



Lenten Cross Project

The Lenten Cross Project is a good and simple way to focus on our Lenten journey. Similar to the Advent Wreath the Lenten Cross with simple prayers can be incorporated into the family evening meal.

Materials necessary for constructing the cross:

- 5 purple and 1 rose or 6 white votive candles with clear votive holders
- Cloth in the shape of a cross or 1/2 " craft wood cut into pieces 24" by 12"

Constructing the cross:

- Glue the pieces of wood together (if using) and let dry
- Place cloth on the dinner table or some other prominent place
- Arrange the votive candles in the shape of a cross with the rose candle in the center

During Lent, light each of the candles on each of the six Sundays during Lent or daily if you can.

Each week another purple candle will be lit except the fourth Sunday of Lent. On this Sunday light 3 purple candles and the rose.

First Sunday of Lent

Theme: Strength

Light one purple candle

Scripture reading: Matthew 4: 1-11

Temptation of Jesus in the desert:

Prayer: Lord, you were led into the desert for forty days and were tempted as we are. Be with us when we are tempted by earthly desires. Help us to overcome our weaknesses as you did and lead us in your ways. Amen

Discussion: Does the story of Jesus being tempted help you in your struggle when you face temptations?

Second Sunday of Lent

Theme: Light

Light two purple candles

Scripture reading: Matthew 17: 1-9

Transfiguration

Prayer: Lord you are the light of the world. Help us to shine our light to dispel the darkness in the world. Amen]

Discussion: Peter, James and John were blessed to see Jesus transformed into his heavenly form. They wanted to preserve the moment for all to experience. How do we bring that wonder of the light of Jesus to all we meet?

Third Sunday of Lent

Theme: Peace

Light three purple candles

Scripture reading: John 4: 5-42

Samaritan woman at the well

Prayer: Jesus you talked to the woman at the well. You gave her the peace that comes from knowing you and the truth you possess. Help us to know your peace and to bring it to our home and to others.

Discussion: How can we be peacemakers in our families and communities?

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Theme: Joy

Light three purple candles and the rose candle.

Scripture reading: John 9: 1-41

Jesus heals the blind man

Prayer: Lord, you are the great healer; you brought light and joy back into the life of the man who was blind by restoring his sight. Help us to see with eyes of faith the joy that comes from following you.

Discussion: What am I blind to in my own life that keeps me from following Jesus?

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Theme: Forgiveness

Light the four purple candles and the rose candle

Scripture reading: John 11: 1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Prayer: Jesus, how moved you were to see the grief of your friends. Their faith in you and in God was very strong. In each instance when you healed someone faith was the reason you gave for their healing. Look not on our sins but on our faith and heal us as well, and help us to forgive as you forgive.

Discussion: How can we forgive those who hurt us?

Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)

Theme: Holy Week

Light all the candles

Scripture reading Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer: Jesus, come to us during this Holy Week to encourage us to follow your example of forgiving others, resisting temptation, and loving our neighbors. Help us to see the love you had for all of us through your giving of yourself on the cross and by our sharing in the joy of your resurrection.

Discussion: How can we stay focused on the passion and death of Jesus this week in order to fully participate in the joy of Easter Sunday?