

40 Day Family Bible Challenge

Week 1

Every week, beginning this Ash Wednesday, we will be giving out a series of challenges to complete with your family. They will be available after Mass, on our website and in our weekly e-mail. Every week there will be a new set of challenges to look forward to! Those families that complete all 40 questions correctly will win a surprise after Easter.

Day 1 (Ash Wednesday): The number 40 (for the whole family)

Why does Jesus fast in the desert for forty days? It would have been much simpler to fast for a week or maybe just one month! Go in your Bible and look through the Old Testament, what is a time God uses this number 40 in his plan for salvation?

What verse was it? Numbers 14 33-35 (ie. Jn 8:15-18) *Israelites in the desert*

Jesus chose to go into the desert for 40 days to remind people of the 40 years they spent wondering and waiting for God's promise or the 400 year they spent in captivity. Of course, we do the same thing preparing to enter into the joy of Easter and Paschal Mystery.

Day 2: The Pharisees (for adults)

Jesus often mentions the Pharisees and how they are hypocrites and teach the people wrongly. In the Gospel of John though we read about one Pharisee that believes in Jesus, what is his name?

Nicodemus Joseph of Arimathea

Day 3: St. John the Baptist (for children)

St. John the Baptist is often pictured as a wild man! He has a great big beard, clothes made from camel hair and a shell in his hand. Before Jesus took off into the desert, his cousin John the Baptist had lived there for years. John chose to live a life of fasting, prayer and almsgiving to prepare himself to be the greatest prophet God had even given to the Israelites. But what is there in the desert to eat?

Unscramble the letters to find out!!

SULOSCT and IWDLENOHY

locusts wild honey

Where did you find this in the Bible?

Matthew 3: 4

Day 4: Ashes

On Ash Wednesday we all receive ashes on our forehead, and we heard this quote "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" What psalm does this quote come from?

Psalm 51 - expresses Gen 3:19
repentance and humility

Family Sunday: The Desert

This Sunday reflect on Jesus' time spent in the desert with your family.

Some suggestions:

1. Watch the 10 Commandments with Charlston Heston
2. Use sand art to recreate the miracle of the Mana from Heaven found in Exodus 16.
3. Have your family spend a whole day in the "desert" by not using any electronics.

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Week 2

Day 5: Sacrifice

During this time of preparation, we often think of things we are going to sacrifice- chocolate, our beds, once I even knew someone who gave up wearing shoes for lent. But why? Where does this tradition start?

Go into the book of Genesis and find the first sacrifice made to God in the Bible, what was sacrificed? Abel - best ~~crop~~ lamb Cain - crops from the field

Why did they sacrifice it?

Abel was a shepherd. Cain tilled the soil. God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with Cain's.

Day 6: Prefiguring the Tabernacle

In any Church the tabernacle, the place where we keep the consecrated hosts, the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, is the focal point of the Church. Why? Because in it is God, his very flesh, dwelling among us. In the Old Testament the Israelites also built an ornate ark to carry the presence of the Lord with them.

What was that ark called? What three things did it have inside of it?

Ark of the Covenant

1. tablets containing the Ten Commandments
2. Aaron's rod
3. manna - food provided by God for the Israelites during their travels

Day 7: Notorious Brothers

Have you ever noticed that in the Old Testament there are lots of brothers mentioned! In the Old and New Testament, we find that there are brothers that help each other and brothers that are jealous of each other. Take the story of Joseph the Dreamer found in Genesis 37-50, his brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery. Joseph later had a chance to save his brothers or to let them starve. After testing them he chose to save them and discovered he has a new brother! What was the youngest brother called?

Benjamin

Day 8: You are a Priest Forever

There is a mysterious "King of Salem (Peace)" who suddenly appears to Abram and offers a special thanksgiving sacrifice to God on his behalf. Who was this mysterious man in the Old Testament that offered Bread and Wine as a sacrifice to God?

_____ Melchizedek _____

Even at today's Priestly Ordinations we remember this notable priest.

Day 9: Do Not Turn Back

Abraham begged God to save the life of his nephew Lot from being destroyed in the city of Sodom. When the angels came to rescue Lot they told him that he could not turn back. When we receive the sacrament of confession God also asks us not to look back but to give us the grace to "go forth and sin no more".

Unfortunately, not all of Lot's family could move on, Lot's wife turned back. What became of her? _____ She turned into a pillar of salt. _____

Day 10: Building the Ark

We are familiar with the story of Noah and the Ark, but did you know the exact direction of how to build the ark are included! The dimensions of Noah's ark can be found in Genesis, chapter 6, they are given in "cubits" (about 18-22 inches or 1.5 feet): length 300 cubits, breadth 50 cubits, and height 30 cubits.

