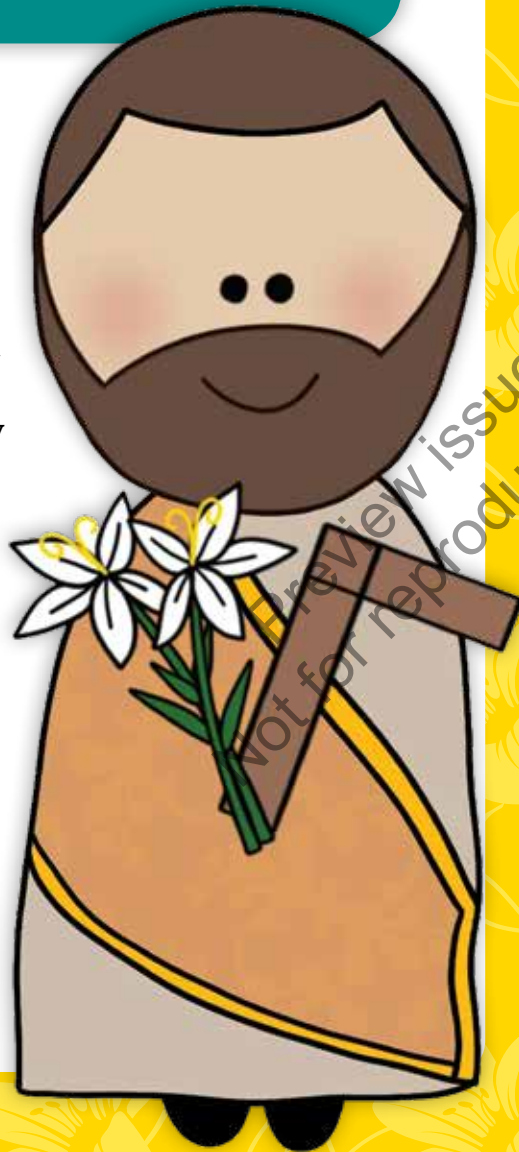


# Meet St. Joseph!

By Christine Henderson

St. Joseph was Mary's husband. He was chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus. Joseph loved Mary and Jesus very much and always took care of them. He also loved God and was obedient to him.

Remember the Nativity story? How Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem on a donkey to be



Rebecca Pohlmeier

counted for the census? There were so many people in Bethlehem that there were no rooms available in the inn (like a hotel). Mary and Joseph had to sleep in a barn, and that's where Baby Jesus was born! An angel told some shepherds about Jesus' birth, and the shepherds went to see him. Later, three kings from the East came to see Jesus, too. Through all of these events, Joseph was right there with Mary and Baby Jesus keeping them safe.

Many times God asked St. Joseph to do things. When Joseph was unsure about marrying Mary, God told him not to be afraid. When King Herod was searching for Baby Jesus, God told Joseph in a dream to wake up, take Mary and Jesus and flee to another country. Later, God told Joseph when it was safe to bring his family back home.

Saint Joseph always obeyed God. He never asked God why he was being asked to do something or how long it would take. He never questioned God in any way. He did what God asked him to do immediately because he loved God. This is what we should do, too.

**Christine Henderson** is a professional storyteller and owner of Faith and Puppets, where the faith is taught through stories and puppets. Visit [FaithandPuppets.com](http://FaithandPuppets.com) for more.







## CAN YOU FIND?

The Stations of the Cross take us through the final moments of Jesus' life on Earth before his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Starting with 1, point to each station as you follow Jesus' path. Parents, scan the QR code for a guide to each station.



## Stations of the Cross



**1**  
Jesus is condemned to death

**2**  
Jesus takes up his cross

**3**  
Jesus falls the first time

**4**  
Jesus meets his mother, Mary

**14**  
Jesus is buried

**5**  
Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross

Can you find the Stations of the Cross at your church?

