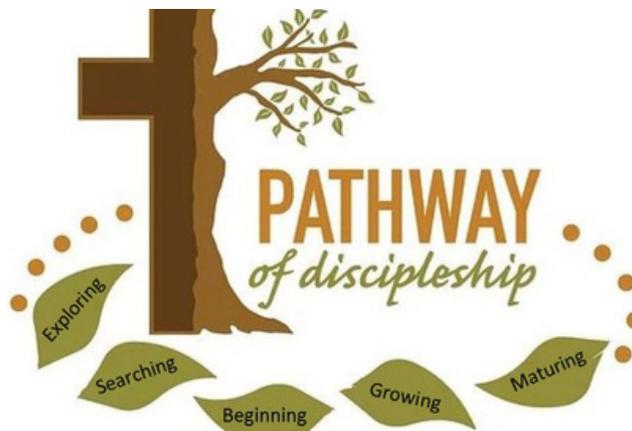




Upcoming Events

- April 2 **Palm Sunday**
- April 9 **Easter Sunday**
- April 15 9:00-10:00am **1st Communion Banner Workshop (Koenig Center)**
- April 16 9:00am Mass 3rd Gr School/ 3rd/4th Gr Tues RE host the 9AM Sunday Mass
- April 16(Sun)/18(Tues) CFF Classes
- April 16(Sun) **7th Gr to attend 5pm Mass. Class will be held in the Koenig Center immediately after Mass for all groups**
- 23(Sun)/25(Tues) CFF Classes Last Week of Classes
- 25 6:00-7:00pm **1st Communion Dessert Banquet (Koenig Center)**
- 26 6pm Catechist Appreciation Dinner



In This Issue...

- Calendar of Dates is [here](#).
- [CFF Resource Rm Manual](#)
- [Material Request Form](#)
- [Calendar of when the different grades will host Mass](#)
- 7th Grade Feb. 5th All Groups Class has been moved to April 16. You still have class on Feb. 5th!
- Grade Level News Articles need to be emailed to me 1 week in advance. The schedule is as follows:

Week Of...

[Grade Submitting the Article](#)

April 16

7th

- **On Sunday, April 16th**, I will be at church as our **3rd/4th Grade Tuesday** classes are hosting Mass w/ the school's 3rd grade! Jasmine & Judy will be there to help you!
- **2nd Grade Catechists:** As a reminder, have the students watch the Busted Halo video on [How to Receive Communion](#). Be sure to practice how to receive Communion each class. There are sleeves of hosts in your mailboxes.



- Here is an [article](#) for some fun Easter Devotions for families but can easily be used in the classroom! You may also click the image above.



Here are some Lenten Facts:

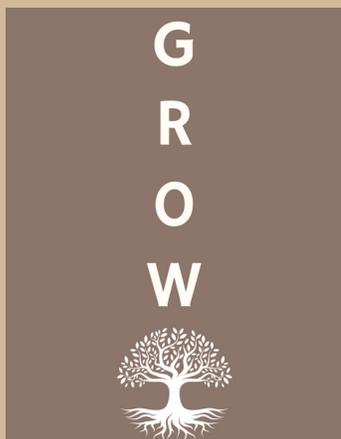
- Catholics started the tradition of Lent around the year 325, during the Council of Nicea, but it has spread through other Christian denominations. These include the following denominations: Western Orthodox Churches, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans, among others.
- Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.
- Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Holy Thursday, the day Jesus has The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus dies on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, he rises from the grave.
- Easter is considered a movable religious feast that's celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the start of spring, or the spring equinox. Yeah- say that fast 3x!

Extending Your Fast

Here is a quick read from Loyola Press' Take 5, articles on Family & Faith

"What did you give up for Lent?" is usually one of the first questions people ask one another during this season.

...click [here](#) (or the image) to continue reading.



- The list of videos for parts of the Mass, Reconciliation & Communion is now on our [Sacramental Preparation](#) webpage & is titled: **Short YouTube Videos on Communion & the Mass that are Great for Class & Home!** Please feel free to share the link with your class when you email the parents next.

