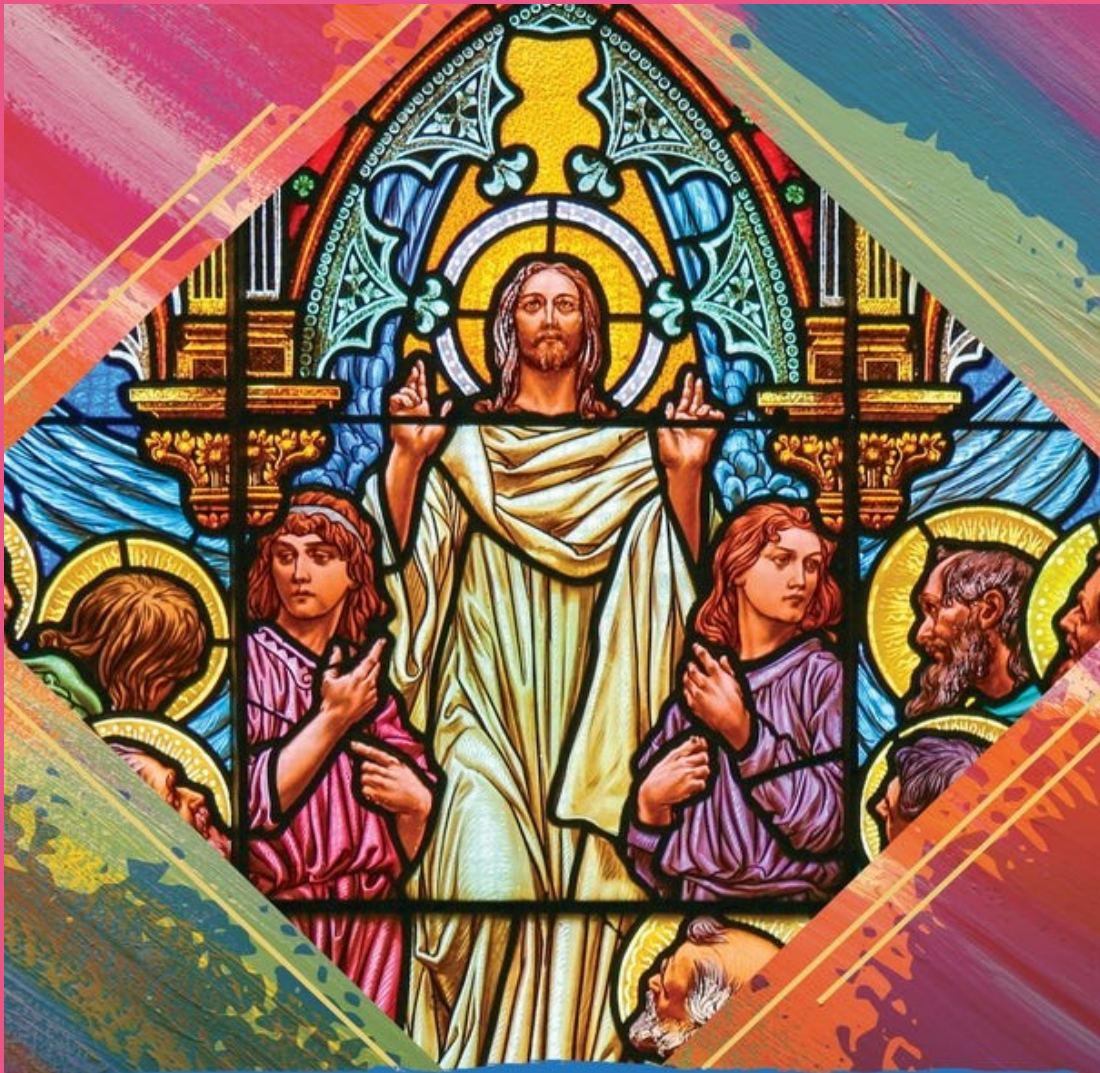


# Our Lady of Hope Parish

*February 12, 2023*



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother  
will be liable to judgment.” - Mt 5:22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi



