





## LENT 2020 CALENDAR FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The **Missionary Childhood Association**, one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, is for young Missionary Disciples. The purpose of MCA is to promote daily prayer, sacrifice and sacrificial giving for the growth and sharing of each child's faith. MCA is the Church's official Charity for children's overseas missions, and its members help more than 4 million children worldwide each year. The MCA motto is *Children Helping Children*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Missionary Children, like this girl in Kenya, help other kids in need around the world through their prayers and sacrifices.</b></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Photo Nancy Wiechec CNS</p>			<p><b>February 26</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Ask God to bless your Lenten journey.</p> 	<p><b>27</b> Read about forgiveness: Matthew 18: 21-22. What does Jesus say?</p> 	<p><b>29 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and save an offering for MCA.</p> 	<p><b>29</b> Wake up early and help around the house!</p> 
<p><b>1 Go to Mass!</b> To prepare for Mass, read the Gospel for today, <b>Matthew 4: 1-11</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b> What are the Corporal &amp; Spiritual Works of Mercy? Discuss with your family how you can live them out.</p>	<p><b>3 Jesus loves you!</b> Find a way to share that love with someone today.</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of <b>Asia</b>.</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Pray a Hail Mary for children who cannot go to school. Make a donation for every classroom you enter today.</p>	<p><b>6 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Papua New Guinea.</p> 	<p><b>7</b> Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Start trying to break this habit during Lent.</p>
<p><b>8 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>Matthew 17:1-9</b></p> 	<p><b>9</b> Remember to give thanks for the food you eat and to pray for children who are hungry.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Europe</p> 	<p><b>12</b> Share with your family what you learned this week!</p> 	<p><b>13 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child living in a refugee camp.</p> 	<p><b>14</b> Help a friend study a subject that they find difficult.</p> 
<p><b>15 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>John 4: 5-42</b></p> 	<p><b>16</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of <b>Africa</b>.</p> 	<p><b>17</b> Say a prayer of thanks for your home.</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the <b>Pacific Islands</b>.</p> 	<p><b>19</b> Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Earthy Father of Jesus and Husband of Mary.</p>	<p><b>20 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Cuba.</p> 	<p><b>21</b> Reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. Have you maintained it?</p>
<p><b>22 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on Gospel, <b>John 9: 1-41</b></p> 	<p><b>23</b> Cheer up someone who is feeling sad.</p> 	<p><b>24</b> Read about the poor widow in <b>Luke 21:1-4</b>. What did she do?</p>	<p><b>25 Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b> Offer to help a brother, sister or friend with their chores. It's more fun to work together!</p>	<p><b>27 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat &amp; say a prayer for a child in Malawi.</p> 	<p><b>28</b> Think about decisions you made this week. What would you change if you could?</p>
<p><b>29 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>John 11: 1-45</b></p> 	<p><b>30</b> "Adopt" a child in the Missions &amp; give to MCA.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for kids in the <b>Americas</b>.</p> 	<p><b>April 1</b> Help out at home without being asked.</p> 	<p><b>2</b> Think of something you can do better and try to do it.</p>	<p><b>3 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Syria.</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Say a special prayer for loved ones who have died.</p>
<p><b>5 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Go to Mass!</b> Read &amp; Reflect <b>MT 26: 14-27: 66</b> or <b>27:11-54</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b> Don't watch TV tonight. Instead reflect on the week ahead. Put 25¢ in your Mission Bank for each show you skip.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pray three Hail Marys for all the Religious Sisters who work in the Missions.</p> 	<p><b>8</b> Help make a simple dinner for your family. Thank God together for all His gifts.</p>	<p><b>9 Holy Thursday</b> Jesus washes the disciples' feet; we must also serve others. Try to attend Mass tonight.</p>	<p><b>10 Good Friday</b> Pray the Stations of the Cross and reflect upon God's great love for us.</p> 	<p><b>11 Holy Saturday</b> Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p> 

## Missionary Disciples Lenten Prayer Service

Pictures are from Father Sean McLean, a Salesian of Don Bosco. He is one 30,000 Priests, Brothers, Sisters and novices serving in Mission countries around the World. Father Sean is pictured here serving at a school in South Africa. Remember during this prayer service, not only the children throughout the world that seek our help, but all who serve our Lord and work with those in need in different ways.

