

POPE FRANCIS

THE *joy* OF LENT

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

ENCOURAGEMENT & DAILY PRAYERS

ASH  
WEDNESDAY



**To experience Lent is to yearn for this  
breath of life that our Father unceasingly  
offers us amid the mire of our history.**

*Homily for Ash Wednesday, 2017*

Heavenly Father, be with me at the beginning of this Lenten journey. You breathed into us the breath of life, the Spirit that formed us in your image. Throughout the whole history of sinful and broken humanity, you have never left us, for you are the life that flows in us and through us in all of our relationships. Help me to feel that breath of life on this journey. Amen.

**READ MATTHEW 6:19-21**

THURSDAY  
AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.

*Evangelii Gaudium, 3*

Heavenly Father, even in the beginning of Lent, it's sometimes hard to just begin the journey. It seems like there is so much work to do, and it seems like I'll never succeed. Lord, I fear I am lost before I even begin. Grant me the grace to return to you and to trust in your mercy. Give me the comfort that comes from knowing your mercy, I pray. Give me the strength to entrust all my weakness to you alone! Amen.

READ LUKE 15:11-32

FRIDAY  
AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



It is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality. Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent.

*Amoris Laetitia, 56*

Heavenly Father, sometimes we get caught up in the world's ways and think that we can solve all the problems we face with our own resources. We're so convinced of our power, our wealth and our clever ideas that we forget that we're not you. Help me to understand your wisdom, made manifest in and through your creation, and let me rely on you alone as I navigate through the complexities of my life. Amen.

READ I CORINTHIANS 1:20-25

SATURDAY  
AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY



**But when passions are aroused or sought,  
and as a result we perform evil acts, the  
evil lies in the decision to fuel them and in  
the evil acts that result.**

*Amoris Laetitia, 145*

Heavenly Father, sometimes I don't want to take responsibility for my poor choices. I protest and try to justify myself, blaming them on the people and the situations that surround me. I blame others for awakening strong feelings in me that move me to act. Sometimes I don't even feel in control of myself. But that's a lie. I can control where I go, what I do, with whom I associate. More importantly, I can decide to live for you and you alone. I ask you today, in prayer, to give me the grace to do this. Amen.

**READ ROMANS 7:4-6**

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

# *A Transforming Love*

[T]hrough immersion in water, baptism speaks to us of the incarnational structure of faith. Christ's work penetrates the depths of our being and transforms us radically, making us adopted children of God and sharers in the divine nature.

*Lumen Fidei*, 42

Heavenly Father, give me the grace to more fully live out the call of my baptism. Christ's baptism in the Jordan River revealed your sanctifying power through the use of ordinary things. I, too, a mere ordinary thing, have now become priest, prophet and king in Christ in service to all of those around me. As your grace in the sacrament continues to transform me from within, help me to respond to that grace in working toward the transformation of the world around me. Amen.

READ MARK I:9-II

MONDAY  
FIRST WEEK IN LENT



**Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love.**

*Lumen Fidei, 53*

Heavenly Father, give me the strength, I pray, to embrace the challenge of love! I want to come out of this Lent stronger in my relationship with you and more loving toward all the people you put into my life. In order to do that, I pray that you would increase my faith. Give me courage and a brave heart that goes out to meet those who need you. Guide me in the vocation to which you have called me. Help me to throw away fear and run toward your love! Amen.

**READ 2 THESSALONIANS I:II-12**

# POPE FRANCIS

# THE *joy* OF LENT



As the Vicar of Christ here on earth, Pope Francis has publicly expressed the wisdom, love and joy of the gospel throughout his papacy. Select excerpts from the pontiff are presented each day in *Pope Francis: The Joy of Lent*. Bring your spiritual life into a sharper focus with these daily inspirations along with prayers written by author Christopher Klofft.

While Lent is a time to walk more closely with the Lord and meditate upon his suffering, we are also called to a greater appreciation of the joy of the gospel. Allow yourself to be joyful as you prepare for the ultimate joy of the Easter season!

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#)

By Christopher Klofft. Cover image: M. MIGLIORATO/PPP/CIRIC. Design by Jeff McCall. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

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