**Welcome to Our Lady of Hope Parish!**

Please visit our website for all the upcoming events and for the latest details on our parish at:  
<https://ourladyofhopegraffton.org>

**Please sign up for Flocknote** on our website for continuous updates on your phone or email.

You can find us on <https://facebook.com/olhgraffton>

You will find St. Mary Church's recorded weekly Mass on your local cable channels at 6:30 AM daily on **Channel 191 for Charter** or **Channel 34 for Verizon**. Link for GCTV schedule <http://graffton.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/schedule?channel=1>

**Campus Mailing Addresses and Phone Numbers:**

**St. James Office – 508-839-5354**  
 89 Main Street, South Grafton, MA 01560

**St. Mary Office – 508-839-3993**  
 17 Waterville St., North Grafton, MA 01536

**St. Philip Office – 508-839-3325**  
 12 West St., Grafton, MA 01519

Our Lady of Hope Parish Collection  
 February 1st – 7th, 2023  
**\$7,539.80**  
 Thank you!

***The parish offices will be closed on Monday,  
 February 20th in observance of  
 Presidents' Day***

**Special Collections:**

Catholic Home Missions Appeal - **This Weekend**  
 (Diocesan) Priests' Retirement - **February 22nd**

**Pastoral Council Members**

Ron Dennis      Lori Lauria  
 Thomas Grautski      Ed Romeo  
 Katie Hanna      Mary Sevon  
 Patti Hart      Joan Shanley

Ex Officio Members

Deacon Tim Cross  
 Darleen Farland  
 Fr. Derek Mobilio  
 Lisa Stewart

**Finance Council Members**

Nancy Atchue  
 Dan Crossin  
 Brian Langevin  
 Helder Machado  
 Rolande Parent  
 Karen Salvatelli  
 Tina Skowronek  
 Lisa Stewart (*Ex Officio member*)

**Mass Intentions February 11th  
 through February 19th:**

**February 11, Saturday Masses:**

8:00am St. James  
 4:00pm St. Philip – 3rd Anniversary for George Stratton by the family

**February 12, Sunday Masses:**

7:30am St. Mary  
 7:30am St. James  
 9:00am St. James  
 10:30am St. Mary – Memorial Frank, Phyllis, & Peter Dorr by the family  
**Monday, St. Mary** – 8:00am Mass – Memorial Anita Joncas by the family

**Tuesday, St. Mary** – 12:00pm Mass

**Wednesday, St. Mary** – 12:00pm Mass

**Thursday, St. James** - 7:00pm

**Friday, St. James** – 8:00am Mass – 6th Anniversary Robert Nugent Jr. by the family

**February 18, Saturday Masses:**

8:00am St. James  
 4:00pm St. Philip – Memorial Michael McCarthy by a friend, Remembrance Catherine & Tony Mignone by Joan Shanley

**February 19, Sunday Masses:**

7:30am St. Mary  
 7:30am St. James  
 9:00am St. James  
 10:30am St. Mary

**Email Scam**

Again there have been some emails going around allegedly from Fr. Anthony. It asks the recipient to respond to Fr. Anthony as soon as possible to help with a personal matter. If you respond back, you will be asked to buy several gift cards and email back the card numbers.

**These are scams.** Neither Fr. Anthony nor Fr. Derek would send such emails. Any parishioner who gets an email like that should delete it and block the sender, or if they feel it could be legitimate, call the office before doing anything.

You can spot these scam emails by looking at the email address it came from. If it does not match either Fathers' addresses, it is not from them.

