



40 CLUES for 40 Days

FINDING the MYSTERY of EASTER



Do you love a good mystery?

Maybe you like to read mystery books.

Maybe you like to play hide and seek or go on treasure hunts. Maybe you like to solve puzzles.

We love mysteries, too—and so does the Church. One of the Church's greatest mysteries is the mystery of Easter. The Church uses the word *mystery* to mean stories and truths so big we can't understand them without help. And God helps us! The Church invites us to enter right into the great mysteries of our faith. Nothing is hidden from us, but we have to say "yes" to the invitation to come and explore.

This Lent, we'll explore the mysteries of the Church's stories and traditions. We'll look more closely at the mysteries of the rosary: the stories of Jesus' life that help us understand the mystery of Easter. We will look especially at the mysteries that are found in the Gospel stories that we will hear at Sunday Mass during Lent and during Holy Week. **All of our puzzles, prayers and stories will get us ready for the greatest mystery of all: the mystery of Easter.**



**So put on your "thinking cap"
and let's get started!**

Ash Wednesday

Why do we say there are 40 days in Lent when there are 46 more days until Easter? That's because we don't count Sundays! 40 is a number that comes up over and over again in the Bible.



Activity: Find the clues to the “40” below!

While Noah was in the ark, it rained 40 _____ and 40 _____. (Genesis 7:12)

Moses was on the mountain top with God for 40 _____ and 40 _____. (Exodus 24:18)

Moses led God's people in the desert for 40 _____. (Numbers 32:13)

King David was king for 40 _____.
(2 Samuel 5:4)

Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights.
– Matthew 4:2

Thursday

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



What does your family do to show their love for one another?

God is love.
– 1 John 4:8

What does your family do to prepare for Lent?

Activity: Guess the Four-Letter Word

There's a four-letter word that describes what Lent is all about. Can you write the word in the four hearts below?



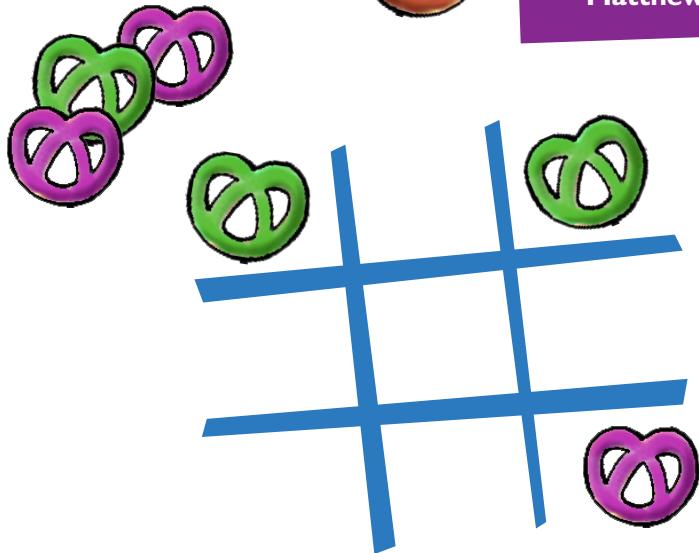
Friday

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Pretzels began as a bread for Lent! Years ago, Christians wouldn't eat butter on their bread in Lent. They shaped dough into pretzel-shapes to make them more fun to eat. The crossed dough was meant to look like arms crossed in prayer.



When you fast,
do not look
gloomy.
— Matthew 6:16



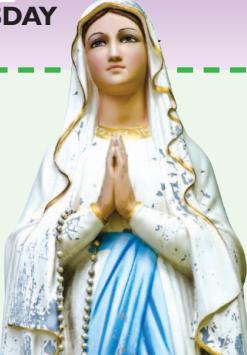
Activity: Pretzel Tic-Tac-Toe

With your family, make “pretzels” out of two colors of play dough—but don’t eat them! Ask your parents to help you make a grid for your game.

Saturday

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave us Jesus. She taught him how to love God's People. Sometimes we sing songs or say some special prayers to honor our Mother Mary.



*“Dear Mary,
teach my heart to say yes to
God, just like you did.”*

Activity: Fill in the blank

When we pray the Rosary, we say the Hail Mary many times. **Can you fill in the missing words to complete the prayer?**

Hail _____, full of _____, the _____

is with you. Blessed are _____ among women, and

_____ is the fruit of your womb, _____.

Holy Mary, Mother of _____, pray

for _____ sinners now and

at the _____ of our death.