Knowing how to get kids into the Bible can be difficult. How should we get them interested, and how do we keep them engaged?

The answers to these questions are key to building biblical literacy, which is why St. Mary's Press created this free [webinar-on-demand](#) for you! Watch and learn on your own schedule, and get a collection of actionable tips that you can use today to get kids excited about and engaged with Scripture! Click the image below or the link above (underlined words)



**Take Away the Stone:**  
BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING REAL COMMUNITY

**LENTEN HOMILY SERIES**  
FEB. 25 - MAR. 26 | SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9 AM, SUN 10:45 AM IN-PERSON MASSES

As the "A Whole New Perspective" homily series concludes, we're gearing up to launch our Lenten homily series, "Take Away the Stone: Breaking Barriers, Building Real Community." What does this mean?

Each week, we pair the scriptures and homily from Mass with a reflection video and questions to help you better understand the important messages to take away.

Subscribe to our Homily Series eNewsletter to get the readings, homily, reflection video, and questions sent right to your inbox!

Click here to subscribe:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/evxwNf/grow>





# Catechist Resource Center

- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/> : Site has Saint of the Day, Daily meditations, blog & other resources. If you join their mailing list you are often offered to purchase ebooks for 0.99 or up to \$3. **Although they will email you at least 1x/day.**
- Pflaum: fill out the registration w/ all your info & where it asks for a customer number, it is: 1114474
- <https://www.pflaumweeklies.com/blog/> **Pflaum Blog- lots of goodies!**
- <https://bibleproject.com> The Bible Project
- <https://www.catechist.com/category/lessons-and-activities/arts-and-crafts/>
- <https://childrensministry.com/> Oodles of activities, articles & ideas from Group- the Publishers we use for VBS!
- <http://www.usccb.org/>: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/>: Activity Finder, Catholic Resources & more Loyola Press: once you get to their landing page, look to the top right for "Catholic Resources". There are oodles of goodies there all for free!
- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year>
- <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/freeeresources.html> : 23rd Publications has a good selection of printable & e-resources!
- <https://www.catechist.com/> lessons & activities, Catechist Formation & resources
- <http://www.bc.edu/sites/c21online/>: Boston College's Church for the 21st Century. Some courses are free and some have a small fee that RE will cover under Formation expenses.
- <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>: resources for your own spiritual life
- <http://lifelongcatechesis.osv.com/> : Has resources for all ages and under "adolescents" has a "question of the week" based on the gospel and background on all 3 readings.
- <http://www.wordamongus.org>: Magazine for Catholics; has mediations, articles, things for families- a lot is free, but not everything is.
- <http://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/> St. Mary's Press Resource Center
- <http://www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org/> Looking for Service Project Ideas!?!? These are all in the NW Suburbs!
- <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/> The Religion Teacher: has over 700 activities, videos, worksheets & more! You may use the link here but only some things are free. I have a subscription to this & am happy to share with you! to login: email: mnelson@stjoseph-libertyville.org PW: The3R31iGion0921!



# Catechist Resource Center



## How to Access the Digital Edition

1. Go to [gospelweeklies.com](http://gospelweeklies.com)
2. At the top of the page, click on to Access Digital Editions.
3. Click on Create New Account. Register with your email address. Be certain to use the email address that you have provided to us when you
4. Create a Password. If you lose your password, you will be able to create a new one.
5. Click on Redeem A Subscription and enter this code: see below
6. Click on My Library.

Here is a [PDF](#) with directions on how to register to get access to the digital editions.

You will now have access to the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies for the duration of our program year.

**Additional Resources:** There are easy-to-use Parent Teaching Pages and other resources for families available at [gospelweeklies.com/family](http://gospelweeklies.com/family).