**2022 Donation Tax Statements**

**If you would like a tax donation statement for your donations, please contact Jill Sullivan at [jsullivan@ourladyofhopegraffton.org](mailto:jsullivan@ourladyofhopegraffton.org) or call her at 508-839-3993 x10.**







## I Say To You

The Mosaic Law, consisting of six hundred thirteen separate laws identified in the Jewish Torah, encompasses rules relating to Temple worship, purity and dietary restrictions, relations between Jews and people of other nations, and moral or ethical norms. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus seems to contrast some of the moral teachings of Torah with what appear to be more stringent, new moral commandments for his followers.

Yet, Jesus also makes clear that he has "come not to abolish but to fulfill [the law]" and, emphasizing the importance of this statement, he goes on to say "**Amen, I say to you**, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place." Is Jesus rejecting the laws of the Torah or fulfilling them?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§1968-1979) helps explain what might seem to be a possible dilemma:

*[T]he Lord's Sermon on the Mount, far from abolishing or devaluing the moral prescriptions of the Old Law [in the Torah], releases their hidden potential and has new demands arise from them: it reveals their entire divine and human truth. It does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the heart, the root of human acts, where man chooses between the pure and the impure where faith, hope, and charity are formed and with them the other virtues. The Gospel thus brings the Law to its fullness through imitation of the perfection of the heavenly Father, through forgiveness of enemies and prayer for persecutors, in emulation of the divine generosity.*

*The New Law [presented by Christ in his Gospel] practices the acts of religion: almsgiving, prayer and fasting, directing them to the "Father who sees in secret," in contrast with the desire to "be seen by men."*

*The Law of the Gospel requires us to make the decisive choice between "the two ways" and to put into practice the words of the Lord. The entire Law of the Gospel is contained in the "new commandment" of Jesus, to love one another as he has loved us.*

In exhorting his disciples to avoid anger, reconcile with one another, avoid even lustful looks, reject divorce, and avoid oaths, Jesus is pointing us to the roots of sin which lead to murder, adultery, family discord, and slanderous falsehood, all of which have such devastating effects on our lives. Jesus is not offering a new moral code, but demanding that his followers live their lives with the same level of integrity, compassion, and moral fortitude that he himself exemplifies.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, the law of Christ is one of freedom: "freedom in the service of good, freedom that allows itself to be led by the Spirit of God" and while totally new and different from what has come before it, "it is precisely by being such that it fulfills the Torah of Moses."

Ultimately, it is a freedom that comes only through surrender – surrender to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Law given flesh. Faithful adherence to Jesus' commands is only possible for us by fully giving ourselves to Christ. We cannot live out the "Law of the Gospel" solely through our own efforts or we are doomed to fail and fall.

As Pope Benedict wrote, Jesus takes the Mosaic Law and "spiritualizes" it so that it becomes a true path of life for all, not just for the faithful Jew; a path of righteousness that can only be walked in communion with Christ. Jesus fulfills the Torah through the Sermon on the Mount by giving us "a comprehensive portrait of the right way to live. It aims to show us how to be a human being." And such a life begins and ends in Christ himself.

Deacon Tim Cross

## Symbols and Signs of the Liturgy

### Ashes

The term *Ash Wednesday* is found in the earliest known copies of Gregorian Sacramentary, and thus, the practice of distributing ashes devotionally near the beginning of Lent dates to at least the eighth century. There is no doubt that the custom of distributing ashes arose as an imitation of a practice used as a public penance before the Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated privately. For example, in the early third century, Tertullian wrote that a penitent must "live without joy in the roughness of sackcloth and the squalor of ashes." (*De Paenitentia*, x). This practice was certainly borrowed from Jewish penitential practices, which saw ashes as a sign of mourning. Biblical examples abound: Job 42:6, Lamentations 2:10, Jonah 3:5-9, and Matthew 11:21 are but a few possible citations. The purpose of wearing ashes is well expressed in a verse of the *Dies Irae*, the great sequence of the requiem Mass: "Before You, humbled, Lord, I lie / my heart like ashes, crushed and dry / assist me when I die."

**Fr. Derek Mobilio**



### Join us for Holy Week Choir!

Email Pam Cross at [p.cross@shoplegacy.com](mailto:p.cross@shoplegacy.com) or just come and join us at a rehearsal. All are welcome!