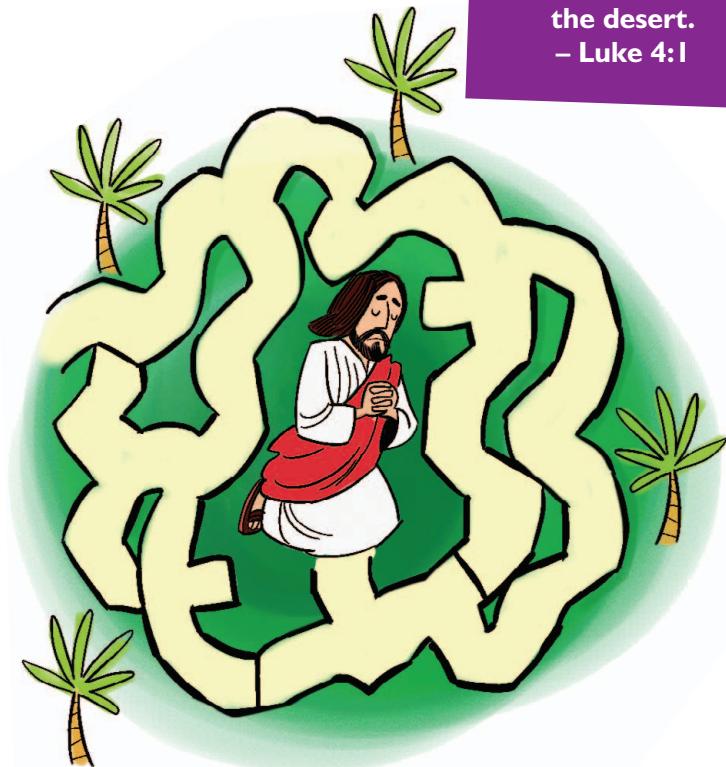
Sunday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT



Jesus loved mysteries, too. He went to the desert to seek God. **What did God plan for him? How would he serve God with his life?** Jesus entered into the mystery of the desert to find out.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert.
– Luke 4:1



Activity: **Help Jesus in the Desert**

Read today's gospel in **Luke 4:1-2**.

Then follow Jesus into the mystery of the desert!

Monday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

The mysteries of the rosary are stories that help us follow Jesus. Five joyful mysteries tell us about his birth and childhood. Five luminous mysteries tell us about his life and work. Five sorrowful mysteries tell us about his death. Five glorious mysteries tell us about his new life with God—forever!



The angel Gabriel was sent from God.
– Luke 1:26

Activity: What does the angel say?

In the first Joyful Mystery, an angel comes to Mary.
What does the angel say?

Read **Luke 1:30-31** in your Bible and write the answer below!



Tuesday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

The second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary is The Visitation — when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was expecting John the Baptist.



Activity: What did Elizabeth say to Mary?

Mary set out
and traveled.
— Luke 1:39

You'll find out what Elizabeth said to Mary below. Just circle every other letter.

Clue: read Luke 1:42.

M o

M x o j s Z t r

b a l w e p s x s n e g d h

a w r i e v

y h o t u m .

Answer: Most blessed are you.

Wednesday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Whenever a baby is born, we see the mystery of God's love. The third Joyful Mystery tells us how Jesus, God's own Son, was born.

The time came for her to have her child.
– Luke 2:6

Activity: Solve the Puzzle

What do we see about God's love when we look at Jesus? Solve the puzzle to find out!

Clue: Read John 3:16.



For _____



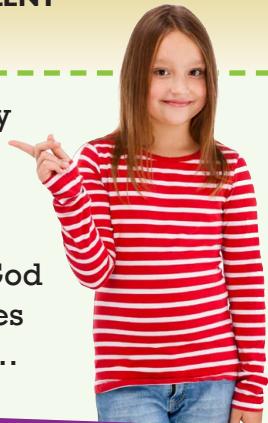
that he gave his only



Thursday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

In the fourth Joyful Mystery, Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Two elders see him. Elder Anna tells everyone that Jesus is the king God has promised. Elder Simeon takes baby Jesus in his arms and says... what? Solve the puzzle below.