**11**  
Jesus is nailed to the cross

**12**  
Jesus dies on the cross

**13**  
Jesus is removed from the cross

**6**  
Veronica wipes Jesus' face

**10**  
Jesus is stripped of his clothes

**9**  
Jesus falls a third time

**8**  
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

**7**  
Jesus falls a second time



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## CREATE



# Giving envelope

During Lent, we commit to giving extra to those in need. All during Lent, save extra coins in this envelope. On Easter, take what you have saved and donate it to your parish or a charity of your choice.

Use password KIDSMORE to download more copies of the activity at [bit.ly/tckactivity](https://bit.ly/tckactivity)



1



Cut out the envelope.

2



Fold and tape where marked.

3



Color, cut and glue the decorations to the envelope.

4



Collect coins all Lent!

Jenna Hines is a stay-at-home and homeschooling mom of four children in Michigan. She loves to bring the liturgical calendar into her home with simple, no-prep activities and crafts. You can find her on Instagram at @lazyliturgical.





## ASK A PRIEST

# Q What is your favorite Lenten tradition?

**A** I don't know about you, but I LOVE breakfast. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and luckily it's also the most delicious. For me, one of the hardest parts about Lent was having no meat on Fridays during Lent. No meat means no bacon with my breakfast! Understanding sacrifice was a little hard, so my parents had a tradition for us. On Friday nights during Lent, we would have pancakes and popcorn and watch a movie about saints, miracles or Jesus. Popcorn was a "must," and the pancakes gave us a hint of the goodness of breakfast. Lent is about spending time connecting our sacrifices to the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. In the same way, these small sacrifices helped us little ones prepare for a Christ-centered (and bacon-filled) Easter morning.

**Father Ed Bresnahan works at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, Virginia. He likes books, games and sharing the Faith.**



## TIME TO PRAY

# My Lenten Prayer

During Lent we think about the great sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying on the cross. Everything he did on Good Friday was done because he loves us.

Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you suffered and died for us.

Please help us to show our love for you by making our own sacrifices every day. Amen.

What is something you can sacrifice during Lent?

Every night before bed, kiss Jesus on the cross and tell him you love him.



# Putting God first

This Lent, make a promise to show God you love him with your actions. Point to the kids who are acting like they should.



Listening  
at Mass



Not  
listening



Praying



Showing  
love

Fighting



What are  
some other  
ways you can show  
God that you  
love him?



Helping  
with chores



Being  
kind to  
others



# St. Patrick and the Trinity

St. Patrick traveled around Ireland spreading the Gospel. Legend has it that St. Patrick used a shamrock to teach the people about the Trinity. The Trinity is three persons in one being: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pray the  
Sign of the Cross  
with your family  
every day.

“In the name  
of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen.”

St. Patrick,  
pray for us!

## JUST FOR PARENTS

More information to share with curious kids!

### Learn more: Lent

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days. In the Bible, the number 40 represents a trial or being tested. For example, after failing to trust God, the Israelites are forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time the Israelites learned to rely on the strength of God, and eventually they entered the Promised Land. In addition, Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days. Likewise, during Lent, Catholics fast, pray and give alms, which prepare us in body, mind and spirit for the passion of Our Lord, and for his resurrection at Easter.

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### Grow more: Year of St. Joseph

We are currently in the Year of St. Joseph, which began on Dec. 8, 2020, and ends Dec. 8, 2021. As patron of the universal Church, a father and a husband, St. Joseph is a powerful witness for the domestic church. Jesus learned the ways of love in the home of St. Joseph. An excellent read for the Year of St. Joseph is Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), released in December and available in print through OSV.

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### Do more: Stations of the Cross

Early Christians made pilgrimages to Jerusalem and prayerfully walked where Jesus carried his cross. But as Christianity spread through the world, many lived too far away to make pilgrimages to the holy city. In the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi and his followers asked the pope if they could create small images that represented Jesus' journey to his death. In that way, the faithful all over the world could spiritually enter into Jesus' suffering. Eventually, this practice became known as the Stations of the Cross. Make a point to walk the Stations of the Cross with your family this Lent.

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**Nancy Bandzuch** and her husband, Bill, run *Catholic Sprouts*, a ministry for Catholic families. Check out their daily podcast for Catholic kids and training for building and leading your own Domestic Church at [catholicssprouts.com](http://catholicssprouts.com).



By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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