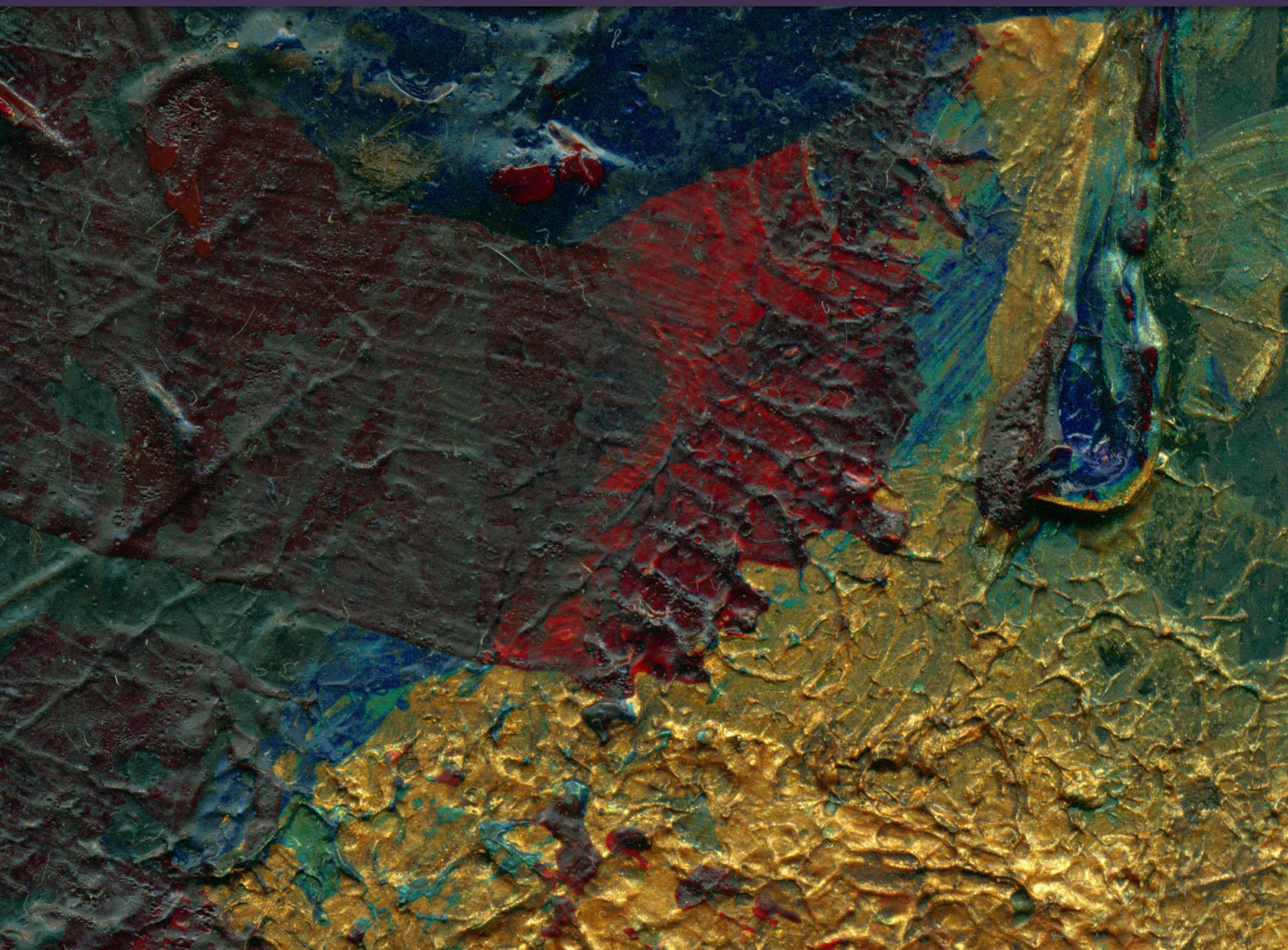




REZKIDS FAMILY

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

Lent 2014



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECT

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*
(BCP, p. 221)

RezKids Family Devotional Resource
www.churchrez.org/ministries/rezkids

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A NOTE FROM AMY

Dearest Resurrection Families,

What does your family treasure? Ryan and I treasure our son, our families, our cozy home, and our church community. We also treasure the simple pleasures of sleeping in, going out to eat, and sipping a glass of iced tea. Each Lent I am challenged by Jesus' command in Matthew 6 to store our treasure in heaven rather than on earth. I'm forced to ask myself if I treasure Jesus and enjoy the relationships and things he has given me or if I treasure my relationships and things and enjoy Jesus.