**LEADER/PRESIDER:** Today we gather in prayer to thank God for the gift of Jesus and for His great love for us. Jesus wants all children to hear when He speaks to our hearts about believing in Him, loving one another and sharing our blessings. And yet, there are children today who have never heard the “Good News” of Jesus. *What do you think Jesus calls you to do for them?*

*[short pause]*

Let us turn our hearts and our minds to Him in prayer and call to mind children in the Missions who suffer from poverty, neglect, violence or hunger, and ask God’s special blessing upon them. May we always respond with joy to Your Good News, Lord, live by Your example, and love others as You love us. **Amen**



### READING: Colossians 3:12-14

**Reader:** A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 17



**Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Reader:** A clean heart create for me, O God, And a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, And your Holy Spirit take not from me.

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Reader:** Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O, Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Closing Prayer LEADER/PRESIDER:** Lord Jesus, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross so that everyone could be saved. Send us Your Spirit so that we may reach out our arms in love to bring the Good News of You and Your salvation to children everywhere. **All: Amen.**

# 40 CROSSES

This Lent I will show my love for Jesus by doing something for Him each day. To show what I have done, I will color a cross each day to match one of the good deeds below.

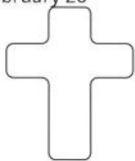
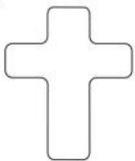
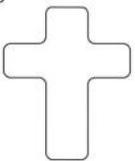
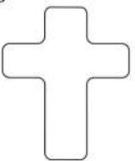
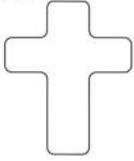
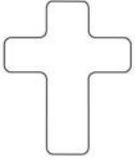
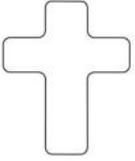
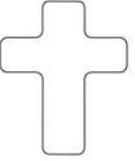
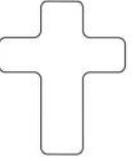
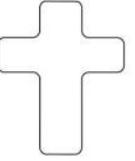
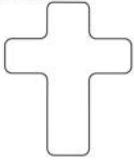
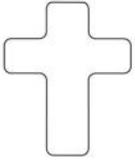
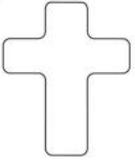
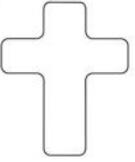
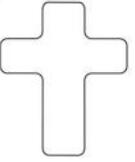
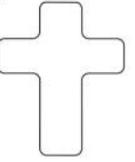
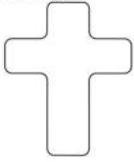
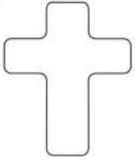
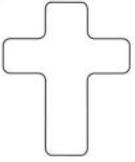
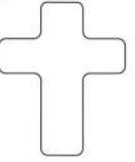
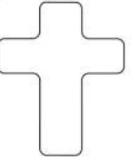
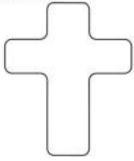
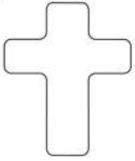
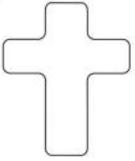
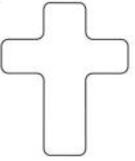
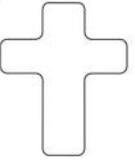
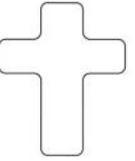
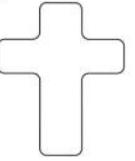
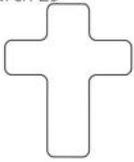
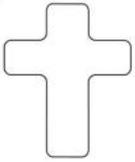
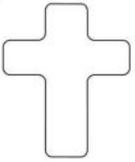
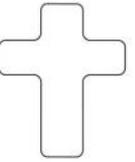
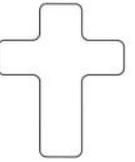
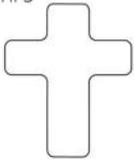
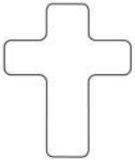
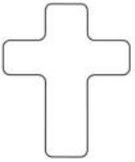
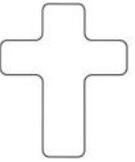
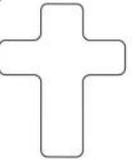
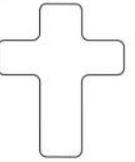
**PURPLE CROSS:** I prayed and made a sacrifice for the Missions

**BLUE CROSS:** I helped someone.

**YELLOW CROSS :** I said an extra prayer.

**GREEN CROSS:** I did something good that was hard for me to do.

**RED CROSS:** I did what I was supposed to do without being told.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			February 26 	27 	28 	29 
March 1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 
March 8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 
March 15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21 
March 22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 
March 29 	30 	31 	April 1 	2 	3 	4 
April 5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 

## Saint Vincent Ferrer

Saint Vincent Ferrer was a Valencian Dominican friar and preacher, who gained acclaim as a missionary and a logician. The difficulties and separation that the Church is dealing with today is nothing in comparison to the great divides that plagued our Church during the lifetime of this Saint. **If any Saint is a Patron of Reconciliation and bringing opposing sides together, it is Saint Vincent Ferrer.**

Despite opposition from his parents, he entered the Dominican order at the age of 19. A very bright student, Saint Vincent, was ordained a priest by Cardinal Peter De Luna, who would play a very important role in his life. With great passion and enthusiasm, Saint Vincent practiced his Dominican responsibilities, which included many hours of study, prayer and preaching. Because of his accomplishments, he was chosen prior of the Dominican House shortly after his ordination.



