

Giving Calendar for Lent

A time to REFLECT, take ACTION and GIVE up your coins for Lent!

Lent is a time when we think about God's sacrifice of His son for us. Let us take a moment each day and think about all that we have and how fortunate we are and think about making a sacrifice for others.

This calendar has 3 parts to it. Each day you can opt to do one or all 3 suggested things to do. Families or individuals can participate. There is a scripture to read, an activity to do and an opportunity to "see" how fortunate you really are at the same time collecting money for **Give it up for Lent**, which is our annual fund raiser for supporting Bridging the Gap.

The scripture readings begin with Jesus' struggle in the desert. The sequence of readings is designed to provide a chronological presentation of Jesus' life and ministry as presented in the Gospel of Matthew.

We encourage you to participate in the following ways and to bring your collection of money to church on Easter Sunday or the following Sunday. OR, drop it off at the office any time. OR, make an online donation of the amount that you collected in your bank.

February 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of "Lent." At one time ashes were an important ingredient in soap. Ashes, then are used as a symbol of cleaning. On this day we are reminded that God makes us "clean" enough to be one of the Lord's special persons.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11...The Temptation of Jesus

Activity: Make a "giving" jar to collect \$ for Give it up for Lent – a jar, a box, a piggy bank, a big envelope...

Giving: The exact time of day has little meaning when one is poor. Give 4¢ for each clock and watch in your home.

February 18

Scripture: Psalm 23...The Lord is our Shepherd

Activity: Draw a vase on a piece of paper and put on the fridge. Each day draw a flower in the vase. By the time it's Easter, the vase will be full of beautiful flowers – signs of new life!

Giving: Add 10¢ for every pillow on your beds.

February 19

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-25...Jesus begins His work

Activity: Ask Jesus to show you one area of your life that needs healing...Pray for and work on the area during Lent.

Giving: Donate 2¢ for every warm coat in your house.

February 20

Scripture: Psalm 46...God is with us

Activity: Think of someone you don't like and say three nice things about him or her.

Giving: Many families have no cars or just have one per family. 10¢ for each vehicle, scooter, wagon, bike or skateboard your family has.

February 21 – First Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12...True Happiness

Activity: No sweets today

Giving: Some houses do not have electricity. Count the lights in your home and give 2¢ for each.

February 22

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48...Teaching about Love

Activity: No TV today

Giving: Many children work instead of attending school. Give 1¢ for each year of school each member of your family has completed.

<p>February 23 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 6:5-15...Teaching about Prayer <i>Activity:</i> Pray for families who have lost someone to Covid <i>Giving:</i> Donate 2¢ for each scarf, hat and pairs of gloves/mittens in your home.</p>
<p>February 24 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 8:1-17...Jesus Heals People <i>Activity:</i> Pray for the church and it's members <i>Giving:</i> Add 10¢ for every bottle of medicine in your home.</p>
<p>February 25 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 10:1-15...The Mission of Jesus' Disciples <i>Activity:</i> Look at family baby pictures. Ask God to help all the people in your family to love Him just like a little child. <i>Giving:</i> Do you have boxes of cereal? 3¢ for each box.</p>
<p>February 26 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 12:1-8...Questions about the Sabbath <i>Activity:</i> Pray for lonely and scared and homeless people <i>Giving:</i> Give 1¢ for every electrical outlet.</p>
<p>February 27 <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 63...Longing for God <i>Activity:</i> Pray for health care workers <i>Giving:</i> Some people do not have beds or they share a bed with 2 or 3 people. For each bed in the home, give 10¢</p>
<p>February 28 – Second Sunday <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 13:1-9...Parable of the Sower <i>Activity:</i> Did you attend church or watch it? Discuss either as a family or think to yourself what you heard and saw. Why did we sing those hymns? What did the minister pray for?... <i>Giving:</i> Many homes do not have indoor plumbing. Give 10¢ for each bathroom in your home.</p>
<p>March 1 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 13:10-23...Purpose of Parables <i>Activity:</i> Share with each other or think about one special thing that happened today <i>Giving:</i> How would your teeth feel and look if you couldn't brush them. Give 10¢ for each toothbrush in your home.</p>
<p>March 2 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 13:24-34...Other Parables <i>Activity:</i> Pray for Missionaries <i>Giving:</i> We can learn about the world through radio and TV. Give 10¢ for each TV in your home.</p>
<p>March 3 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 13:44-56...More Parables <i>Activity:</i> NO gossiping <i>Giving:</i> Do you wear glasses or contacts to help you see? Give 5¢ for every pair of glasses or contacts your family has.</p>
<p>March 4 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 14:13-21...Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand <i>Activity:</i> Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for all that you have – food, clothing and shelter. <i>Giving:</i> Add 5¢ for every kind of vegetable or fruit in your refrigerator or on your counter.</p>
<p>March 5 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 16:13-20...Peter's Declaration about Jesus <i>Activity:</i> No chocolate today <i>Giving:</i> Animals are important to many people for many reasons. Give 25¢ for each pet in your home.</p>
<p>March 6 <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 51...A Prayer for Forgiveness <i>Activity:</i> Do not complain or speak negatively <i>Giving:</i> Tools are used to build houses. Many people are homeless. 5¢ for each hand or power tool in your home.</p>