What would be the modern day measurements?

Height: 45 ft

Length: 450 ft.

Breadth: 75 ft.

Family Sunday: Promises

This Sunday reflect on Jesus' time spent in the desert with your family.

Some suggestions:

1. Watch the "Prince of Egypt" with your family.
2. Use toothpicks, craft glue and gold paint to make a little Ark of Covenant, carry it around with you the rest of the day just like the Israelites of old.
3. Challenge: Our words are important! When God speaks, He never contradicts Himself- He cannot! When God promises something we should not worry when it will happen. It took Abraham and Sarah years to conceive a child, it took hundreds of years for the Israelites to be freed from slavery and thousands of years for us to be able to be free of our sins. This week try to keep all of your promises, especially those you make with your family.

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Week 3

Day 11: The Prophets

There are many books of the Bible, 73 to be exact, and they are written with different intentions. We have the Wisdom books, Historical books, the books of the Law and the Prophetic books.

Of the prophetic books only four of them are considered to be works of the "Major Prophets" What book are they?

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Daniel

Day 12: Jonah

We are all remarkably familiar with the story of Jonah and the whale (or sea monster). It seems very unlikely that Jonah could have stayed in the whale's belly for three days, but it wasn't without purpose! What major event in salvation history does this odd story foretell?

Jesus stayed in the tomb three days before he rose from the dead

Day 13: Daniel

We may remember Daniel for his interpretation of dreams, being thrown to the lions or in his great wisdom. Today's lets look closer at this unblemished prophet because it is in the book of Daniel where we first meet the Gabriel the Archangel. What was Gabriel's job in the book of Daniel?

Gabriel explained Daniel's vision and helped Daniel to understand God's work for him.

Day 14: Isaiah

By far my favorite prophet, Isaiah is probably the prophet we are most familiar with. We often hear from the book of Isaiah in Advent and Lent foretelling the coming of Christ, that he would be a suffering servant, to save us from our sins. To prepare for this great task Isaiah has to cleanse his mouth with.... ?

burning coal from a Seraphim

Day 15: The Greatest Prophet

The Prophets are not limited to the Old Testament, however, who is the last and greatest prophet that only appears in the New Testament?

John the Baptist

Day 16: Today's Prophets

In the sacrament of Holy Orders, by which men became priests, deacons and bishops, they are given the grace to take on Jesus' three roles fully. As Priest, Prophet and King. Each step of Holy Orders gives the grace for such men to live out these three powers of Christ and thus become a living image of Him to the Church. He literally takes on the person of Christ. In the first step, the diaconate, is given the whole power of Prophet to speak the Word of God, to assist in the liturgy and to do the work of Charity. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the first deacon to have died while doing all three of these things boldly, knowing it meant his certain death.

What was his name?

Stephen

Family Sunday: The Word of God

This Sunday reflect on how you use the Word of God.

Some suggestions:

1. **Environment:** Get out your Bible and put it in a new place, somewhere where it can be given the reverence it is due while not endangering it to be ruined.
2. **Challenge:** Take a paper and cut several strips. On the strips write certain passages from the Acts of the Apostles or the Gospel of Luke. Roll these strips up and hide them in old easter eggs or maybe in the bottom of cups your family uses. Instruct them that when they find them they should try to memorize that verse for whole week and recite it at supper.
A reward for such diligence may be in order.
3. **Art:** We have a wonderful treasury of great painters and masters that have used their talents to visually help spread the Word of God. Take some time today and give yourself or your family a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel or a nearby Church with beautiful stained-glass windows. Try to match up the painting with the stories in the Bible.

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Week 4

Day 12: The Judges

Have you ever wondered how Israel ordered their society? It wasn't always a kingdom. We read in the book of Judges that God appointed 12 leaders to rule over the Israelites. Who are these 12?

<u>Othniel</u>	<u>Jephthah</u>	<u>Tola</u>
<u>Ehud</u>	<u>Samson</u>	<u>Jair</u>
<u>Shamgar</u>	<u>Elon</u>	<u>Abdon</u>
<u>Gideon</u>	<u>Ibzan</u>	
	<u>Deborah</u>	

Day 13: The First King

Although God had appointed the Judges to watch over Israel, the Israelites were not satisfied. They were jealous of the other nations which had kings and did not want to acknowledge God as their king. God warned his people, through Samuel, that the king they wanted would take their possessions and their freedom but they did not listen. God told Samuel to anoint a certain man from the land of Benjamin, what is his name?

