

TOTALLY LENT!



A KID'S
JOURNEY TO
EASTER 2021

For Intermediate Grades



Today's Gospel » Matthew 9:14-15

Jesus said, "The wedding guests cannot be sad when the bridegroom is with them. The days will come when he is taken away. Then they will fast." (9:15)

Lent is the time when we prepare for the day when Jesus "is taken away." It is a time for sacrifices. Sometimes a choice might look like a sacrifice but really isn't.

1

You love shrimp. You have a choice of two menu items this Friday. Choose one.

- ☐ Shrimp
- ☐ Macaroni and cheese



2

You gave up video games for Lent. A friend has a new game and asks you to play. What do you do?

- ☐ You say "no." You explain to your friend about Lent.
- ☐ You say "yes." You decide it would be rude to refuse.

3

Your neighbor asks you to help her in her yard. She will pay you.

- ☐ You help her and save the money for a new bike.
- ☐ You help her, save half the money, and give half to the poor.



Jesus, accept the sacrifice I make today as a small sign of my love for you. Amen.

Today's Gospel » Matthew 16:13-19

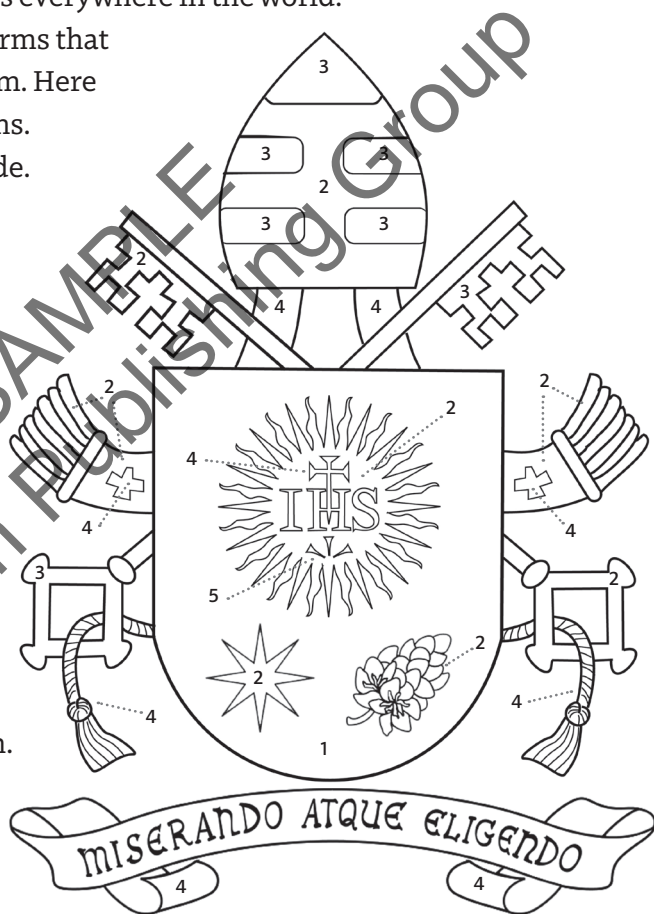
You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. (16:18-19)

Today we celebrate a special feast that honors not only Saint Peter, our first pope, but the role of the pope in the Church. A pope is the shepherd of all the Catholics everywhere in the world.

Each pope has a coat of arms that tells us something about him. Here is Pope Francis's coat of arms. Color it according to the code.

- 1 = bright blue**
- 2 = gold or yellow**
- 3 = silver or grey**
- 4 = red**
- 5 = black**

The sun with its rays is the emblem of the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits, the Pope's order. The letters IHS stand for Jesus. The eight-pointed star, a symbol for Mary, and the flowers, a symbol for Joseph. They show Pope Francis' love for the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph.



The banner carries the Pope's motto—"lowly but chosen"—expressing his desire that all people experience Jesus' mercy.

32 First Friday of Lent

FEBRUARY 26

Today's Gospel » Matthew 5:20-26

Jesus said, "When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go first and reconcile with your brother or sister. Then come and offer your gift." (5:23-24)



KEEP A SMILE ON YOUR FACE TODAY.

Notice how people react. Did you get funny looks?
Did anyone ask you what you were up to?

You are giving up TV for Lent, but your brother is not. You pester him and make noise while he's watching TV. Is God pleased with your Lenten sacrifice?



Your family has a Lenten giving box on the kitchen table. You put your leftover pennies in it at day's end and put the rest of your coins in your pocket. Is God pleased with your almsgiving?



You promised to keep your room clean during Lent. One day your mom asks you to clean the sink and mirror in the bathroom. You yell, "I never said I'd do that!" Is God pleased with your Lenten promise?



Lord, help me to bring happiness through laughter, kind words, and a smile to those I meet each day. Amen.

Did You Know?



The Dogwood Tree

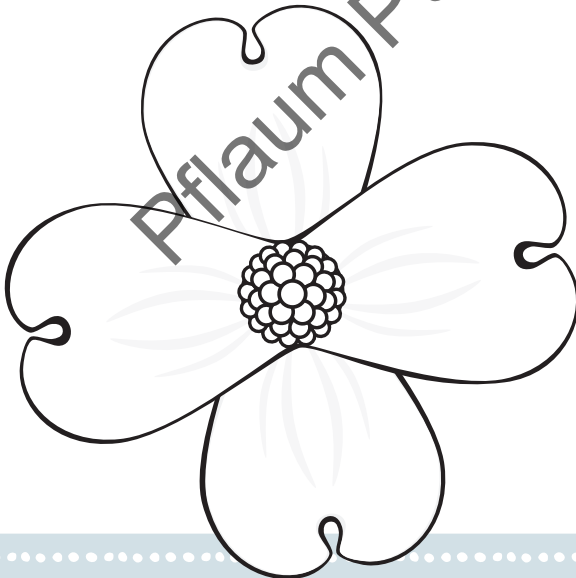
Dogwood trees bloom in the woods each spring near the time of Easter. They are small, slender trees with blossoms that are considered to be symbols of the passion of Jesus.

Each blossom is made up of four white petals in the shape of a cross. Each petal is touched with a reddish-brown mark, as if it had been wounded. The center of the flower resembles the crown of thorns, and it is bright red, representing the blood of Christ.

Perhaps because of its blossoms, a legend about the dogwood tree has been passed down. The Bible doesn't tell us what kind of wood was used to make the Cross of Jesus. But the story goes that, in the time of Jesus, the dogwood tree grew tall and strong, and its wood was chosen to make the Cross of Jesus.

Jesus saw how sad the tree was and promised that the dogwood would never again grow large enough to be used to make a cross. People of faith look at the dogwood tree and remember the suffering of Jesus.

Color the dogwood blossom as it is described.



Today's Gospel » Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus was talking to his disciples about the Pharisees. "They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long." (23:5)

During prayers, Jewish men wore phylacteries on their foreheads and left arms. These were little boxes that contained verses of Scripture. They also sewed tassels onto the corners of their head coverings to remind them of God's commandments.

Jesus said they made the phylacteries wider and the fringes longer than necessary to call attention to themselves instead of to God.



What do you wear to remind you of God?

What is your attitude toward the things you wear?

Do you care too much about having the "right" clothes?



**Today, thank your parents for the clothes they provide for you.
Be happy with what you have instead of wanting new stuff to show off.**