By setting aside 40 days for Lent, the church gives us the gift of identifying where our treasure lies. Discovering where each person in your family keeps their treasure is not an easy task. It can be difficult to identify what truly motivates our hearts. So how does a family gauge what each person loves most? The disciplines of fasting, prayer, scripture reading, and confession guide us in reflecting on our priorities. The disciplines can seem overwhelming to children, but when done together creatively as a family they can start wonderful conversations. One family fasted from electricity one night a week throughout Lent. This meant no TV, no computers, and early bedtimes! It gave them time for conversation and it also revealed how much they treasured their electronics. Another idea would be to have each family member give a favorite item (toy, book, clothing, jewelry) to a homeless shelter to learn that our things are gifts from God that we should freely give to others.

To assist you in your Lenten journey, our Family Resource provides a liturgy to reflect on the Word. The Lenten disciplines help children understand Christ's suffering and redemptive work. You'll also find ways to prepare your family for Our Good Friday gift, which is going to the Whitakers serving in Cambodia.

I pray that your family would know the treasure it has in heaven. May you be like a well-watered garden, nourished by Christ's love.



Blessings and joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy".

Amy Patton
Children's Pastor

FAMILY WORSHIP

Setting aside time for the Word, prayer and fellowship are essential for your family's life together. Worshiping knits you together as a family and together with Christ. Although there is not a "right" way to worship, I encourage you to always include Scripture, prayer and fellowship.

Lenten Family Liturgy

The following liturgy provides a simple structure to worship this Lent. Have one family member be the leader each time and the rest of the family responds. Scripture passages are given below to insert within the liturgy.

Materials Needed: One large family candle, one small candle per person, one piece of paper and pen per person.

Leader: **Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.**

People: *His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: **It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: While lighting the family candle,
The Light of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: **Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love,**

that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: **We all have sinned.**

People: *We all have sinned.*

Each person writes a sin he confesses on his piece of paper.

Leader: **Create in us a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within us.**

People: *Renew a right spirit within me.*

Leader: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness and in your great compassion blot out my sins.**

People: *Renew a right spirit within me.*

Crumple the paper into a small ball and place it in the middle of the circle. (You could also throw them into a trash can at this point or at the end of the liturgy).

Leader: **Thank you, Jesus for forgiving all of our sins.**

People: *Thank you, Jesus.*

Each person: Go around the circle and light each candle saying,

The Lamb is the Light of the city of God. I will see him face to face.

Song: I want to walk as a child of the Light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Chorus: In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of
God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Leader: **This is the Word of the Lord**
People: Thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks be
to God.

Read one of the following Scripture passages.

Leader: **Thanks be to God for the reading
of his Word.**

People: Thank you God. Thank you God.

Leader: **"For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life. For
God did not send his Son into the
world to condemn the world, but
to save the world through him.
This is the verdict: Light has come
into the world, but men loved
darkness instead of light because
their deeds were evil."**

Each person blows out their candle saying,
*Jesus the Light of the world died for
me.*

Leader: **The Lord be with you.**

People: *And also with you.*
Leader: **Let us pray.**

(Holding hands) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: **Let us bless the Lord.**
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Scripture Readings

Choose a passage to read together as a family during the Lenten Family Liturgy. All Scripture passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV).

JOEL 2:12-14

¹²“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
for the LORD your God.

ISAIAH 58:6-12

⁶“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with
shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and
blood?

⁸Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear
guard.

⁹Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

¹⁰and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the
hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

ISAIAH 53

53 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been
revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire
him.

³He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low
esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on
him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was
punished.

⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause
him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering
for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,

and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will
justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the
great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

³¹"The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,"
declares the LORD.

