

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

APCL Newsletter February/March



APCL

Association for
Parish Catechetical Leaders



Have you liked us on Facebook yet?

<https://www.facebook.com/APCLCouncil>

Looking for resources? Have resources you want to give away? In our efforts to network with one another to share resources, we have created a page on our website to do just that. Visit our page at www.apclindy.org/resource-sharing to see what's available or to post yours.

Did you know? On the Gregorian calendar, Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21. Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25. This year it's March 27!

Resource Highlight: *A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion* by Joe Paprocki

Many statistics on the Catholic Church today are sobering, and the future of the Church can seem bleak indeed. The average parish often feels helpless to do anything that might help turn the tide and revitalize the Church. But best-selling author Joe Paprocki insists that there is good news: with the right plans in place, the Catholic Church—parish specifically—survive, but thrive. *A Church on the Move* offers 52 practical strategies for moving parishes forward, principally by focusing on the one thing the world-at-large cannot: Jesus Christ. Each chapter begins with an honest look at a particular problem in the Church before moving to a creative, redemptive, and achievable solution. *A Church on the Move* brings to the parish level the great themes of Pope Francis' papacy—mission, mercy, and evangelization—and replaces despair with a profound hope for the future of the Church. (Loyola Press)



Our Mission:

United in Jesus Christ and in the Catholic Traditions, we are catechetical leaders who support, challenge and enrich one another and collaborate to further effective faith formation in the local and global church.

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The Year of Mercy has Begun!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Vatican have webpages with resources for the Year of Mercy, for example: a hymn, parables of mercy, plenary indulgences, & pilgrimage information. Visit:

<http://www.archindy.org/holyyearofmercy/> and
<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>



Lent's Roots

Lent is derived from the word *lencten*, which is Anglo-Saxon for springtime. It lasts for 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the Holy Triduum. Next to the number 7, the number 40 occurs most frequently in the Bible. It represents a period of testing or judgment. Lent's duration of 40 days reflects other times of trial, testing and hardship found in the Scriptures:

- There were 40 days of rain while Noah and the animals were on the arc.
- Moses and Elijah fasted for 40 days before beginning their missions.
- The Hebrews wandered for 40 years in the desert after leaving Egypt.
- It took the spies 40 days to search out the Promised Land and bring back fruit.
- Goliath taunted the Israelite army in the morning and evening for 40 days.
- Jonah warned the Ninevites that they had 40 days until God would overthrow the city.
- Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days before beginning his ministry.

Upcoming Sainly Celebrations

February 2	The Presentation of the Lord
February 3	St. Blaise
February 5	St. Agatha
February 6	Paul Miki & Companions
February 10	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
February 11	Our Lady of Lourdes
February 14	First Sunday of Lent (Rite of Election)
February 21	Second Sunday of Lent
February 22	The Chair of St. Peter
February 23	St. Polycarp
February 28	Third Sunday of Lent (1st Scrutiny)
March 3	St. Katharine Drexel
March 6	Fourth Sunday of Lent (2nd Scrutiny)
March 7	Saints Perpetua & Felicity
March 9	St. Frances of Rome
March 13	Fifth Sunday of Lent (3rd Scrutiny)
March 17	St. Patrick
March 18	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
March 19	St. Joseph
March 20	Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)
March 22	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
March 27	Happy Easter!

Looking for an event? What to invite others to your event? In our efforts to help one another find & share events, we have created a page on our website to share what is available within our Archdiocese. Visit our page at <http://www.apclindy.org/events-1> to see what's available or to post your upcoming event.

Lenten Resources Available for FREE

Resources for Catechists and for Families to Use at Home:

- <http://www.crsricebowl.org/>
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/lent-activities.htm>
- <http://www.catholicicing.com/lenten-activities-for-children/>

Reflections for Praying Your Way through Lent:

- <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>
- <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>
- <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Laetare Sunday is another name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. *Laetare* means "Rejoice" in Latin. The Entrance Antiphon for this day is Isaiah 66:10-11, which begins "*Laetare, Jerusalem,*" meaning "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, *Laetare* Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. The passage from Isaiah continues, "rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow." On *Laetare* Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent can be set aside to use rose ones instead. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday. It's counterpart in Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when purple vestments can be exchanged for rose ones. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.

The resource pictured below can be found online and printed and shared with permission. She uploads a new calendar each month. Visit her blog here: <http://www.reallifeathome.com/>

10 February Activities for Catholic Families

For the feast day of the Chair of St. Peter (Feb. 22nd), pray for our current pope, past popes, and our future popes. Consider doing activities themed around Pope Francis:
www.reallifeathome.com/pope-francis-printables-worksheets/

For the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita (Feb. 8th), pray for safety and strength for Christians living in parts of the world where it is not safe to be a Christian.

Make heart shaped snacks or baked goods, and deliver them to elderly neighbors or family members, especially ones that might not get a lot of visitors.

February is dedicated to the Holy Family. Pick one day to spend together doing family activities all day, such as games, group prayer, outdoor fun, movie night, or whatever your family loves best!

The feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes is Feb. 11th. Make a Marian grotto-themed craft or snack. This Rice Krispie one is a favorite of mine:
www.catholicicing.com/rice-krispie-treat-grotto-for-our-lady/

St. Brigid (Feb. 1st) started the first convent in Ireland. She founded a school of art that became known for its beautiful illuminated manuscripts. Try making your own illuminated manuscript:
www.mykidsadventures.com/illuminated-manuscript/

Share God's Word with others by using Scripture-based valentines:
www.reallifeathome.com/religious-valentine-cards-printable/



Read about St. Paul Miki and Companions (Feb. 6th). Have a Japanese meal or snack.

The Presentation of the Lord, also called Candlemas, is Feb. 2nd. Have a meal and some prayer time by candlelight. Talk about ideas for how each family member can give more of themselves to God. (For young children, frame this as asking what they can do to make God happy.)

Saint Scholastica (Feb. 10th) was the twin sister of Saint Benedict. For her feast day, you can use a coloring page to learn more about the twins:
www.reallifeathome.com/saint-benedict-scholastica-coloring-page/