They took him up
to Jerusalem.
— Luke 2:22

Activity: What does Simeon say?

Unscramble the words below to find out!

Clue: Read Luke 2:30.

yM yes e ve ha

My _____

snee oyru

savalitno

Friday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

In the last Joyful Mystery, Joseph and Mary have a mystery to solve! Twelve-year-old Jesus has run off on his own and they don't know where to find him. Find the story in **Luke 2:41-50!**



Activity: Find out where Jesus ran off to...

If 1=A, 10=J, and 26=Z,
where has Jesus run off to?

20 5 13 16 12 5

T



Saturday

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Whew! We've found clues about the life of Jesus from the angel's message to Mary to his becoming 12 years old! You can use these Joyful Mysteries to say the rosary with your family. Ask a parent or grandparent to show you how.



**The child grew and became strong.
– Luke 2:40**

Activity: Pray the Rosary

Ask someone to show you how to pray the Rosary.



Sunday

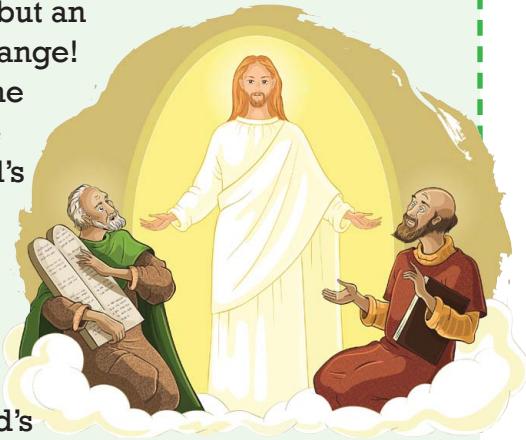
THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

We call today's story the Transfiguration, which means "change"—but an amazing kind of change!

On the mountain, the friends of Jesus see him shine with God's glory. They see old heroes of God, Elijah and Moses,

Elijah and Moses

tell Jesus about God's love long ago. Peter says to Jesus, "It is so good that we are here!"



They saw his glory.
— Luke 9:32

Activity: What would you say to Jesus?



Monday

THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

For hundreds of years, the rosary was said with 15 mysteries: 5 each of Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. Then Pope John Paul II gave us a gift: the Luminous Mysteries! These mysteries tell us about the life and work of Jesus.

The first Luminous Mystery is the first story of Jesus as a grownup! He goes to the river Jordan to be baptized. John the Baptist pours water on his head. Jesus hears God say to him... Oops, some of the letters are floating away. Put them where they belong in the puzzle below!

**He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit.
– Luke 3:16**

Activity: Solve the Puzzle

Clue: Read **Luke 3:22**.



“You are y beloed on.

Wih ou,

I am ell eased.”

Tuesday

THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Let's look for Jesus at a party! The second Luminous Mystery is the wedding at Cana. Jesus, his mother Mary, and all his friends are there. Mary tells him, "There is no wine left." Mary tells the servant, "Do whatever Jesus tells you." Jesus changes big jars of water into big jars of wine.



There was a wedding in Cana.
– John 2:1

Activity:

Imagine Mary says to you, "Do whatever Jesus tells you." **What new thing would you do this week?**



Wednesday

THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

The third Luminous Mystery follows Jesus as he tells about God's Kingdom. In God's Kingdom, no one will be poor. All will share what they have. We will care for the sick. We will feed the hungry. We will live like Jesus forever. Who do you know who does one of these things already? Is it someone in your family?



**The Kingdom of God
is among you.
– Luke 17:21**

Activity:

Do you or someone you know help in anyway with someone who is in need?