*The flame placed above St. Vincent's head in many pictures and statues represents his fervent preaching.*

**The Western Schism, or Papal Schism, was a split within the Roman Catholic Church that lasted from 1378 to 1417. During that time, three men simultaneously claimed to be the true Pope.** Driven by politics, rather than any theological disagreement, the schism was ended by the Council of Constance. But during this time, Saint Vincent who was in service to Cardinal De Luna, worked to persuade the Spanish people to follow Clement, one of the three Popes who was serving in France.

When Clement died, Cardinal De Luna was elected and became Benedict XIII.

Saint Vincent continued to work for Benedict XIII, even though he was stubborn and not favored among the people, or the King. Vincent became disillusioned and very ill, but finally took up the work of simply *“going through the world preaching Christ,”* though he felt that any renewal in the Church depended on healing the schism. **An eloquent and fiery preacher, he spent the last 20 years of his life spreading the “Good News” in Spain, France, Switzerland, the Low Countries and Lombardy, stressing the need of repentance and the fear of coming judgment. He became known as the “Angel of the Judgment.”**

Vincent tried unsuccessfully, in 1408 and 1415, to persuade his former friend, Benedict XIII, to resign. He finally concluded that Benedict XIII was not the true Pope. Though very ill, he mounted the pulpit before an assembly over which Benedict XIII himself was presiding, and thundered his denunciation of the man who had ordained him a priest. Benedict XIII fled for his life, abandoned by those who had formerly supported him. Strangely, Vincent had no part in the Council of Constance, which ended the schism.



**Birth:** January 23, 1350

**Death:** April 5, 1419

**Feast Day:** April 5th

**Canonized:** June 3, 1455

**Patronage:** Builders, Construction, Plumbers, Spanish Orphanages, Fishermen and Reconciliation

## Mission Focus: Children with Disabilities in the Mission Lands



Saint Katherine Day School (SKDS) is a special education school in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that serves students aged 4 to 21 years old, with an I.Q. below 70. The main campus, located in Wynnewood, offers a program for students with multiple impairments, as well as a life skills program, which includes functional academics. During **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**, students at



SKDS participated in a Mission Presentation, where they learned about the **World Mission Rosary**, and Catholic schools in Mission lands. It is a blessing to meet and speak with these students, and to see and appreciate the resources offered to them at this school.



*This is not always the case in the Missions, where acceptance is not always guaranteed and resources are limited.* Fortunately, **MCA** helps Missionaries who take care of children with disabilities in the Missions who need our help! **The Missionaries of the Incarnate Word minister to disabled in the many Mission countries.** Present in 40 countries, their most challenging Missions are in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Iraq, Palestine [Gaza], Papua New Guinea, Peru, Syria, Tajikistan,



Tanzania, and Ukraine. *Incarnate Word Missionaries* also take care of the elderly and the sick, provide homes for the poor and for abandoned children, manage schools and educational institutions in rural areas in developing countries and promote pastoral formation of Missionaries.



**MCA sacrifices can be used for the day-to-day support for Missionaries. They can help supply material goods, finish projects and to meet the basic needs in rural areas where Missionaries work. Children and elderly, sick and the poor, abandoned and disabled—ALL will benefit from YOUR SACRIFICES and FUNDS RAISED.** Your sacrifices help meet basic needs and bring the Word of Jesus to children where the Catholic faith may not exist at all.

**Will you sacrifice during Lent to help children with disabilities in Mission Lands?**

*Remember  
the Missions  
during Lent!*



Missionary Sisters carrying a cross in the Diocese of Kampala, Uganda



Stations of the Cross in the Mahobe Mission



Child praying the World Mission Rosary in Cambodia



Young boy sacrificing during Lent and giving at a Mass in Kenya

**Missionary children around  
the world make sacrifices,  
fast and observe the  
Stations of the Cross  
*just like we do!***

**This is Lent in Mission  
Lands—reflect on this  
through Easter.**

**Missionary Childhood Association·Philadelphia·[ww.phillymissions.org](http://ww.phillymissions.org)·215-587-3945**