

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

Lent

Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 27)

Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that Lent is the season of preparation for Easter.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 540 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

How have times of deep personal reflection changed you?

During the forty days of Lent, the Church prepares for the celebration of Easter, the greatest feast of the liturgical year. The catechumens prepare to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation by which “we are freed from the power of darkness and joined to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection” (*Christian Initiation, General Introduction, 1*). By renewing their own baptismal promises at Easter, the People of God reaffirm their faith in the Paschal Mystery.

The symbolism of the waters of Baptism speaks of both life and death. “Just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit” (CCC 694). Early Christian baptismal pools were often shaped like tombs to signify that our Baptism is also a death. Saint Paul writes: “We were indeed buried

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

with him [Christ] through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Throughout the season of Lent, we prepare to renew our Baptism by means of prayer, penance, fasting, and almsgiving. By our time in the desert, we are made ready to sing at the Easter Vigil:

This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin
and freed from all defilement, are restored to
grace and grow together in holiness.

(Exsultet, “Easter Proclamation”)

How do you hope to be changed during this Lenten season?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 171

Introduce the Season

- Read the *Chapter Story*.
- Introduce the season of Lent.
- Proclaim the words on the banner.

page 172

- Discuss questions about what is needed for growth.

2 WE BELIEVE

pages 172–174

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter.

- Read and discuss the focus of Lent, Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection and its call to prayer, penance, and good words.
-  Complete the Lenten plans.

3 WE RESPOND

page 174

- Read and discuss Saint Joseph and the ways people honor him.
-  Discuss questions about Lenten customs and ways to honor Saint Joseph.

Text page 175

Guide page 175–176

We Respond in Prayer

- Listen to Scripture.
- Respond in prayer.

- prayer space items: a large cactus, a basin of holy water, an alms basket, a statue or picture of Saint Joseph, a purple table cloth

Text page 176

Guide pages 175–176, 176A

Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Complete the Reproducible Master 20 activity. See guide pages 176A and 171C.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 176B.

- pencils, colored pencils or crayons
- copies of Reproducible Master 20, guide page 176A
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 176B

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com