

2026 Lenten Challenge – Return to the Father

PRAYER

“Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord.” Pope Francis

- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once during Lent.
- Pray a decade of the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day for the intentions listed on the Lenten Calendar.
- Spend 15 minutes of your day with God in quiet, uninterrupted prayer.

The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor.

- St. Basil the Great

FASTING and ALMSGIVING

“The risen Jesus shows us his wounds and, although they are a sign of humanity’s rejection, he forgives us and sends us on our way” – Pope Leo XIV

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is God inviting me to change this Lent?
- What pattern of behavior in my life needs modifying?
- What do I need more of in my life?
- What is the barrier that keeps me from asking for healing?
- What conscious choices can I make in my life that will make Jesus more present in and around me?

After prayerful reflection, discern what you can do during this season of Lent to eliminate the temptation of indifference and draw closer to God.

Still having a tough time deciding what to change this Lent? What if somebody else decided for you? Sometimes our self-imposed sacrifices are much easier than they should be. Let a family member or friend decide for you – resulting in what could be a more challenging Lenten journey!

WEEKS 1-6: Operation Rice Bowl Bring your coins *throughout all weeks of Lent* and place them in the rice bowl by the SJN Statue.

WEEK 2: Benefits the Men’s Shelter Collecting **NEW Men’s BOXER SHORTS & Underwear** (Sizes M-5XL) and **TRAVEL SIZE personal products:** shaving cream & razors, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, soaps.

WEEK 3: Benefits Mothers & Babies through MiraVia *Respecting and affirming life from the moment of conception.* Collecting baby items for pregnant mothers and their children. We are requesting **NEW** or **“Almost NEW”** Baby winter clothing, winter pajamas, long sleeved onsies size 6 months-2T : **NEW** Hooded towels, bibs; Baby hygiene items: Baby shampoos, lotions, washes, powders & diaper rash creams. Diapers in size 3, 5 and 6

WEEK 4: Catherine’s House Helping Women & Children facing homelessness Collecting Laundry Pods, Garbage Bags 13 and 30 gallon, **Snacks** (Cereal Bars, individually packaged Snack Cakes, Chips and Cookies), **NEW ONLY** bath towels, full sized sheet sets and blankets

WEEK 5: Benefits the elderly of the Little Flower Collecting Markers, small puzzle books, simple coloring books & colored pencils, Wooden shapes for them to paint (hearts, circles, eggs, bunnies) rhinestones and stickers for them to decorate the shapes

Week #6: Benefits Piney Grove Elementary School Collecting Clorox Wipes and Tissues in Cold and Flu season. Socks and Underwear for the Nurses office. Gift Cards to be used for specific needs at the time of collection.

“And you, dear children, show gratitude to your parents: Saying ‘thank you’ each day for the gift of life and for all that comes with it is the first way to honor your father and your mother”

- Pope Leo XIV