³³"This is the covenant I will make with the people
of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

LUKE 15:11-32

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the

fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

PSALM 103:8-14

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

LUKE 9:28-36

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

JOHN 3:14-18

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

⁶"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

JOHN 10:11-16

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

ROMANS 5:6-11

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Lenten Disciplines

Fasting as a Family

Lent is a time of fasting, depriving ourselves of some luxury or even need, so that we might rely fully on the Lord's strength and not our own. This Lent, try fasting as a family. Choose one meal that you will fast from each week. Instead of eating, sit down together and feast upon the Word of God. If you are able, take it one step further. Take the meal you would have eaten, and give it someone in need. That might be as simple as making a casserole for family with a newborn or it could be as involved as making a meal for the homeless of DuPage or Chicago.

For the past two years, one of Resurrection's parishioners, Gayle Bloink, has made it her mission to serve the homeless in downtown Chicago. Every Saturday, she and others bring bagged meals to men and women begging along Madison and Michigan Avenues and State street. They spend the time talking and praying with these people. The relationships her team builds with the homeless give them encouragement and love. Along with food, Gayle and her team also distribute clothing and Bibles.

There are a few ways for your family to get involved. Your family could donate to Gayle to pay for the food, Bibles, water, and clothing they give to the homeless. Another way is join Gayle in RezCafe on Sunday in decorating the meal bags. These designs bring a much needed smile to the homeless. You could also join Gayle's team on Saturdays when they travel into Chicago to distribute the meals. For more information on any of these opportunities to serve the homeless, please contact Gayle at gbloink6@hotmail.com.

Stories of Martyrs

As we enter Lent, we reflect on how Jesus commanded us imitate him in carrying our cross. Many men and women have followed Christ by dying for the sake of the gospel. Although we most likely will not be martyred, we are called to sacrifice for Christ.

This section is best for families with older children.
Together you can read about the lives of these martyrs and reflect on how you can sacrifice for Christ in your own lives.

Martyrdom means witness. A martyr is a witness because the way they live and die shows the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had not died on the cross in true and perfect love for his enemies, then those martyrs couldn't have died in love for their enemies either. They were given the gift of God's love first, which made them able to give the gift of God's love to those who don't love them back. The fact that these people were able to die in love for their enemies makes them a witness to God's presence inside them. In living and dying like Jesus they pass on the gift of God to their enemies and their friends.

Martyrdom is God's call to every member of the church. And although Martyrdom for us in America may not include being killed, it will mean giving up what we want for the sake of what God wants for us. And what God wants for us will always be in line with what Jesus called us to do and to be.

Jesus gave a call to his followers that if they want to train under him, they must deny themselves, and take up their Cross. The season of Lent is a time where we are called by the Church to remember the Cross that Jesus died on for the world, and be willing to follow him to the same cross in our lives.

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Died 34 A.D.

The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these.

God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. They could not answer his wise teachings, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. In fact, the Bible says that his face looked like the face of an angel.

Stephen spoke about Jesus, proclaiming that He was the Messiah. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God to *forgive* his enemies for killing him.

Phocas the Gardener

Died 320 A.D.

The Holy Martyr Phocas the Gardener came from the city of Sinope, located on the Black Sea. Having a small garden, he lived modestly. He sold what he grew and on the proceeds he maintained himself, helped the needy, and paid for housing the homeless. Everyone was impacted by his sacrificial spirit and even pagans deferred to him with deep respect.

The governor of the district, aware that Saint Phocas was spreading Christian teachings, gave orders to find and kill him. The saint himself

accidentally came upon those sent after him, and not mentioning his name he courteously received them, dined with them, and prepared them a place for night lodging. At night he went into the garden and prepared a grave and the place for his burial; he even was able to make arrangements so that all his possessions would be distributed after death to the poor. In the morning Saint Phocas declared to the strangers that it was he who they were searching for. He asked that they fulfill the duty entrusted to them. The visitors were distressed, and did not want to kill Saint Phocas. He knew that the governor would punish these men for not killing him and so he encouraged them to perform their duty.

They buried holy Martyr Phocas in the grave he himself had prepared in the garden. The place of his burial was glorified by miracles, and later a church was built there.

Dirk Willems

Died May 16, 1569

Dirk Willems was an Anabaptist who was sentenced to death by the Catholic Church for having different beliefs about infant baptism. Knowing that his fate would be death if he remained in prison, Willems made a rope of strips of cloth and slid down it over the prison wall. A guard chased him.

