

During our Lenten Webinar, I invited folks to send in a few lines describing something creative that they have done for Lent, either for themselves or with the group they were teaching. We received so many great ideas. Take a look for yourself! Thanks to all who sent in their ideas! – Joe Paprocki (Loyola Press)

Shelly Bole

One of the most powerful gatherings of high school youth was celebrating the Burial at the Lord's Tomb, a byzantine service. The youth bring candles and flowers to lay at the tomb. The body is symbolically carried around the church and we follow singing. Then the body is laid in the tomb. The tomb has been scented with rose oil. The youth then stay up all night for a vigil.

Brenda Albright

I teach four year olds and I use the time during Lent to teach change, Change in the birth death and new life with that of a seed, caterpillar, egg, and our heart, when we turn to the Lord, we will have a change of heart.

Barb Garding

Having the young people decorate the word Alleluia and then "burying" the Alleluia until Easter.

Steve McCarville

What I did for Lent: Last week was CSW so a few days before I invited the pastor to come in to the classroom and share his reflections on Lent with the 6-8 graders. I teach at a 5 day Catholic School in Omaha.

Pat Carter

I have used pretzels as a mid-Lenten snack for my classes and explained that they were created by a monk for his monastery. Kids did not know that.

Sherry Cartmill

Our RE children do a tableau of each of the Stations of the Cross every year. It helps the children become aware of what Jesus went thru for us and is a very powerful experience for all who attend.

Angie Smart

One year I had the students write a promise to God about what they would give up, including a commitment to prayer and plan for almsgiving. We shared them and then put them in a purple box which we then revisited after lent.

Laura Miller

For Lent, our Junior and Senior High Youth Group would do a Live Rosary and a re-enactment of the Passion of Jesus for the Parish.

Martina Triyatna

Greetings from Singapore! For this year's Lent for our Elementary 1 children (7 yrs old), we print a "Lent calendar" and as the children to record a good deed they do in the week. We'll check the calendar when they come to class on weekend,

kate campbell

I have done a Lenten devotion with my group - think Advent Wreath only this is in the shape of a cross with six candles - pink for 4th week, purple for the rest

Jen Zimmerman

For the past 4 years I have prayed the Byzantine Akahist hymn for the Fridays of Lent. I find it very joyful and Lent is still about joy.

Marisol Meza

I have my class pull a classmate's name out of a container and they are the secret prayer partner during lent. We reveal who we prayed for after Easter vacation.

andrea balas

Our high school youth group presents/depicts the people of the passion for all the PSR students.

Kristen Mullen

Last season as a whole community catechesis event, the participants wrote their own reflection, prayer and drawings for each of the stations of the cross. Then we prayed them as a community. The results were inspiring.

Melody Johnson

Our Parish had the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the Religious Education Program for our Public School Students for Lent in St. Johns, Fl.

Steve McCarville

I got a booklet that has the stations that you can print out and have the kids color-I will try to add a prayer section or Bible quote to improve it-I got it from the Loyola Press web site or maybe OSV.

Pat Solenski

On the Sundays of Lent the RE children pray 3 - 4 stations from the Stations of the Cross for Children so that we begin each session in a spirit of prayerful reflection on the Passion of Jesus.

Alicia Wade

Well something that my mom did with her Faith Formation class back when I was her assistant and I have done with the class that I teach now is have each child pick out a rock (or something relatively innocuous) and then carry them throughout Lent.

Sue Vavak

One of our most successful Lenten projects was to work on Reconciliation, as a sacrament and as a way of life all through Lent. We had a Generations of Faith event including a speaker and actually role playing receiving the sacrament. We doubled the number at our Reconciliation service that year.

Jennifer Poncin

We have a houseful of kids, some little and some bigger, and we're always looking for things our kids can do too. We've collected food for the food pantry, done a Friday Rosary night, and gone on a field trip to a shrine. I'm always looking for new ideas.

Kathleen Conrad

We started our session with the children by celebrating Mardi Gras with all the decorations and a Kings Cake. We talked about the liturgical calendar and how Mardi Gras season fit in. After the children went to their grade level classes, we came back together with the MG decorations gone and the purple of Lent visible, and then talked about the changes in the church during Lent.

Lucille Penza

I teach a first grade group. Some never heard of lent. I explained how some people give things up, but asked them if they would do something at home that they didn't like to do and they agreed.

Jean Rico

I invite a missionary from our diocesan mission in Dominican republic to speak to kids in grades 2-8. We are able to tie in Catholic Social teaching with Prayer, fasting & almsgiving. This increases awareness of the need for missions

Suzanne Gallagher

The Confirmation Students (10th grade) write their interpretation of the Stations of the Cross. These are re-enacted for the whole church in a shadow station format. Their insight is tremendous.

Jack Connolly

One of my most meaningful & simplest Lenten encounters was when I was in 2nd or 3rd grade. Our parish priest suggested that perhaps instead of 'giving up' we instead focus on 1 item to improve our relationship with God, 1 with another, and 1 with ourselves.

Pamela Gordon

When I taught high school at Blessed Trinity, I would take my classes to Stations of the Cross which our school had set up along a wooded path nature trail! It was a spiritual experience for the students and me alike!

Pat Carter

In high school setting we have hosted a 25 hour fast on Holy Thursday to Good Friday for an all girls school. It made the rituals of the two high holy days come alive for the high school students. We attended mass at a local parish that had a foot washing

Luz Adriana Caudillo Fuentes

I fast when it's mandatory but I feel sleepy, and NOT alert at all, so when it's not mandatory and I have to work I try not to do it (but I do it occasionally when I am off work)

Shelly Bole

One parish bought a Wii for a retirement home and is teaching the residents how to use it! They are having a blast!

karen curl

At our Catholic School each grade takes a Friday and does the living rosary for the whole school to see.