**Children's Choir:** We meet Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the church at St. Mary's. We follow the religious education schedule, so if there is no religious education class that day, there is no choir rehearsal. Easter rehearsals begin Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Children will be singing at the 10:30 am Easter Sunday mass at St. Mary's church.

**Teen/Adult Choir:** Rehearsals are on *Monday* nights at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church and we will be singing at the Holy Week Masses – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We would love to have singers from all churches participate! Rehearsals begin February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Some *Saturday* rehearsals will be available for those who cannot come on Monday nights. Email Pam Cross for more details.

**Percussionist Needed:** We'd love to add percussion to our 10:30 mass! Email Pam Cross.



Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion in your community. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-Day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer, fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

Please join other Our Lady of Hope parishioners in prayer and peaceful vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood on Pleasant Street in Worcester on the following Fridays from 3:00pm - 5:00pm: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31

Email [jldewar@verizon.net](mailto:jldewar@verizon.net) for more information.

### Worcester Catholic Men's Conference Saturday, March 25 Assumption University

Our Lady of Hope Parish is offering half-price tickets (\$25) to the first 20 men from our parish who wish to attend the Worcester Catholic Men's Conference as a part of the parish group. Please register by emailing Father Mobilio at [fr.mobilio@gmail.com](mailto:fr.mobilio@gmail.com) or by calling the Saint James Rectory at (508)839-5354. Please submit your \$25 payment directly to Our Lady of Hope, and not to the Men's Conference.

For more information on the conference, please take a brochure at any of our churches or visit [catholicmenworc.com](http://catholicmenworc.com)



A meeting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held on Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. downstairs in room #5 of St. Mary's Campus. All are welcome to attend including knitters and crocheters. We are looking for knitters or crocheters to assist us in making hats, mitten, scarves and blankets for those in need. Easy patterns are available.

### The Soup Kitchen needs your help!

The February Sign-up sheets were put out late so we need extra help filling them. Please stop by the table in the gathering space at OLH St. Mary to see how you can help. If you are unable to provide food items on the menus, we can use grocery cards. Send these to the parish office or put in the offertory baskets marked for OLH St. Mary Attn: Soup Kitchen Ministry. Thank you!





### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Sun Feb 12	Gr. Nursery-6	9:15-10:15am	St. Mary Campus
	Gr 7-HS	6:00-7:00pm	St. Philip Campus
Mon Feb 13	Gr. Nursery-6	4:30-5:30pm	St. Mary Campus
	Gr. 7-HS	6:30-7:30pm	St. James Campus
Tue Feb 14	Adult Education The Creed	6:30-8:00pm	St. Mary Campus
Sun Feb 19	Adult Confirmation	3:00pm	St. Paul's Cathedral
Sun Feb 19	NO RE CLASSES—FEBRUARY VACATION WEEK		
Mon Feb 20	NO RE CLASSES—FEBRUARY VACATION WEEK		
Tue Feb 21	Adult Education The Creed	6:30-8:00pm	St. Mary Campus
Wed Feb 22	Ash Wednesday	7:00pm	St. Mary Church



All RE students are asked to bring in a food donation for Our Lady of Hope Parish Souper Bowl of Caring. Students should bring the items to their Religious Education class on Sunday, Feb. 12th or Monday, Feb 13th. These will be used to restock the food pantries after the holidays.

Please see the list below for suggested items:

Rice & Pasta Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Cookies, Tea & Coffee (1 lb. bags/cans), Juice, Low Sodium Soups, Low Sugar Items, Canned Pasta, Peanut Butter, and Jelly. Monetary Donations are also gratefully accepted.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

#### Ash Wednesday Reminder

Don't forget!

All Religious Education students and families are invited to attend the 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Church.



#### The Sacrament of Confirmation

Our diocese will be celebrating Adult Confirmation on **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul.**

Please pray for all those who will be receiving this sacrament.