In order to escape, Willems had to cross a pond that was just barely frozen. Due to his decreased weight from living on prison rations, he made it safely to the other side. His pursuer, however, was not so fortunate. The ice broke underneath his feet, and he cried out for help. In keeping with Christ's command to love your enemies, Willems returned to the ice, and saved the man's life. He then willingly returned to his imprisonment, and was executed the following day.

Regardless of whether one agrees with what Willems thought about baptism, it is easy to see the hand of God on his life. He died as Christ commanded, in love for his enemies.

Father Maximilian Kolbe

January 8, 1894 - August 14, 1941

In May, 1941, Fr. Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz for providing a place of refuge for Jewish people fleeing the Nazis. Fr. Kolbe was a priest in the Catholic Church, and had spent the years before his imprisonment providing refuge for Jewish and Polish people seeking to escape Nazi persecution.

While in prison, Fr. Kolbe consistently lived the life of a Martyr by giving up what he desired for himself for the sake of caring for the needs of those around him. He shared what little food was given to him with his fellow prisoners. He would go around to their beds at night to ask them if they needed prayer for anything. He heard the confessions of prisoners at his bedside, and he returned the Nazi soldier brutality shown to him with blessings and forgiveness.

One day, a prisoner was thought to have escaped. In Auschwitz, for every one prisoner that escaped, 10 were executed. One man who was chosen to die begged the Guards to let him live because he had a wife and children at home. In his last moments, Kolbe led the other prisoners in prayer and worship.

FAMILY LIFE

IN THE CHURCH

Good Friday Gift

The Church throughout the centuries has chosen Good Friday as the day to present a special offering to God as a sacrifice of praise. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. We model Christ by giving sacrificially to those in need. It is important to give with joyful hearts. This year, Church of the Resurrection has decided to give its Good Friday Gift to the Whitakers work in Cambodia. As a family, begin by sharing about the Whitakers and their mission in Cambodia. Then have a conversation about what your family could sacrifice and give to them. In giving, you will receive the blessing of Christ.



Cambodia

The Whitakers, Gregory, Heidi, Saeeda, Ella Brynne, and Aubrey, are missionaries in Cambodia. Six months ago they moved there to pastor a growing Cambodian Anglican church and provide basic health care for children and teenagers. They are slowly adjusting to their life in Cambodia, the culture, and learning the Khmae language. They are excited about the continually growing international congregation in their church.

Here are ways you can pray for the Whitakers:

- For the church as they prepare for Lent, Holy week, and the church's first Easter Vigil.
- They also ask for prayer in Heidi's pregnancy. All three girls are excited to be welcoming a new sibling into the family this summer.
- You can pray that the baby would stay safe and healthy until it is born.
- As transportation can often be difficult in other countries, you can be praying that they would receive the money needed to buy a car.
- You can pray for Saeeda, Ella, and Aubrey to continue to make friends too.

Giving as a Family

Choose a special vase, box or basket. Together you can decorate it or paste "Good Friday Gift" on the front. Whenever anyone is given money (gifts or allowance)) have them put aside 10% as "Jesus money" into the Good Friday collection. On Good Friday, bring your special offering to the service and place it in the offering plate together.

There are always things that never seem to get done. As a family make a list of all the things that need work around the house like cleaning the basement or planting flowers. List all of the projects and put them in a basket. Have each family member chose a project. After each project is completed give the child whatever money amount is appropriate. Then ask them if they'd like to give some or all of it to the Good Friday gift.

As a family choose a way that you are going to fast during Lent. For example you might choose not to eat out, eat sweets or go to the movies. Determine the amount of money you saved and put it aside to give on Good Friday.

