

What Happens in Lent?

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!



Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!

The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.



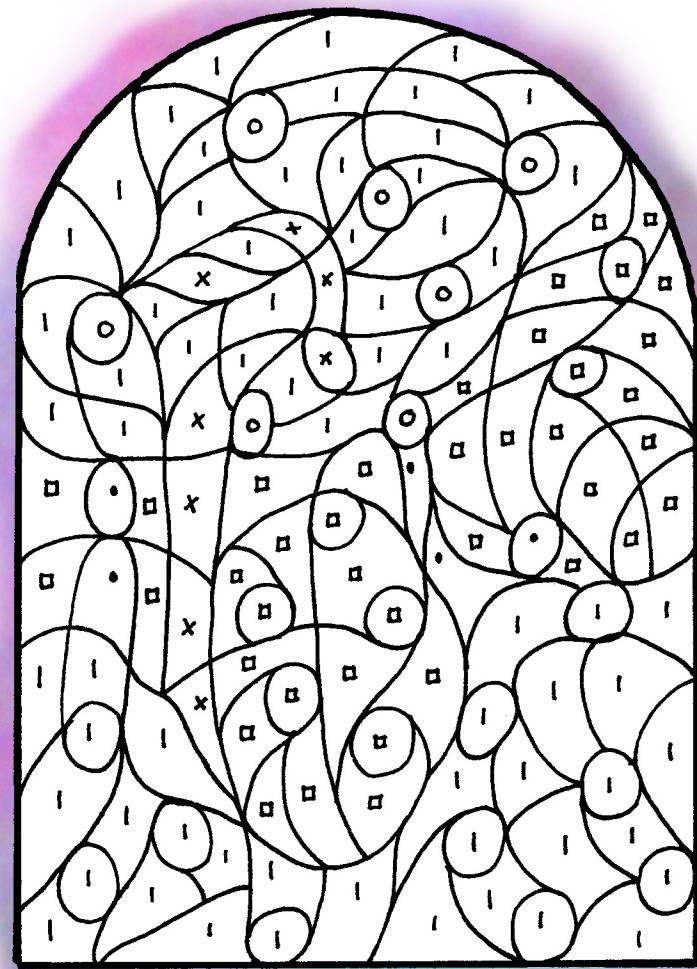
What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.

Answers to picture puzzle inside:
top: 4, 6. middle: 5, 1. bottom: 2, 3.

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent
February 22nd, 2026

*Today's first reading tells us about sin.
Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces
and find out what the story was.*



■ blue
○ red

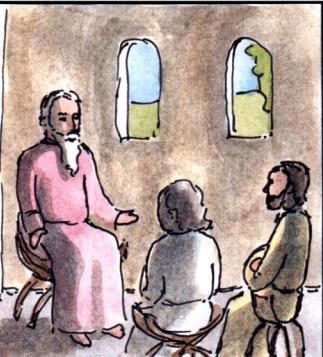
■ green
● skin colour

✗ brown

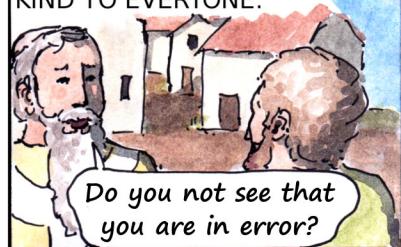
Saint Polycarp

February 23

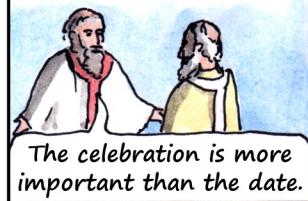
Saint Polycarp learned about Jesus from Saint John the Apostle. He became the Bishop of Smyrna, in what is now Turkey.



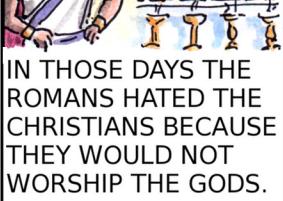
Polycarp fought against heresies that confused people about God, but was kind to everyone.



Polycarp celebrated Easter on a different day than the Pope, but they did not argue about it.



Who do these Christians think they are?



When they came for Polycarp he hid on a farm, but was found.



At first they felt sorry for him because he was so old. They tried to convince him to give up the faith.



He wouldn't reject the faith, so they tried to burn him, but the fire only went around him and didn't hurt him! Finally they stabbed him.

Saint Polycarp held onto his faith even when he was very old. He wouldn't even give up on Jesus when he was faced with torture. Most of us won't have to choose between keeping our faith and getting killed, but we still have to be brave to stay true to Jesus in the world.

Sort the Story!

What happened when Jesus had prayed and fasted for forty days in the desert?

See if you can sort out the order of these pictures.

Write 1 on the first, 2 on the second, and so on.

