

2023 LENTEN RESOURCES

You are invited to choose and use any of the suggested resources for Lent. This season is an opportunity to renew our relationship with God and with one another. These resources are tools to focus our efforts and practices that this 40 day journey may be fully experienced.

If you have any questions about these or any other resources, please contact Pastor Jen

LENTEN OUTREACH OFFERING

As we seek to live into our faith, we are invited to “give forward” rather than giving up something for Lent. We will be collecting special offerings (and loose change) beginning on Ash Wednesday (2/22) until Easter (4/9). We will be giving the gifts to the primary school in San Lucas, Guatemala.

The congregation has already committed \$500 towards this offering!



Background & mission of Elementary School:

Colegio Monseñor Gregorio Schaffer school was opened in 1968 by Fr. Greg and the School Sisters of Notre Dame with the goal of providing education to all children in and around San Lucas Tolimán, especially the indigenous Maya population.

Today, the school provides preschool through 6th grade education to over 650 students annually. With a focus on Montessori in the younger grades and vocational opportunities as they get older, the school has developed a reputation for a rigorous, Catholic education which serves the whole person. Student scholarships are \$200 per year or \$20 per month. These gifts buy books, pay teacher salaries, and cover student tuition. In 2022, for the first time, they were able to offer full scholarships to all 600+ students at the school. While that does not seem much to us, that is beyond many families capabilities.

Other programs at the San Lucas Mission include a Women's Center, Construction, Health Care Center & community clinics, re-forestation, as well as fair trade coffee (which can be purchased through the states). More information can be found at: sanlucasmision.org



LENTEN CALM STRIPS

Pick up one of these stickers or bookmarks and place where you might touch it regularly. Calm strips are often used when people are facing stress or anxiety. These sensory and rough surfaces provides offer a place to release restless energy and give focus.

What's more – these particular ones have Bible verses so that you may bring your attention to what God has to say to you as you seek calm.

WILDERNESS DEVOTIONAL

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry.

Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love.

We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings and prompts at your own pace throughout the season of Lent. May the art, reflections, poetry, and journaling allow you to wander and wonder your way through the wilderness. In the wilderness our faith is born, nurtured, challenged, and resurrected. May it be so for you this season.

Artfully yours, The Sanctified Art Creative Team Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Sarah Are, Hannah Garrity, and Lauren Wright Pittman

BLESS THIS MESS: DIY LENTEN CALENDAR

At its heart, Lent is a six-week journey of transformation - and transformative journeys can be messy. This printable calendar will help you and your family “bless this mess,” as we travel with Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death into newness of life.

Each week leading up to Easter has its own set of illustrated cards: each Sunday outlines a simple candlelight service, including a confession, words from scripture, a bite-sized meditation, and a blessing; then there are five cards for each week that feature simple, engaging daily practices to try as we travel the road to the empty tomb. Forty cards in all (including one for Ash Wednesday)!

From caring for God’s creation to fighting for racial justice and equality, the calendar’s themes and activities are both accessible and challenging. Conversation starters over tea, “things to remember,” and concrete daily practices round out this resource, helping to ensure that this Lent, we connect with each other, work toward repairing God’s world, and look ahead to the new life of Easter morning.

IDEAS FOR ENJOYING THE CALENDAR:

1. Put each weekly set of cards into a numbered envelope, and open one set per week until Easter Sunday
2. Display the cards in a circle around your tealights and Christ candle.
3. Pin each card onto a large, fabric-covered canvas, and place a tiny Easter decoration on each card as you go along. Or string them up on a long piece of twine, like prayer flags, and take them down as the weeks go by.

Source: SALT project

LENT MADNESS

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. **Tim Schenck**. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born.

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

You can see this year's bracket as well as sign up for the emails to receive that day's saintly matchup by going to: <https://www.lentmadness.org/>

This year's bracket includes the likes of Augustine and his mother, Monica, Bach, John Donne and Chief Seattle. Don't worry if these names are unfamiliar – this is your opportunity to learn more about them and vote for your favorites.