

# Discipleship & Stewardship During Lent

Presented by Katie Price  
Center for Discipleship and Stewardship  
[kprice@dio.org](mailto:kprice@dio.org)

# Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Relating Lent and Discipleship & Stewardship
- III. Common Lenten Stewardship Themes and Language
- IV. Stewardship Ideas and Tools
- V. Articles and Resources

# Lenten Practices

## Fasting

- Physical hunger reminds us of our hunger for God, our faith
- Lent is a time people know, regardless how active they are, they are typically aware of “fasting” on Fri.
- Act of reflecting on the materials goods, foods, physical items we have that control or may cause us to deviate away from the person God wants us to be

## Almsgiving

- Most commonly related to stewardship, as the act of being charitable or giving to those less fortunate
- CRS Rice Bowl, Second Collections

## Prayer

- Out of all the practices, this creates a foundation for stewards in the Parish
- People looking for a sacred and safe experience, be that for them during Lent

# Lent and Stewardship Practices

## Stewardship of Time--> Prayer

Introducing/building/repairing a relationship  
with Jesus

Sunday Mass, Adoration, Confession- don't  
let them miss what is available

## Stewardship of Talent--> Fasting

Active, physical response

Identifying what barriers we have to being  
the disciple Jesus calls us to be

Looking inward, reflecting and responding

## Stewardship of Treasure--> Almsgiving

Recognizing abundance vs. scarcity

Catholic Missions/Ministries

Spring or Easter Appeals

Sacrifice- Offering firsts or lasts

# Priority Lenten Tips

- The Four Pillars
  - Prayer
    - Where do I go for?... What is adoration?... I haven't been to confession in awhile...
    - Do you have basic Lenten information available in print and digital?
    - Do you have opportunities for prayer and accompaniment during Lent? (Discipleship Challenge)
  - Service
    - How is the parish responding to CRS Rice Bowl?
    - How is the parish/parishioners responding to pro-life initiatives? (40 Days for Life)
    - Have your ministries shared their Lenten programming with you?
  - Hospitality
    - Welcome scouts- Are you ready for the searchers and seeker?
    - Enhances Sunday fellowship opportunity or M-Fri ministry life
  - Formation
    - Have you looked into the Diocese offerings (Fr. House videos)
    - Check out free Lenten resources from USCCB, Ascension Presents, Formed, WOF etc.

# Priority Lenten Tips

- Passionate about Sundays
  - During Lent, try to find additional opportunities to be open for prayer, extend small group opportunities, or add in adoration/praying the rosary before or after Mass
  - Make sure you are ready for guests, ie new parishioner forms, "Pew Art," family school, hospitality...bathrooms!
  - Offer witness - YES! "Why do you go to Mass?"
- Radically Obsessed with Invitation and Participation
  - You will notice increasing numbers, be hospitable, meet them where they are...forms, questions, follow-up!
  - Highlight the participation of individuals in the bulletin and website during Lent, many coming might not know of opportunities that are not being highlighted in the bulletin at that time- this is a great time of year for Lay Witness!
- Forming Leadership Disciples
  - Lent is a great time to check-in with leaders, invite ministries to come to Mass together, thank leaders
  - Highlight neighborhood learning- check out where programs are and meet as a parish to attend
  - **How are your ministries participating in formation during Lent?**

# Priority Lenten Tips

- Stewardship of Thanks
  - Write notes to RCIA, welcome committee, Parish Council etc.
  - Write one-thank you, handwritten per week to one of your Offertory givers
  - Write thank you notes to your ministry leaders- tie to their offering at Mass
- Stewardship of Prayer
  - Lenten Stewardship Reflection Graphics
    - Share in bulletin or website, as an image to reflect on in prayer during the week
    - Example Psalm Videos for Lent
  - Learn about your Parish Saint
    - Sainly Stewardship- post about him/her each week during Lent
  - Prayer partners, prayer intentions, prayer line- all should be highlighted and communicated
- Think about what you communicate
  - If you were brand new, what would the bulletin look like to you?
  - What information do you provide that results in a "call to action"

# Priority Lenten Tips

- Lenten Community Stewardship Cards
  - Similar to Giving Tree Concept, however someone writes a “challenge” on the card for someone else to pick up and do
  - People can fill out prayer card before/after mass for and place back in basket
  - See example of generic stewardship cards for Lent (pray, serve, give)
- Don't Give Up, Give Out
  - This campaign/theme would draw on the idea that we should be considering not just giving up food, drinks, etc. but that we have an opportunity during Lent to participate in sacrificial giving
  - Each week would highlight a particular ministry in need: crayons, paper, \$ for service trip, etc.
  - Great way to introduce the 1% or 1 hour rule!
- For Fellowship Opportunity
  - Build a community recipe wall!
  - Have individuals submit their favorite Lenten meals/fish dishes and pull together a Parish Lenten Cookbook
  - When a family submits a recipe, have them also provide info/witness to their relationship with the parish



# Best Practices for a Spring Appeal

Easter or Pentecost

- Many Parishes not comfortable asking during Lent, however a spring appeal can be tastefully added to a post-Easter message or Easter card
- Try Video- phones horizontal please!
- If pre-Easter, don't forget to invite to Holy Week!
- Consider highlighting an RCIA candidates journey- many willing to participate and become Parishioners, let them share what inspires them to be Catholic
- Keep the ask small, soft, and appropriate- 1% or Easter gift
- Consider segmenting the appeal- send via email to the email addresses you have vs. mail for the non-email Parishioners

# Additional Articles and Resources

In Season: Millennials and Lent: <http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2011/03/in-season-millennials-and-lent.html>

Lenten Observance Data <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/09/02/chapter-2-participation-in-catholic-rites-and-observances/>

Catholic Apps for Your Lenten Journey- <http://www.catholicdigest.com/articles/faith/lent/2014/03-03/catholic-apps-for-your-lenten-journey>

Ash Wednesday and Lent in Two Minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3L3c23MfC0&feature=youtu.be>

Pinterest- Lenten Ideas, Recipes, and Graphics

[https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Lent&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=Lent%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Lent&rs=typed&term_meta[]=Lent%7Ctyped)

# Don't forget! Start here:

- Add New Parishioner forms to vestibule, bulletin, anywhere!
- Make sure you WELCOME people!
- Make sure you THANK people!

# Lent

When you prioritize a spiritual practice of stewardship, you will naturally have to rearrange or remove those things getting in the way.

What can we push aside to make room for Jesus?

# Questions?

Submit questions in the field box in your admin panel, or feel free to email me afterward at [kprice@dio.org](mailto:kprice@dio.org)