Thursday

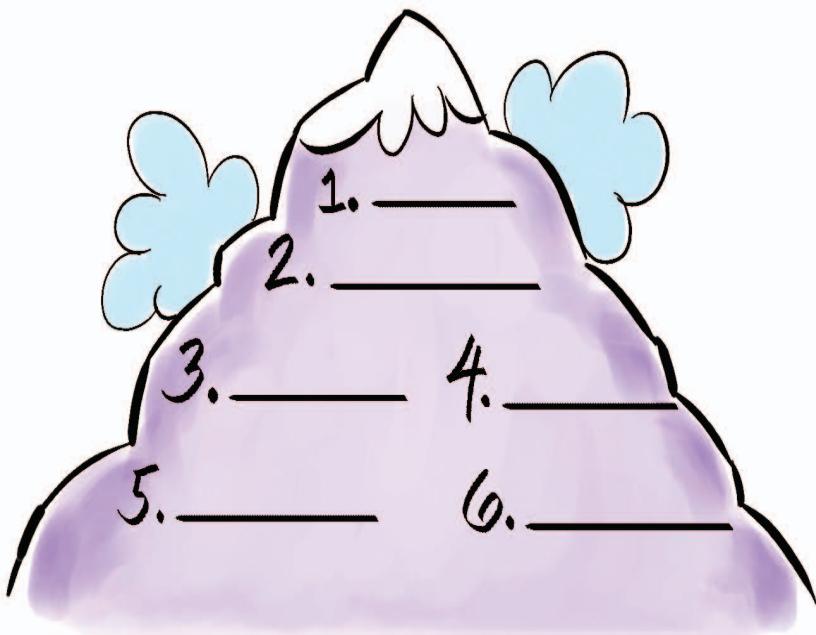
THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

We've already seen the fourth Luminous Mystery last Sunday: the Transfiguration. Jesus takes his friends up on a mountain to pray.

**He took Peter,
John and James
and went up
the mountain.**
— Luke 9:28

Activity: **Where else can people pray?**

Write your list on the mountain.



Friday

THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

The fifth Luminous Mystery is Jesus making something new. He breaks the bread and shares it. He drinks the wine and shares it. He tells those who follow him, “Do this in remembrance of me.” It is the first Eucharist or Mass.

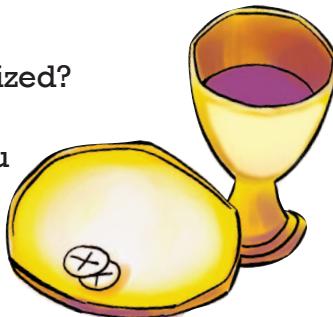
Take this and share it among yourselves.
– Luke 22:17

Activity: Fill in the dates.

On what day were you baptized?

Write the date on the paten (plate). On what day did you take your first communion?

Write the date on the chalice (cup).



The light shines in the darkness.
– John 1:5

Saturday

THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Halfway through the mysteries of the rosary! We've found clues to Jesus' adult life, from the day he was baptized until his last meal.

You can use the five Luminous Mysteries to say the rosary with your family.

Family Time Activity:

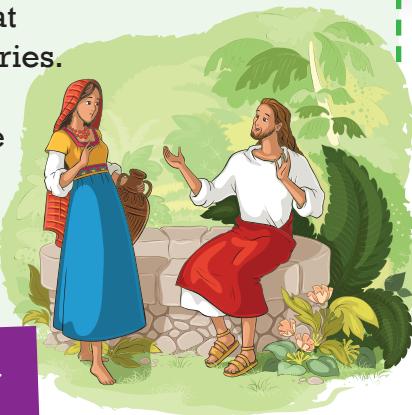
Have your family light a candle to remember the light of Jesus Christ!



Sunday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

The story of the woman at the well has many mysteries. Why did she go alone to the well? Did she have friends? Was she lonely? What does the word *messiah* mean? Why does she call Jesus that?



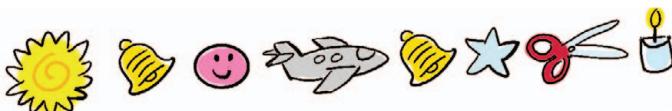
**A woman of Samaria
came to draw water.**
– John 4:7

Activity: Solve the Puzzle

We can help with those last mysteries!