Living Liturgically

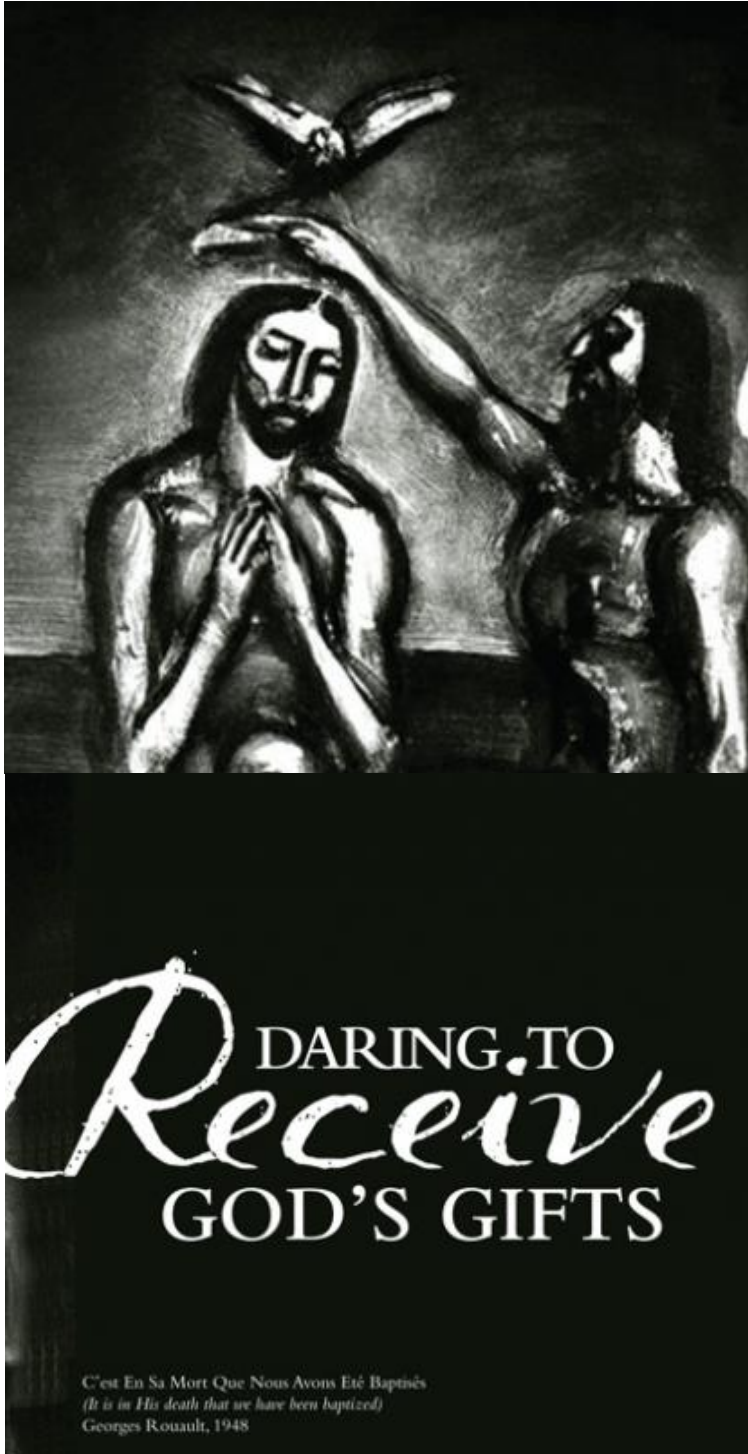
Church of the Resurrection cherishes the traditions, symbols and rituals the Church has practiced for centuries. These traditions greatly enrich our faith and help us live within the common life of the Church. Although children notice these traditions, they can be confusing if not clearly explained. By explaining colors and calendars, rituals and rites we are acknowledging children's place within the Great Tradition.

What is Lent?

Did you or your parents ever have to get ready for some big event? So did Jesus! Right after Jesus was baptized he went into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days to get ready for the time he would spend among us teaching and healing.

Long, long ago, in the very earliest days of the Church, Christians liked to describe their faith as “the way” or “the road” because being a Christian means walking along the road of life with Jesus. Christians begin their walk with Jesus at their baptism, which in the early days of the Church normally happened on the night right before Easter Sunday, which we call the “Easter Vigil.” Just like Jesus, those who were about to be baptized spent 40 days praying and fasting to get ready for the trip! Those who were already baptized wanted to encourage those who were getting ready to be baptized, so they too fasted and prayed alongside them. That period of 40 days became the season right before Easter that we call “Lent.”

When people die, we place their bodies in the ground, which is covered with dirt and dust. Ashes look a lot like dust (except they stick to your forehead!). The very first day of Lent is called “Ash Wednesday,” because the Church places ashes on our foreheads that day to remind us that we all will die someday, that we all need to be ready for that day when it comes, and that Lent is the perfect time to get ready!



