

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Parish Life!



News and resources for your parish

February 2008

Parish Life! from Our Sunday Visitor

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. As a parish leader who has ordered from Our Sunday Visitor in the past, you're receiving this ninth edition of our special enewsletter just for parishes!

Be sure to visit our Parish Resources pages. Newly updated for February, this material is written specially for YOU! Find Lenten help and hints for early childhood, elementary, adult, youth, catechists, and the workplace! [Help for your parish is here now»](#)

Each month you'll find timely content, practical information, and insightful inspiration delivered right to your inbox. We'd love to hear from you as well, so please e-mail us with questions or topics you would like to see discussed in future editions: yyoung@osv.com.

To continue receiving this monthly enewsletter, you need do nothing. To unsubscribe, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Feel free to forward this email to a friend who might be interested.

Helping Parishioners Understand Lent

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

As parish staff members we tend to assume that the season of Lent is hardwired into the spiritual lives of Catholics.

- The day before Ash Wednesday (Feb. 6 this year) the office phone starts to ring with queries about when ashes will be distributed.
- We just assume people will show up for Stations of the Cross, the parish penance service and other Lent events.
- We begin to overhear conversations about what people are giving up for Lent.

But somewhere in the back of your mind do you ever wonder if people really understand the significance of these 40 days? Or are they just doing "Lent" things because it's what they do every year during this time? Or even worse, are they not doing "Lent" at all?

It isn't often that parishes get gifts for Lent, but this year, Our Sunday Visitor is offering parishes a [free, downloadable guide for Lent](#) that you can use to help your parishioners get more out of the Lenten Season. [Click here to download \(PDF file, full-color, 11x17 inches\)»](#)

The guide offers information on fasting and abstinence, how to go to confession, the real meaning of almsgiving, and the background behind Lenten traditions such as the Stations of the Cross, Passion Plays, and Pretzels!

There are also tips for making Lent more meaningful on a personal basis and ideas for how parents can make Lent memorable for the whole family.

Here are some suggestions on how you can use this free resource:

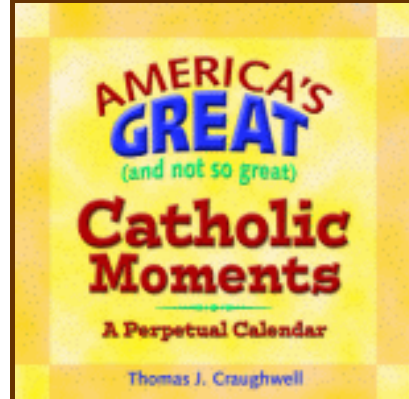
- Print out copies of the guide for display in the church and parish center.
- Ask greeters to distribute copies to people who come on Ash Wednesday.
- Stuff copies of it into your bulletins for the first week of Lent.
- Make additional copies available to people at the entrances of the church throughout Lent.
- Give copies to teachers and catechists for their classes.
- Ask your adult education committee to brainstorm other ways of using this guide.

Then watch the Our Sunday Visitor newspaper and website because we'll be doing a similar guide for Holy Week. We're trying our best to help you in your ministry!

In This Issue

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Catholic Moments



February 25, 2004

"The Passion of the Christ" opens on Ash Wednesday Actor, director, producer and fervent Catholic Mel Gibson put up \$25 million of his own money to create film that chronicled the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And the moviegoing public turned "The Passion of the Christ" into a blockbuster. In its first five days, the movie took in \$111.5 million. - "America's Great (and not so great) Catholic Moments," by Thomas J. Craughwell - From "America's Great (and not so great) Catholic Moments," by Thomas Craughwell (OSV).

[Order it here»](#)

Lent Trivia

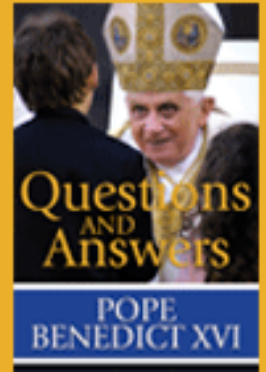
For any of your Lenten gatherings or a fun respite from a busy meeting, challenge your parishioners or staff with this trivia quiz.

1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
3. What is the first day of Lent called?
4. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
5. What color vestments does the priest wear during Lent?
6. What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent?
7. What word is never said or sung during Lent?
8. What do Catholics abstain from eating on Fridays during Lent?
9. On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent?
10. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
11. What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?
12. What Irish saint's feast day takes place during Lent?
13. How do Italians celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19?
14. What important feast day occurs on March 25?
15. On what Sunday during Lent does the priest bless palms?
16. What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us?
17. On what day during Lent does the Bishop bless holy oils for the year?
18. How many Stations of the Cross are there?
19. How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations?
20. Who helped Jesus carry His cross?

Answers:

1. 40
2. "Spring"
3. Ash Wednesday
4. Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras
5. Purple
6. The Gloria
7. Alleluia
8. Meat
9. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
10. Pretzels
11. Hot cross buns
12. St. Patrick
13. St. Joseph's Table
14. The Feast of the Annunciation
15. Palm Sunday
16. The entrance into Jerusalem
17. Tuesday of Holy Week
18. 14
19. 3
20. Simon of Cyrene

Questions & Answers Pope Benedict!



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Parish Life! Resources

Our Sunday Visitor's website offers monthly articles on early childhood education, elementary education, adult formation, spirituality at work, youth ministry that inspires and help for catechists. [To see the latest, click here.](#)

Quick Links

www.OSV.com

Parish leaders' resources

Q&A with Dr. Joseph White

7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free Small Group Study Program

New VBS program: Great Bible Reef

Register to win free

A Catholic Guide to Voting



During this election year - Super Tuesday is less than a week away in the primary portion of the 2008 election - Catholics are looking for guidance on how to discern the best candidates for office. The U.S. Catholic bishops and Church documents offer some help. Our Sunday Visitor has compiled important information in this area in a pamphlet "[In the Voting Booth: A Catholic's Guide.](#)"

More than a laundry list of what are good or bad issues for Catholics to consider, this pamphlet offers principles to follow and ways to learn more about the issues. For example:

"As Catholics, we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support." - Forming Consciences for Faith Citizenship, No. 42, U.S. Catholic bishops

[Click here for more information»](#)

Let us know what you think!

We hope you've enjoyed our Parish Life! newsletter! Let us know what you think--we appreciate your comments, questions, suggestions, and requests! Email York Young: yyoung@osv.com.

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