**The word messiah
means:**

a	
d	
e	
i	
n	
o	
t	



a

Monday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

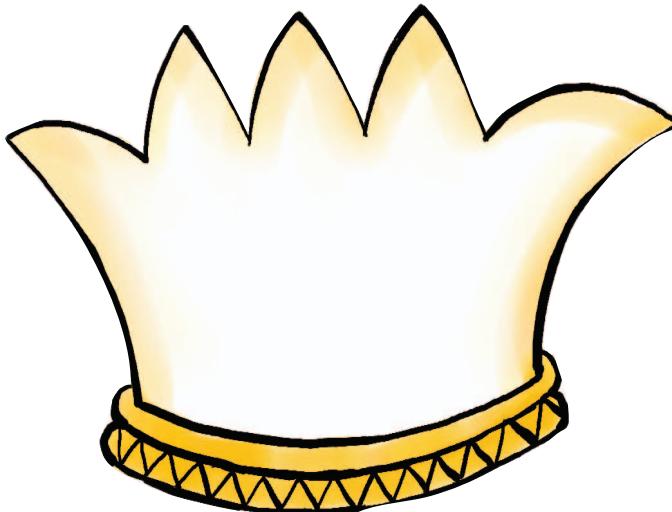
The word *messiah* is a BIG clue to the mystery of Easter! When we know what that word means, we'll know more about who Jesus is and what Jesus does.

One clue: all the kings of Israel were called messiah. Jesus is the good king that God promised long ago to God's people.

Could he possibly
be the Messiah?
– John 4:29

Family Activity:

Fill the crown below with words that tell us about what kind of king Jesus was for God's people. Ask your family to help!



Tuesday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Why does the word *messiah*, which means “anointed,” also mean “king”? Because long ago, kings in Israel were anointed. That means a priest took oil and poured it on their head or rubbed it on their foreheads.

We don’t know of anyone pouring oil on Jesus’ head, but John the Baptist tells us that Jesus was anointed in a much more powerful way!



**The Messiah
is coming,
the one called
the Anointed.**
– John 4:25

Family Time Activity:

Invite your family members to use a drop of olive oil on one finger to make the sign of the cross on each other’s foreheads, then say the Lord’s Prayer together.



Wednesday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

God gives the Holy Spirit to Jesus to give him power as the messiah. Jesus tells God's People what the Holy Spirit will help him do:

tell of freedom • give us sight
bring good news to the poor



**The spirit of
the Lord is
upon me.
– Luke 4:18**

Family Time Activity:

What do you think the Holy Spirit can help you do? Ask your family this question. Draw one answer on the dove.



Thursday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

The word messiah also means “chosen.” The people of God believed that God chose each of their kings. God chose Jesus, too, to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and to be a king who would not boss God’s People around but love them and serve them.

I have made
a covenant with
my chosen one.
— Psalm 89:3

Activity:

Unscramble the words below to find out what God says to God’s chosen king, Jesus. Then find out when God said those words by reading **John 12:28**.



I

Answer: I have glorified

Friday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

The woman at the well figured it out! Jesus is God's messiah. Now we'll give you another clue: the word messiah is a Hebrew word. Hebrew was the language that God's People spoke long ago.



We have
found
the
Messiah.
– John 1:41

Activity:

But we call Jesus by a name that uses Latin instead of Hebrew. To find out the Latin word for messiah, solve the puzzle below.

C hosen

 oly

spi it

k ng

me siah

anooin ed

Saturday

THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

From the woman at the well, we found this clue: Jesus is the messiah, God's chosen king, anointed with the Holy Spirit to bring good news to the poor.

**He said to them,
“Come after
me.”**
– Matthew 4:19

Now let's look at another clue: the saints! When we look at the life of the saints, we get a clue about what life is like when we follow Jesus. Take, for example, Frances of Rome. She's a good saint to look at because she's just like our moms and aunts and grandmas. She got married. She had children.

She loved them, but her love didn't stop there. She cared for the sick. She brought help to the poor.

Activity:

How is Frances of Rome like Jesus?

Write 3 answers here:



Sunday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

The man born blind knew sad days. Some people said, "You're blind because God has cursed you." Some people left him out when they talked or worked, because he could not see. Nobody thought he would see again.

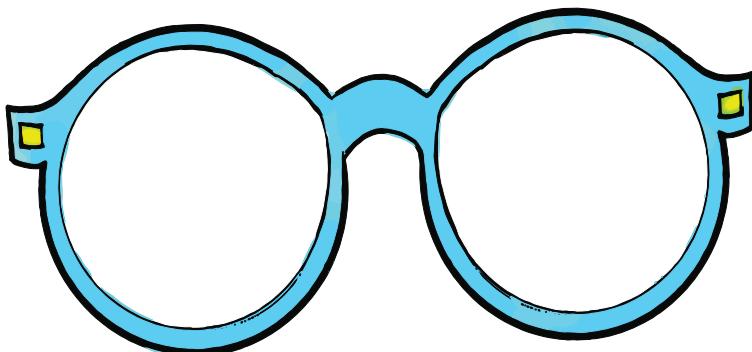


**He saw a man blind from birth.
– John 9:1**

But Jesus changed his sadness to joy. Jesus let him see what he had never seen before. Imagine looking at the world with Jesus.