#### Are you or someone you know an adult

- Interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about the Catholic way of life?
- Baptized as a Catholic but not yet confirmed?

**Contact Deacon Tim for more information:**

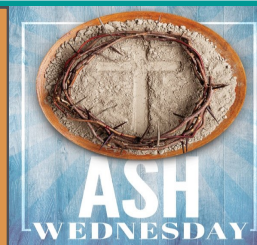
Cell/Texts: (978) 490-6925

Email: [deacontimcross@gmail.com](mailto:deacontimcross@gmail.com)



#### Ash Wednesday Masses on February 22nd

6:30am	St. James Church	6:00pm	St. Philip Church
12:00pm	St. Mary Church	7:00pm	St. Mary Church



## Lenten Small Groups Are Back!

Small Group Faith Sharing Series

**Let Yourself Be... Led, Amazed, Known,  
Healed, Loved.**

**Get the most out of Lent – join others in sharing your faith and growing deeper in your relationship with Christ by leading or joining one of our Lenten Small Groups!**

Beginning the first week of Lent, we will be offering weekly, small group faith sharing opportunities at all three parish campuses – St. James, St. Mary & St. Philip.

Groups will meet on different days and times throughout the week during Lent to give you the widest opportunity to find a group that works for your schedule. There will even be a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person.

Each session will use the *Lenten Longings-Let Yourself Be* booklet by Renew International as a guide, which includes Scripture readings from the Sunday Mass, music, prayers, reflection stories, questions for discussion, quotes from saints, popes and Church documents, and weekly goals to help you grow deeper in your faith and prepare for Easter.

**Interested in joining a small group?**

**More information coming soon!**

Online registration will be available soon and sign-up sheets will be at the entrances to all three churches beginning this week!



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER online

Mondays - 12noon  
bring your prayers and petitions to share

Wednesdays - 5:15pm - Holy Rosary

Fridays - 3pm - Divine Mercy

Go to - > [ourladyofhopegraffton.org/prayer-ministry](http://ourladyofhopegraffton.org/prayer-ministry) and click on "PRAY WITH US"

For details, email [olhpray4us@gmail.com](mailto:olhpray4us@gmail.com)

### *Stewardship Prayer*

*My church is composed of people like me.  
I help make it what it is.*

*It will be friendly, if I am.*

*Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.*

*It will do great work, if I work.*

*It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.*

*It will bring people into its worship and fellowship,  
if I invite and bring them.*

*It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness  
and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who  
make it what it is, am filled with these same things.*

*Therefore, with your help, Lord, I shall dedicate  
myself to the task of being all the things that I want  
my church to be.*

*Amen.*



## Our Lady of Hope Parish

Main Office: 17 Waterville Street, North Grafton, MA 01536  
Office Phone Number: 508-839-3993

**Discover Our Lady of Hope ~ Visit our website at [www.ourladyofhopegraffton.org](http://www.ourladyofhopegraffton.org)**

### Office Hours

St. Mary Campus - 17 Waterville Street, North Grafton, MA 01536 (508-839-3993)  
Monday through Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm

St. James Campus - 89 Main Street, South Grafton, MA 01560 (508-839-5354)  
Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

### The Celebration of Eucharist

#### **Saturday Vigil Masses**

4:00pm St Philip

#### **Sunday Masses**

7:30am St. James

7:30am St. Mary

9:00am St. James

10:30am St. Mary

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday 8am at St Mary

Tuesday 12pm at St Mary

Wednesday 12pm at St Mary

Thursday 7pm at St James

Friday 8am at St James

Saturday 8am at St James

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** Tuesdays 6:00-6:45 PM at St. Mary Church, Thursdays 6:00-6:45 PM at St. James Church, Saturdays 7:00-7:45 AM at St. James Church, Saturdays 2:45-3:45 PM at St. Philip Church or call the office to schedule an appointment

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Baptism is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month at noon. Call the office to make arrangements.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE** Couples planning for marriage should contact the rectory one year prior to the wedding date.