Saul

Day 14: Building the Kingdom

We remember King David as a brave child who slew Goliath, who built Jerusalem and who wrote many of the psalms we sing today. King David also did something that had not yet been done by any who came before him, he admitted his sin. Adam and Eve, Noah, even Abraham, although they disobeyed God never apologized or admitted their guilt. When Nathan comes to David and tells him of God's anger toward him, David repents and asks for mercy.

Where in 2 Samuel does David admit his sin? Ch. 12 verse 13

Day 15: The Temple of Jerusalem

King David first had the idea of making a home for the Lord and it greatly pleased him. Unfortunately David died he could not complete it and the task came to his son Solomon. What year, according to the Bible, did Solomon begin this construction? Hint: Look in 1 Kings.

1 Kings 6 v. 1 - In the 480th year from the departure of the Israelites from the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign in the month of Ziv.

The Civil War in our country made a huge impact on our culture and history. After the war it took many years for our country to recover and become whole again. The 12 tribes of Israel were also divided for a time, with two different kings, capitals and armies. What name did these two separate nations take?

Israel
Judah

Day 17: The Kingdom of God

Jesus often spoke about the Kingdom of God in his parables. The apostles didn't realize at the time that the Kingdom of God referred to the Church. We may often forget too, like the Israelites of old, that the Church is not just here on Earth. In heaven we call it the Church Victorious, in purgatory the Church Suffering, here on Earth the Church Militant. Below is a list of the parables Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God, think how each one refers to the Church in these three places.

- Parable of the NLEEV → + a = leaven
- Parable of the WOERS sower
- Parable of the TMSARDU EDES mustard seed
- Parable of the DIHDNE EETUSRRA hidden treasure
- Parable of the REALP Pearl
- Parable of the RAWDNIGI HTE TEN drawing the net

Family Sunday: The Kingdom of God

Some suggestions:

1. Look up the Polish tradition of proclaiming Christ as their King. Perform a coronation and parade in your own home to celebrate Christ as the King of your hearts.

40 Day Family Bible Challenge

Week 5

Day 23: Miracles we have today

In the Gospel of John there is a unique word that John uses to refer to the miracles of Jesus. Read John 6:1-15, what word is used instead of miracles? We use this word when we refer to the seven sacraments as well. We can see John is making the connection for us here by using this word!

Sign

Day 24: The First Miracle

The first miracle of Jesus took place because Mary advocated on behalf of others, what was name of this miracle?

Turning water into wine at the wedding a Cana

Day 25: When Jesus Wept

There are only two times in the New Testament that mention Jesus having wept. Only once did he weep before the beginning of his passion. Before what miracle did Jesus weep in the gospel of John?

Raising Lazarus from the dead

Why do you think Jesus wept at this moment?

Jesus understood the grief and sadness of Martha and Mary.

Day 26: The Transfiguration

During the Transfiguration Jesus reveals himself as the Son of God in a special way to Peter, James and John. Two other figures were with Jesus in the clouds, who were they?

Elijah Moses

We often say those people in the Old Testament who foreshadow Christ are "types" of Jesus. These two are also seen as types of Jesus, but to James, John and Peter they were great prophets and Patriarchs of the Israelites. Why out of all of the "types" of Jesus were these two chosen to appear next to him?

Both of these types worked and focused on saving the religion of the Israelites from false gods. Elijah faced the nature worship of Baal. Moses faced the false gods of Egypt and the despair and complaints of the Israelites on their Journey to the Promised Land.

Day 27: The Greatest Miracle

There is much debate over what the greatest miracle of God was, but for us as Catholics there is only one answer. If you do not believe me, consult Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. What is the miracle upon which our whole faith rests?

Jesus rose from the dead. Because of this, we also be raised.

Day 28: Our Daily Miracle

Every day we have a chance to witness a miracle, an important life-giving miracle. The Most Holy Eucharist is transubstantiated (trans=change, substantiated=substance) every day, every hour, across the world. In every time zone, from the rising of the sun to its setting the sacrifice is being offered for us, for our sins and those of the whole world. We have so much joy at Christmas because God became Man and dwelt among us, but everyday Jesus transforms the substance of the bread and wine into his body, blood, soul and divinity and dwells in us. We became walking tabernacles, walking miracles.

Many of Jesus' miracles help us prepare for this participation in His Body and Blood, name one miracle Jesus uses to help us prepare to receive the Eucharist.