<p>March 7 – Third Sunday <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 16:21-28...Jesus speaks about His Suffering <i>Activity:</i> If no rain, walk around your neighborhood and collect trash <i>Giving:</i> Many people sit on the floor/ground. Give 2¢ for every chair in your home.</p>
<p>March 8 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 18:1-9...Who is Greatest? <i>Activity:</i> Drink only water today <i>Giving:</i> 25% of the people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water. 5¢ for each faucet in your home.</p>
<p>March 9 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 18:10-14...Parable of the Lost Sheep <i>Activity:</i> Darken the room and read John 8:12 by the light of a single candle <i>Giving:</i> Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness. Count how many candles you have. 3¢ for each.</p>
<p>March Scripture: 10 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 18:21-35...Parable of the Unforgiving Servant <i>Activity:</i> Send cards of encouragement <i>Giving:</i> A river and a rock are the washing place for many people. Donate 4¢ for every load of clothes washed this week.</p>
<p>March 11 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 19:16-30...The Rich Young Man <i>Activity:</i> Imagine that you have been shipwrecked on an island. You have access to create 10 basic items you will need to start a new life. What are those items? What would you leave out? Why did you choose the things you did? <i>Giving:</i> Donate 2¢ for every sweater in your home.</p>
<p>March 12 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 20:1-16...Parable of Workers in the Vineyard <i>Activity:</i> Pray for widows and widowers <i>Giving:</i> Isn't it nice to have windows in your home. Give 2¢ for each window.</p>
<p>March 13 <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 95:1-7...Song of Praise <i>Activity:</i> Read a book or start a book that you keep putting off <i>Giving:</i> We pray "Give us this day our daily bread." Give 5¢ for each serving of bread/rolls served today.</p>
<p>March 14 – Fourth Sunday <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 21:1-11...Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem <i>Activity:</i> No junk food today <i>Giving:</i> Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey, the best means of transportation available in those days. Give 2¢ for the number of miles for a round trip to church and back from your home.</p>
<p>March 15 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 21:12-17...Jesus Goes to the Temple <i>Activity:</i> Clean out a drawer or closet that collects a lot of stuff. Donate what you don't need. <i>Giving:</i> Many people do not have shoes to wear. Please give 2¢ for each pair of shoes in the home.</p>
<p>March 16 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 21:23-27...Question about Jesus' Authority <i>Activity:</i> Don't fight or argue today <i>Giving:</i> In many poor areas people live in homes w/ dirt floors. Give 3¢ for each room of your house w/ carpet or rugs.</p>
<p>March 17 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 21:33-45...Parable of the Tenants in Vineyard <i>Activity:</i> NO coffee or caffeine today <i>Giving:</i> Add 5¢ each time you use water, including flushing, drinking and washing.</p>