Holy Week Services

The special Holy Week services are a time when children can encounter the Lord in powerful ways, either through a deep sense of conviction of sin on Good Friday, or through the joy of worshiping the Risen Christ on Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. We have listed all of the services below. There are descriptions by the services that we think are especially appropriate for families. The asterisks designate services where childcare (5 & under) is provided until Communion.

Sunday, March 24

❖ 9 & 11 am – Palm Sunday Service

(Church of the Resurrection Sanctuary)

Palm Sunday kicks off Holy Week with a celebratory procession that mirrors Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It is an exciting service but it also foreshadows Jesus' coming death. Children can join the fun by walking in the procession. Children especially enjoy waving their palm branches to celebrate and honor the King Jesus. After the professional, children enjoy normal RezKids ministry for all ages.

Wednesday, March 27

❖ 7pm - Taize Service

(Church of the Resurrection Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 28

❖ 7pm – Maundy Thursday Service*

(Church of the Resurrection Sanctuary)

The Maundy (meaning 'washing of the feet') Thursday service is based on Jesus' last night with his disciples. During the service, we participate in Jesus' last acts with his disciples by washing each other's feet and celebrating Communion. Remember to wear shoes that you can easily take on and off for the foot washing! Prep your children about the time of foot washing, and how it shows Jesus' humility and how he came to serve us, and how we should follow after his example.

Friday, March 29

❖ 11:30am & 2pm – Confessions

(Church of the Resurrection Offices)

Confessions are available both for adults and children (using Rite of Confession for Children).

❖ 1pm & 3pm – Stations of the Cross

(Narthex, Church of the Resurrection)

This devotional service journeys with Jesus during his suffering, death and burial. This service is held outside, so please come dressed for the weather.

❖ 7pm – Good Friday Service*

(Church of the Resurrection Sanctuary)

In this somber and contemplative service we remember Christ's death and realize the cost of our sin. It is called "Good Friday," because in the most tragic event in history God brought about our greatest good, the forgiveness of our sins. We have a tradition of confessing sins and praying at the foot of the cross. Families are encouraged to come up together to the cross.

Saturday, March 30

❖ 1pm – Easter Vigil*

(Edman Chapel, Wheaton College)

This is a four part liturgical service, moving from mourning Jesus' death, to remembering God's promises through dramatized Old Testament Readings, to renewal of baptisms and finally culminating in the Great Alleluia, celebrating Jesus' resurrection. This is a service of celebration and joy unlike any other, and the joy children experience during this service can mark them for a lifetime. Remember to bring your bells for the Holy Noise!

❖ 6:30pm – Easter Vigil*

(Edman Chapel, Wheaton College)

This is the same service as the 1pm, and includes baptisms and the welcoming of new members.

Sunday, March 31

❖ 9 & 11am – Easter Sunday Services

(Church of the Resurrection Sanctuary)

This service continues the celebration of the Easter Vigil. We celebrate the Risen Christ through our Sunday morning liturgy. There will be a special RezKids event during the service.



One hour, twenty-four times a day, for one hundred days. Some slots will be set aside for corporate prayer (Daily Office or RezPrayer) but the majority of the time, the fire of intercession will be passed like a baton hour to hour from people who have committed to pray. It is a time to meet and draw near to the Lord, and also a time of radical community, where we set our hearts on a pilgrimage together, and as a body, carry out the kingdom work of continuous prayer.

Sign-up as a Family for a 1 hour prayer slot at: <http://www.churchrez.org/ministries/rezprayer/prayer100>

DAILY OFFICE

Pray corporately the way the Church has for two millennia: by praying the psalms and the Scriptures together. This hour long service will include Scripture readings, canticles of praise, individual intercessions and personal reflection and occurs 7am-8am (Morning Prayer) 12pm-1pm (Noonday Prayer) and 5pm-6pm (Evening Prayer). No sign up is necessary.

NIGHTWATCH

The NightWatch at Resurrection covers the hours from 9pm to 7am, with intercessors covering prayer slots throughout the night and early morning. The NightWatch mandate is found in Psalm 134: "Behold, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who by night stand in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD."

REZPRAYER

Come together to intercede for issues close to the heart of Resurrection. During the week, we will gather to lift the Lost and the Least to the Lord. Topics and times will be announced weekly and posted in All Saints Chapel. No sign up is necessary.