Activity:

What new things might you see? Draw your ideas in the eyeglasses below.

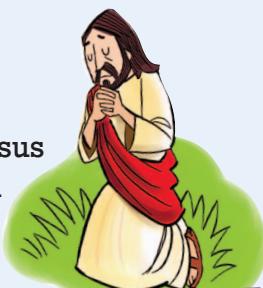


Monday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Another set of mysteries for the rosary are called the Sorrowful Mysteries, which tell the story of Jesus' death. When we pray them, we remember: Jesus died—but Jesus is risen. Jesus will never die again. We don't tell these stories to feel sad. We tell these stories to remember that death doesn't win: God wins.

In the first Sorrowful Mystery, Jesus is troubled. He goes to a garden to pray. One of his prayers says, "Father, take this cup away from me."



**Kneeling,
he prayed.
– Luke 22:41**

Activity:

What else do you think Jesus prayed?

Tuesday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

In the second Sorrowful Mystery, the ruler says Jesus must die. Soldiers hurt Jesus. This might be a story too hard to hold on to. We can give this story to God. We can say, "God, we know there are people who are hurting in many ways today. Help them Lord. Show us how to help them, too."



After
arresting him,
they led
him away.
– Luke 22:54



Activity:

Who else is hurting and needs your prayers?

Wednesday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

In the third Sorrowful Mystery, soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. They're making fun of him. They don't know he's a real king: God's king.



Pilate asked him,
“Are you a king?”
—Luke 23:3

Activity:

Below the crown of thorns, write the words of this scrambled verse that tells who Jesus is.

Clue: See **Ephesians 2:14.**



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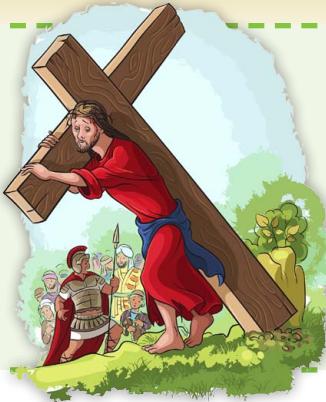
He

Thursday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

In the fourth Sorrowful Mystery, Jesus carries a wooden cross.

Jesus,
carrying the cross
by himself,
went to the hill
called Golgotha.
– John 19:17



Activity:

On the cross to the right, you'll find letters that are out of order. Put them in the right order to hear what Jesus taught about why he died. **Clue:** See John 3:15

oS
ahtt
ereyonve hwo
bileesve yam
veha
flie

So

Answer: So that everyone who believes may have life.

Friday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

In the fifth Sorrowful Mystery, we remember that even on the cross, Jesus is chosen by God. Even on the cross, Jesus loves and serves God's People. Think about the people you love. These are people Jesus loves, too. Jesus died long ago, but now he lives for all the people he loves.

**Because of God's great love for us,
God brought us to life in Christ.
– Ephesians 2:4-5**

Activity:

In the heart below, write the names of people you love.



Saturday

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

The story of Saint Patrick starts out sadly, too. When he was just a teenager, he was kidnapped from his home. They took him to Ireland and made him a slave.

But his story turned to joy. He escaped to freedom. He loved Jesus, and grew strong. He grew so strong that he went back to Ireland to teach the people who had kidnapped him! God doesn't want sad times for God's People.

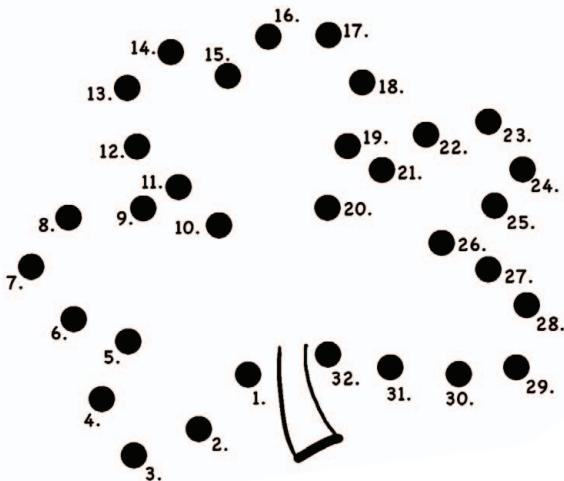
God wants us to have freedom and joy too.