The loaves and the fish

Family Sunday: The Most Holy Eucharist

Some suggestions:

1. Go to <http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html> a website created by Blessed Carlos Acutis a free resource which examines the ongoing Eucharistic Miracles across the world. Pick one to read with your family.

2. Go to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel in Marshfield underneath St. John the Baptist and spend a half hour in front of the Eucharist with your family.

-If your not sure what to do when you get there begin by showing reverence to the Eucharist-genuflect or kneel.

-Sit quietly and thank God, adore Him, pray for the reparation your sins and intercede for others who most need His mercy.

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Week 6

Day 29: Who were the Four Gospel Writers?

Match the description with the Gospel writer below by drawing a line to the right one.

John	Was a follower of Saint Peter
Mark	Was known as the beloved disciple.
Matthew	Was a doctor.
Luke	Was a tax collector.

Day 30: Who came first?

Write the four Gospels in the order they were written. Put a star next to the three that known as the synoptic Gospels.

* Mark
* Matthew
* Luke
John

Day 31: For who did Gospel writers write?

Match the Gospel writers with the audience they wrote for by drawing a line to answer below.

Mark	Primarily for Gentiles <i>and new Christians</i>
Luke	Primarily for Jews <i>and new Christians</i>
John	For new Christians
Matthew	For philosophers, theologians, scholars and who wanted to know more about Jesus.

Day 32: The long-awaited Messiah

In what Gospel is Jesus' genealogy given?

~~Luke~~ Matthew

Day 33: Son of Man

In what Gospel is the Annunciation and Visitation?

Luke

Day 34: The Passion

As we come into the passion you may notice we never alternate the Gospel readings. Which gospel do we use for the reading of the Passion of Palm Sunday and Good Friday?

Palm Sunday - Mark Good Friday - John

Family Sunday: The Passion

Some suggestions:

1. Make a flag with the symbols of the four Gospels and hang it over your Bible or sacred space in your house.

- St. Matthew, a divine man;
- St. Mark, a winged lion;
- St. Luke, a winged ox; and
- St. John, a rising eagle.

2. Make a crown of thorns to rest on your table for the evening, look up the history and where the actual crown can be found now (Notre Dame).

3. Listen the passion being sung <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZU2VSS2VqQ4&t=65s>

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Holy Week

Day 35: The Passion of Christ

In the Gospel of John what event begins the Passion?

Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested

Day 36: What the prophets foretold has come to pass...

Read Psalm 34: 1-20, Exodus 12:46 and John 19:30-36 what do these verses have in common?
How are they connected to the Passion of Christ?

The first Paschal lamb should not have bones broken. Jesus, our Paschal lamb, did not have His bones broken. The Psalm says that God delivers the just from their troubles and keeps them safe - not a bone shall be broken.

Day 37: The Lost Sheep

Read John 6:39, John 17:12 and John 18:9 all of these verses talk about Jesus not losing something, to who was Jesus referring?

Jesus was referring to His followers

Day 38: The foretold mourning

Read Zechariah 12:10 and John Chapter 19:37, to what event do these two verses refer?

The death of Jesus on the Cross

Day 39: The Last Supper

Read John chapter 13-17, John's account of the Last Supper. While we often refer to it as the Last Supper we can also count it as the First Mass. We see many similarities between the two, name a few of them below.

Bread and wine consecrated by Jesus, today it is consecrated by priest.
Bread (and wine) consumed by participants; today we understand/believe that we are receiving Jesus.
Institution of Priesthood at Last Supper. Only priests can say Mass today.

As a bonus, who was the first person to leave Mass early?

Judas

Day 40: "It is finished"

For this last question reflect upon these last words of Jesus before he died, what has Jesus finished? The crucifixion? His suffering? Following the will of His Father? The salvation of Mankind? The sacrifice. The sacrifice from the time of Adam and Eve, from Abraham and Isaac, from the time of the temple of Jerusalem, from Melchizedek and the prophets, The sacrifice that finally did what all the others could not since the garden of Eden, restore their relationship with God. Wash away their sins. Found the Kingdom of God on Earth, the Church. Establish the seven sacraments. Overcome what we could not and humbly submit to the will of God the Father.

Jesus accomplished his task on Earth, but we the living cannot say so. We are not yet finished. St. Paul writes this letter quoted below to Timothy, a young Catechist, encouraging him toward the end of his life.. As we finish up our Lenten season let us remind ourselves that we can grow lax or lazy. We must keep running.

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Timothy 4: 1-8

YOU MADE IT TO EASTER SUNDAY

Rejoice and be glad!

Our Lord Jesus Christ has risen from the grave!