

LENT 2023

St. Joseph Church



= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).	26 Imagine being responsible for all the souls in the world. Offer a Rosary for the intentions of the pope.	27 Ask God to show you what is keeping you from experiencing His love fully - worry, fears, sin. Resolve to deal with it by Easter.	28 Offer an extra small sacrifice for God, just for today - coffee without cream, lukewarm shower, no snacking, etc.	1 March Enjoy pretzels -- a traditional Lenten snack. The "crossed" arms of the pretzel recalled monks at prayer.	23 Start a prayer book and record those for whom you pray or for what you pray. Also keep track of how God answers your prayers.	25 The Bible teaches us to deny ourselves and give instead to those in need. Read Matthew 6:1-4 to learn more about sacrificial almsgiving.
5 After Mass today, go out to eat with other parishioners from church.	6 Dive deeper into your faith. Skim the glossary in the Catechism for an unfamiliar term and learn the Church's teaching about it.	7 Pick an issue in the news and pray over it today.	8 Figure out on which luxuries you spend the most money. Take a tenth of that amount and put it in the poor box at church.	9 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those who have no one to pray for them. Look here: https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet.	3 First Friday Attend Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament (find the red candle). Be present to Him who is present to you.	4 Set up an empty box or bin. Throughout Lent, fill it with gently used clothes. Bring it to a local charity at the end of Lent.
12 Reread John 4:5-30. How is Christ calling you closer to Him? What "jug" would you leave behind?	13 Refuse to gossip, either in person or on screen. Affirm every person or keep silent.	14 Write down your worries. Place the list under a statue or image of Jesus. Pray, "Jesus, I surrender this to You. Take care of everything."	15 Attend Confession and experience God's mercy. Resolve to make amends where you can.	16 Check out Catholic Relief Services to see how you can support their projects. Look here: https://www.crs.org.	17 St. Patrick's Day In honor of St. Patrick, evangelize silently by wearing a symbol of your faith (e.g. a cross, medal).	18 Contact local shelters and soup kitchens and ask if they need volunteers.
19 Laetare Sunday Unless it's sinful, enjoy something you gave up for Lent in joyful anticipation of Easter!	20 St. Joseph's Day St. Joseph silently, selflessly cared for Mary and Jesus. Pray for fathers and entrust them to St. Joseph's care.	21 Do an act of kindness. Whether openly or secretly, do it for God's glory. It's really Him you're serving.	22 Take the box of clothes you set up on March 4 to a clothing drive.	23 Pray for an increased faith throughout the Church in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.	24 Practice patience... patiently. "Be patient with everyone, but first of all with yourself" (St. Francis de Sales).	25 Annunciation of the Lord Mary said "Yes!" to God's plan. Pray three Hail Marys, for the grace to give your "Yes" to Him, too.
26 Fast from unnecessary screen use today. Use the time to read a book, walk outside, pray.	27 This week, get up when the alarm goes off and offer your day to God's service.	28 Send your parish priests a "spiritual bouquet" — listing the prayers you'll offer for them (e.g. three Hail Marys, an Our Father).	29 Today, complete an errand or chore you've been putting off.	30 The Our Father is the prayer given to us by Jesus. Pray each line slowly. Really think about what you are saying.	31 Today, fast from complaining. Cultivate gratitude instead.	1 April Declutter, dust, and clean the house in preparation for Holy Week — the holiest time of the year.
2 Palm Sunday Display blessed palms around your home. "that the King of Glory may come in!" (Psalm 24:7)	3 Holy Week is a busy time for parishes. Stop by your parish office and ask how you can help.	4 Pray for those who are coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.	5 Judas betrayed Christ. Consider how our sins betray Jesus and make a sincere Act of Contrition.	6 Holy Thursday Visit the Blessed Sacrament. Offer Him your love for the "lost hour" of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40).	7 Good Friday Read the Passion Narrative, John 18, 19. See Jesus' offering of love for you. How will you respond?	8 Holy Saturday Renew your baptismal vows and commit to living your faith more fully this year.