<p>March 18 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 22:1-14...Parable of the Wedding Feast <i>Activity:</i> Give up social media today <i>Giving:</i> In some countries cooking is still done in earthen pots. Give 2¢ for each electrical appliance in your kitchen</p>
<p>March 19 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 22:34-40...The Great Commandment <i>Activity:</i> Write a handwritten note to someone who means a lot to you <i>Giving:</i> Give 2¢ for every hour you watched TV this past week. Make a good guess.</p>
<p>March 20 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 23:1-28...Jesus' Warnings <i>Activity:</i> Don't eat after dinner <i>Giving:</i> A phone is a luxury for many people. Donate 15¢ for each phone in the home.</p>
<p>March 21 – Fifth Sunday <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 103...The Love of God <i>Activity:</i> No TV today <i>Giving:</i> 3¢ for every bottle of vitamins.</p>
<p>March 22 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 24:1-14...Troubles and Persecution <i>Activity:</i> Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross. Think of people who have helped you in the past year and write a thank you note. <i>Giving:</i> Count how many cans of food (soup, fruit, veggies...) you have. 2¢ for each.</p>
<p>March 23 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 25:1-13...Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids <i>Activity:</i> Pray for peace in our country and the world <i>Giving:</i> Give 10¢ if your house stays warm and dry in the winter</p>
<p>March 24 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 25:14-30...Parable of the Three Servants <i>Activity:</i> No sweets today <i>Giving:</i> Birthday cakes are fun but a lot of people can't have them. Donate 1¢ for each candle that was on the birthday cakes of your family members this year.</p>
<p>March 25 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 25:31-46...The Least of these, my Brothers and Sisters <i>Activity:</i> Ponder this: Have you seen Jesus today? What did He look like? Did you help Him? Feed Him? Clothe Him? Visit Him? <i>Giving:</i> We are fortunate to have medical Doctors near us to help us. Give 5¢ for each Doctor and Dentist that your family uses.</p>
<p>March 26 <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 26:1-16...The Plot against Jesus <i>Activity:</i> Send encouraging texts <i>Giving:</i> Plants are an extra nicety in our homes. Give 2¢ for every plant.</p>
<p>March 27 <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 139...God's Complete Knowledge and Care <i>Activity:</i> Look for ways to be helpful. Either at home or elsewhere <i>Giving:</i> Many people can not afford to eat in restaurants. Put in 5¢ for each meal eaten in or taken out at a restaurant.</p>



March 28 - PALM SUNDAY - Beginning of Holy Week

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-35...The Passover Meal

Activity: Set aside some time at night to pray an Examen Prayer. This could become one of your spiritual disciplines.

What is the Examen Prayer?

~The Examen Prayer is a framework developed by St Ignatius Loyola in the 16th century. It's a prayer to review your day with Jesus, examining where you shined his light in the world and where you fell short.

It's a daily habit of reflection to let Jesus show you where you need to work and then being intentional to do better the next day, each day committing to walk closer to Jesus.

~Doing a playback of your day with Jesus by your side is a great way to see your day's performance through his eyes. Ask God to show you what you did well and where you need work. As you walk back through your day, you'll see certain things highlighted as good examples and others you'll see as areas for improvement, some of which may surprise you. What better way to stay motivated and moving forward in your walk of faith than a daily checkpoint with Jesus?

~The Examen prayer is like a performance review you hold with Jesus at the end of each day. To review what you did well that day and where you need improvement.

Giving: Today you read about Jesus serving the Last Supper to his disciples. Donate 5¢ for each disciple that you can't name and 10¢ for each one you can name. Check the list in Luke 6:13-16.

March 29

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46...Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Activity: Go for a walk. Ponder the Garden of Gethsemane

Giving: Give 1¢ for every hot meal you had within the past week.

March 30

Scripture: Matthew 26:47-68...Jesus' Arrest

Activity: Send a get-well card or thinking of you card to someone who is feeling down

Giving: There are a lot of countries that do not have Bibles. 10¢ for every Bible in your home.

March 31

Scripture: Matthew 26:69-75...Peter Denies Jesus

Activity: Call someone, family or not, and say "I love you"

Giving: We often overlook the needs of neighbors. Give 10¢ for each neighbor you spoke to today. Give 15¢ for each neighbor you have NOT spoken with.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1

Scripture: Matthew 27:1-26...Jesus Taken to Pilate

Activity: No video or computer games today

Giving: Imagine having no soap to wash your hands or body with? Donate 2¢ for each bar of soap or soap dispensers.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

Scripture: Matthew 27:27-56...The Crucifixion

Activity: Pray this prayer throughout the day: ~ Day by Day. O dear Lord, three things I pray. To see thee more clearly. Love thee more dearly. Follow thee more nearly. Day by Day ~

Giving: Count all the rooms in your house. Don't forget closets, basements and attics. Give 5¢ for each room.

April 3

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-66...The Burial of Jesus

Activity: Color Easter eggs

Giving: Add 5¢ for every egg in your refrigerator

EASTER SUNDAY April 4

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-20...The Resurrection

Activity: Take a walk and look for signs of new life

Giving: Rejoice that Jesus arose so we might have hope for a new life. Rejoice that your gifts will bring hope for a better life to families in need. Give any amount to celebrate life!



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