**CARE FOR THE SICK** Please contact the office if you know of anyone who is hospitalized or confined to home because of age or illness.

#### **Parish Staff:**

Rev. Anthony Mpagi, Pastor  
Rev. Derek Mobilio, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Tim Cross  
Lisa Stewart, Business Manager  
Darleen Farland, Religious Education Director  
Pam Cross, Music Director  
Jill Sullivan, Administrative Assistant &  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
Ron Dennis, Facility Manager  
Kevin Wooldridge, Custodian

#### **Phone:**

508-839-3993 x10  
508-839-3993 x12  
978-490-6925  
508-839-3993 x11  
508-839-3993 x13  
508-839-3993 x37  
508-839-3993 x10

#### **Email:**

mpagianthony@gmail.com  
fr.mobilio@gmail.com  
deacontimcross@gmail.com  
[lstewart@ourladyofhopegraffton.org](mailto:lstewart@ourladyofhopegraffton.org)  
[dfarland@ourladyofhopegraffton.org](mailto:dfarland@ourladyofhopegraffton.org)  
[p.cross@shoplegacy.com](mailto:p.cross@shoplegacy.com)  
[jsullivan@ourladyofhopegraffton.org](mailto:jsullivan@ourladyofhopegraffton.org)

***Note that some of our email addresses have changed above***

#### **Ministries:**

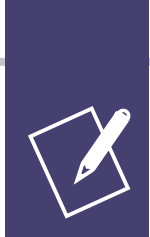
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Prayer Line

Soup Kitchen  
Youth Group Ministry

508-839-3993 x35  
508-839-3993 x18  
TEXT 508-887-1717  
508-839-3993 x10

All information kept confidential  
Pray online details:  
[olhpray4us@gmail.com](mailto:olhpray4us@gmail.com)  
[GraftonYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:GraftonYouthGroup@gmail.com)

***Please submit your bulletin articles to [lstewart@ourladyofhopegraffton.org](mailto:lstewart@ourladyofhopegraffton.org) no later than 5pm Tuesday***



# Fact of Faith

## WHY IS LENT FORTY DAYS?

*The Lenten season is a time of preparation for the liturgical celebration of the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. Many Catholics spend that time on the three practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is also a time to participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.*

*The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. If Sundays are excluded from the count, the season lasts forty days. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty. Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.*

### **Mark 1:12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts,

and the angels ministered to him.  
After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.

The forty-day period of Jesus' trial in the desert echoes a number of events in the Old Testament:

- The face of the earth was cleansed and purified during the promised period of days and nights that rain poured down during the great flood—"I will bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made" (Gen 7:4).
- The face of the earth was renewed during a forty-day period after the mountain tops appeared and the waters of the great flood receded—"The tops of the mountains appeared. At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch of the ark that he had made" (Gen 8:5-6).
- Moses spent forty years as a shepherd in the desert before God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery—"Moses fled when he heard this and settled as an alien in the land of Midian . . . Forty years later, an angel appeared to him in the desert near Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning bush" (Acts 7: 29-30).
- Moses fasted for forty days and nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the tablets of the covenant—

"So Moses stayed there with the LORD for forty days and forty nights, without eating any food or drinking any water, and he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Ex 34:28).

- The Israelites spent forty years wandering in the desert, as a time of testing, trial and purification of the people, before reaching the Promised Land—"Now the Israelites had wandered forty years in the desert, until all the warriors among the people that came forth from Egypt died off because they had not obeyed the command of the LORD" (Jos 5:6; see Num 32:13).

- The prophet Elijah spent forty days in the desert before encountering God on Mount Horeb—"Elijah got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb" (1 Kgs 19:8).

- The Ninevites were given forty days before God was going to destroy the city, allowing time for repentance and conversion—"Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, 'Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,' when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth" (Jon 3:4-5).



Catholic  
Current

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