You will truly be free.
– John 8:36

Activity:

Connect the dots to find a picture that reminds us of St. Patrick.



Sunday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

The story of Lazarus is a BIG clue to what Easter means. Martha and Mary were sad that their brother Lazarus was dead. Jesus gave new life to Lazarus. Jesus changed their sorrow to joy.

Sometimes we use the symbol of the butterfly to think about Jesus' life and death. A caterpillar has to change to become a butterfly. It goes into a cocoon as a caterpillar and flies away as a butterfly.

Jesus dies and goes into the tomb. He comes out as our risen King Jesus, who lives forever. He gives us a chance to change, too, just as butterflies change!

**Now a man was ill,
Lazarus of Bethany.**
– John 11:1

Activity:

This week, find clues about how we can enter into the Easter mystery, and come out living a new life in Jesus.





One way we can live a new life in Jesus is by caring for the sick. Do you know anyone sick in your family or class? You could offer to help them with a task. You could make them a card. You could play a board game with them. You could watch a movie with them. What are other ways you can care for them?

I was sick and
you cared for me.
– Matthew 25:36

Activity:

Draw your ideas on the butterfly below. That's one clue to living a new life with Jesus.



Tuesday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

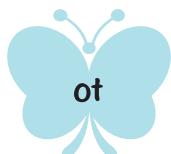
God asked Joseph to take care of Jesus and his mother, Mary. Joseph said, “Yes!” Joseph welcomed God’s own child.

Take a clue from Saint Joseph and find a way to welcome a child younger than you are! You can let them choose a game for you both to play. You can read them a book.

Whoever receives one such child, receives me.
– Mark 9:37

Activity:

Unscramble the message below to read what God asked Joseph to do!



You



Wednesday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

I was thirsty and
you gave me drink.
– Matthew 25:35



Activity:

Think of ways to care for others like Jesus. Each idea starts with a letter in the word “butterfly.” We gave you the first one—can you add more?



b ring water to someone thirsty

u

t

t

e

r

f

l

y

Thursday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Happy spring! Just as butterflies are a sign of spring, so Easter is a sign of new life. God wants new life for all people, just as God gave new life to Jesus.



See, I make all things new.
– Revelations 21:5

Activity:

Can you read this verse about the new life that God will bring?

Then

a new heaven

+ a new .

a

I + ow + d voice

from the

saying, B + + d,

God's d + + ing

is with the human .

from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race."

Friday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Everyone connects to God in a different way. Ask yourself: How do you feel close to God?

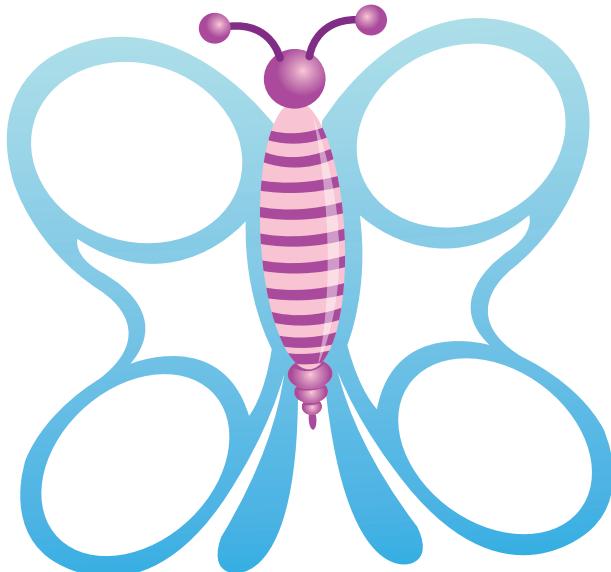
Now ask your family the same question.

Teach one another.
– Colossians 3:16



Family Activity:

Ask your family to help you fill the wings of the butterfly below with ideas that show how we feel close to God.



Saturday

THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Today Jesus gives us another clue about living a new life with him. Some of these clues sound mysterious, too! How can we give Jesus food? How can we bring Jesus drink? How can we care for him when he is hungry? The answer is in Jesus' words below—but some of them are flying away!



