

Pope Francis' Lenten Message

As usual, Pope Francis has written a Lenten message for this year that is simultaneously brief and profound. This year's letter draws inspiration from the words of St. Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians: "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (5:20). Pope Francis' 2020 Lenten Message can be found [here](#) in its entirety, and we offer the following invitations and resources so that-as Pope Francis encourages--"our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself."

Basic Information on the Season of Lent

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides an abundance of resources for the season of Lent [here](#), including a [daily calendar](#) that can either be printed or viewed online. In addition, the local [Franciscan Media](#) offers a "Lent with the Saints" resource [here](#).

What is Lent? Video Series

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the relief and development organization of the United States Catholic Church, and is motivated by Jesus' example to ease suffering and to inspire charity and justice. For many students, its work is most visibly present in parishes and schools in the United States during the season of Lent through its annual [CRS Rice Bowl](#) initiative. The following brief videos are visually captivating and very effectively "break open" various aspects of what the Lenten season has to offer:

[What is Lent?](#) with Cardinal Timothy Dolan

[Lent is a Time of Quiet](#) to Hear God's Call to Serve with Fr. James Martin, S.J.

[Lent is Fasting to Prepare Us for the Feast](#) with Christopher West

[Lent is a Journey in Mercy](#) with Kerry Weber

[Lent is Practice for a Holy Life](#) with Dr. Carolyn Woo

[Lent is a Journey to be Shared with the Body of Christ](#) with Archbishop Jose Gomez

[Lent Builds a Foundation So That You Can Serve Others](#) with Archbishop Paul Coakley

[Lent is Giving So That Others Might Flourish](#) with Ron Hansen

[Lent is Life Changing](#) with Thomas Awiafo