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies • 800-543-4383

**Redemption Code:** see below

**Password:** StJoeCFF2122!

**Redemption Codes:** CW\_1916962\_1310482 (**Visions**) CW\_1916990\_1310482 (**Venture**)  
CW\_1916997\_1310482 (**Good News**) CW\_1917240\_1310482 (**Promise**)

**Confirmation Junior High English Student Lessons**

<http://online.bayard-inc.com/books/pajl>

**Password:** GWTSSP22

**Context Connection**

The Sunday Gospels for the past two weeks have been about individuals who have encountered Jesus for the first time and, because of their encounters, have undergone a spiritual conversion. In the Gospel for this Sunday, the story focuses on close friends of Jesus's, who already understand that he is the one sent by God. Therefore, the Gospel holds Good News for all of us who already believe in Jesus the Christ. It is a story of how believers have their faith strengthened through challenging events in their lives, even the death of a loved one.

We are immediately struck that when Jesus is informed of Lazarus's illness, Jesus remains where he is for two days before traveling to Bethany. The rationale Jesus gives for not hurrying to Lazarus is that "this illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (11:4).

When Jesus finally arrives, the two sisters of Lazarus each react differently. Martha goes to meet him, while Mary stays at home with the mourners. Martha's words to Jesus are a witness to her knowledge of Jesus's compassionate healing, as well as to her faith in the actions of Jesus. Jesus assures Martha that her brother will rise again, and he takes this opportunity to reveal his identity even further: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (11:25–26). Martha replies, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God" (11:27). However, Martha's faith is limited by her previous experience, and she does not see the new dimension of Jesus's identity.

Mary, when she does come to meet Jesus, says through her tears, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (11:32). These are the same words Martha used, but Mary's words are filled with the emotion and pain of losing a loved one. The Gospel shows us how deeply Jesus experiences these same human emotions: "[Jesus] was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved" (11:33). Upon reaching the tomb, Jesus weeps. Jesus commands that the stone be rolled away, but Martha again reveals her limited faith, saying, 'Lord, already there is a stench because [Lazarus] has been dead four days'" (11:39). Jesus challenges her faith: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" (11:40). The stone is taken away, and Jesus proclaims a public prayer of thanks to God the Father. Jesus commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb, and the crowd is instructed by Jesus to unbind Lazarus. John ends the account by explaining that some came to believe in Jesus that day while others began to plot his demise.

**Tradition Connection**

As Catholic Christians, we believe that just as Jesus rose from the dead, we also will experience resurrection. The resurrection of the dead is an essential Christian belief. In First Corinthians, Paul expresses it this way: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain" (15:12–14).

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**Tradition Connection**

Jesus has redeemed humankind through his death on the cross and through his Resurrection. In faith, we proclaim at Mass that Christ has died, is risen, and will come again.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus reveals that he is the Resurrection and the life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that which was corruptible and broken because of death through sin is now made incorruptible and restored to eternal life through the grace of God.

**Wisdom Connection**

John's theological focus in chapter 11 is that Jesus is both the Resurrection and the life for all who believe in him. Those who have faith in Jesus, the Messiah, will have eternal life even though they will die. Just as Martha and Mary's faith gradually deepens because of their experience of the death and resurrection of their brother, our Christian faith will deepen only when we realize that Jesus gives true life from death. The two sisters hope for the simple healing of their brother by Jesus. The idea that Jesus has divine power to bring Lazarus back from the dead is beyond their comprehension and faith. Jesus stretches our faith and encourages us to go beyond our simple understanding of faith to put our belief in that which cannot be seen. Jesus refuses to be limited by our human eyes of faith and helps us see beyond our human limitations to the saving action of God.

\* Focus on John 11:28–44 as a core text for the purposes of lectio divina.

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## Spiritual Practice of the Day

In the school of life, difficult people are the faculty. They teach us our most important spiritual lessons, the lessons that we would be most unlikely to learn on our own.

— Mark I. Rosen in Thank You for Being Such a Pain by Mark I. Rosen

**To Practice This Thought:**

Figure out what you can learn from the most difficult person in your life.