I was hungry
and you gave
me food.
— Matthew 25:35

Activity:

Find the words on the butterflies that finish Jesus' teaching to us. Read Matthew 25:40 to find out how we can take care of Jesus and have new life.



Whatever _____ did for _____
of these _____ brothers of _____,
you did _____ me.

Answer: Whatever you did for one of these least
brothers of mine, you did for me.

Palm Sunday

Jesus rides into Jerusalem and the people call him king. But God's king is not like other kings. They wave palms to give him glory, but God's glory is not like the glory of other kings.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem where he will die, but his death is not like other deaths, either. The first Glorious Mystery of the rosary is the resurrection of Jesus. Even when sad days happen, remember: Jesus lives. Jesus wants us all to live with him forever.

**Blessed is the king
who comes
in the name
of the Lord.
– Luke 19:38**

Activity:

On the palm below, you'll find letters that spell out what the people call to Jesus as he rides into Jerusalem.



h

Monday

OF HOLY WEEK

The second Glorious Mystery of the rosary is another clue to Easter. Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus goes to be with God, and promises us: the Holy Spirit will come to us. We will have the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus. We will be with God forever, just like Jesus. This is the promise of Easter.

A cloud took him
from their sight.
— Acts 1:9

Activity:

To find the name of this Glorious Mystery, look for the letters hidden in this picture—then unscramble them.



A

Tuesday OF HOLY WEEK

The third Glorious Mystery of the rosary is another clue to Easter. The promise of Jesus comes true! As Mary and all the disciples of Jesus pray, the Holy Spirit comes upon them.



**They were all filled
with the Holy Spirit.
-Acts 2:4**

Family Activity:

Ask your family, "What does the Holy Spirit mean to you?" Ask them to write their answers below.



Wednesday

OF HOLY WEEK

The fourth and fifth Glorious Mysteries of the rosary go together! In the fourth Glorious Mystery, Mary, the mother of Jesus is taken up into heaven to be with Jesus forever. In the fifth Glorious Mystery, Mary is crowned as the queen of heaven.

We love Mary because she gave us Jesus and taught him how to love us. These mysteries of the rosary tell us that God loves her, too. She will live with God forever.



**A great sign appeared:
a woman, clothed
with the sun.
– Revelation 12:1**

Family Activity:

Remember the prayer that honors Mary? (See *Saturday after Ash Wednesday*.) How would you write this prayer in everyday words? Would you say, “Hi, Mary!” Would you call her “God’s mom”? **Ask your family to help you write the prayer in today’s language.**

Holy Thursday

Today we remember that Jesus ate his last supper with his disciples. This was the first Eucharist, long ago. The Mass is another clue to Easter: we will share bread and wine with God and God's People forever.

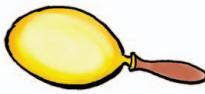


I have eagerly
desired to eat
this Passover
with you before
I suffer.
—Luke 22:15

Activity:

Match the words below with the things we use in the Eucharist.

host • paten • chalice • altar



Good Friday

Bowing his head,
he handed over his spirit.
– John 19:30



Activity:

Jesus' death brings new life. Use the letters from his last words to make as many new words as you can.

It is finished

fish

Holy Saturday

Today we wait for Easter. All our clues are solved. We know who Jesus is and the stories of his birth. We know how he lived, died and rose again. We know that he wants us to live with him forever.



Early in the morning,
Mary Magdalene
came to the tomb.
– John 20:1

Activity:

Today say the rosary again. Use the Glorious Mysteries on the next page and remember: Jesus has died, but he is risen. He will come again.

The Mysteries

When we pray the rosary, we think about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by using the events called mysteries, that is, those events that give us very good clues about who Jesus is and what God is doing for us through him. **These mysteries are:**

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries

1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth



Easter Sunday

The Lord has truly been raised!
— Luke 24:34 —

Activity:

In the puzzle below, color all the spaces marked “**B**” with **blue**, for the Joyful Mysteries.

Color all the spaces marked “**L**” with **yellow**, for the Luminous Mysteries.

Color all the spaces marked “**S**” with **purple**, for the Sorrowful Mysteries.

All the spaces that are left, leave white, for the Glorious Mysteries.

What word do they spell?

That's the word for Easter!

Say it to another member of
your family today—and **HAPPY EASTER!**

