

LENT

Fourth Week of Lent



Why are the statues covered during Lent in my parish?

(stjosephgv.nyc/season-of-lent-fast-facts)

Another Lenten custom is the draping of statues and crucifixes in purple cloth as a sign of mourning. This symbolically hides the heavenly glory realized by the saints. Occurring on the fifth Sunday of Lent, the covering of the sacred images adds to the sense of introspection and contrition.

The roots of the veiling of statues during Lent can most likely be found in Germany where, beginning before 900, it was customary to cover not only statues and images, but the entire sanctuary including the altar with a cloth.

The cloth itself was called the *Hungertuch* (literally hunger cloth but often translated as Lenten veil). The draping concealed the altar entirely from the faithful during Lent and was not removed until the reading of the Passion at the words "the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom."



* Spend time reading and sharing the impact of Scripture with your family.

* For the readings of the day visit, www.usccb.org/bible/readings

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures, he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

Activity: Write your own Psalm

Information taken from www.childrensministry.com

This experience will help kids discover that Psalm 23 applies directly to them. Give each person a sheet of paper and a pencil.

Try writing our own psalms to God, using the four parts of David's psalm that has been shared in this weekly bulletin. If you need to refresh your memory, feel free to read Psalm 23 as many times as necessary. Mention things from your life in your psalm, just as David did. Your psalm doesn't have to be long, and you won't have to show it to anyone else if you don't want to. Just write about how God helps you in these four areas.

The four areas include:

- (1) God's provision;
- (2) God's guidance in making right decisions;
- (3) God's help when we're afraid; and
- (4) God's blessings and promise of eternal life.



Family Activities

- * Reach out to someone in your parish who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Visit them and extend comfort and support.
- * Have your children or grandchildren decorate cards for shut-ins or those in nursing homes.
- * Pray the Rosary as a family for those who are mourning a loss in their family.

