

This past Year was Full of Unexpected Sacrifices...



**Now, in LENT, is it time,
to be like Missionaries and make *meaningful* sacrifices for Christ!**

Mission Resources for Lent

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Lent Mission Calendar [[Page 2](#)]
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- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner and update this corner each month [[Page 7](#)]

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

LENT 2021 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

































- † To “Live Lent in Mission” follow the *Resource for Youth and Young Adults: Keeping Lent in Focus* found [HERE](#) or on the secondary resource page at phillymissions.org/MCA. This resource is for young people ages 13-21, and provides a week to week journey through Lent.
- † Enjoy this [Missionary Stations of the Cross](#) on our Website. Compliments of the Archdiocese of Boston.
- † Include the Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for in a daily/weekly school announcement:
FEBRUARY: *We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.*
MARCH: *Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.*



LENT 2021 CALENDAR IN THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH 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>Missionary Children, like this girl in Kenya, help other kids in need around the world through their prayers and sacrifices.</p> <p>Photo Nancy Wiechec CNS</p>			<p>February 17 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Ask God to bless your Lenten journey.</p> 	<p>18 Read about forgiveness: Matthew 18: 21-22. What does Jesus say?</p> 	<p>19 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and save an offering for MCA.</p> 	<p>20 Wake up early and help around the house!</p> 
<p>21 Go to Mass!</p> <p>To prepare for Mass, read the Gospel for today, Mark 1: 12-15</p> 	<p>22 What are the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy? Discuss with your family how you can live them out.</p>	<p>23 Jesus loves you! Find a way to share that love with someone today.</p> 	<p>24 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Asia.</p> 	<p>25 Pray a Hail Mary for children who cannot go to school. Make a donation for every classroom you enter today.</p>	<p>26 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Papua New Guinea.</p> 	<p>27 Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Start trying to break this habit during Lent.</p>
<p>28 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, Mark 9: 2-10</p> 	<p>1 Remember to give thanks for the food you eat and to pray for children who are hungry.</p>	<p>2 Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p>3 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Europe</p> 	<p>4 Share with your family what you learned this week!</p> 	<p>5 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child living in a refugee camp.</p> 	<p>6 Help a friend study a subject that they find difficult.</p> 
<p>7 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, John 2: 13-25</p> 	<p>8 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Africa.</p> 	<p>9 Say a prayer of thanks for your home.</p> 	<p>10 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the Pacific Islands.</p> 	<p>11 Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Earthy Father of Jesus and Husband of Mary.</p>	<p>12 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Cuba.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. Have you maintained it?</p>
<p>14 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on Gospel, John 3: 14-21</p> 	<p>15 Cheer up someone who is feeling sad.</p> 	<p>16 Read about the poor widow in Luke 21:1-4. What did she do?</p>	<p>17 Saint Patrick's Day</p> <p>Pray to this Mission Saint to bring others to Jesus.</p> 	<p>18 Offer to help a brother, sister or friend with their chores. It's more fun to work together!</p>	<p>19 Sacrifice</p> <p>Feast of Saint Joseph Pray extra to him today.</p> 	<p>20 Think about decisions you made this week. What would you change if you could?</p>
<p>21 Go to Mass!</p> <p>Reflect on today's Gospel, John 12: 20-33</p> 	<p>22 "Adopt" a child in the Missions & give to MCA.</p>	<p>23 Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for kids in the Americas.</p> 	<p>24 Help out at home without being asked.</p> 	<p>25 Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord</p> 	<p>26 Sacrifice</p> <p>Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Syria.</p> 	<p>27 Say a special prayer for loved ones who have died.</p>
<p>28 Palm Sunday Go to Mass!</p> <p>Read & Reflect Mk 14: 1-15, 47</p> 	<p>29 Don't watch TV tonight. Instead reflect on the week ahead. Put 25¢ in your Mission Bank for each show you skip.</p>	<p>30 Pray three Hail Marys for all the Religious Sisters who work in the Missions.</p> 	<p>31 Help make a simple dinner for your family. Thank God together for all His gifts.</p>	<p>1 Holy Thursday</p> <p>Jesus washes the disciples' feet; we must also serve others. Try to attend Mass tonight.</p>	<p>2 Good Friday</p> <p>Pray the Stations of the Cross and reflect upon God's great love for us.</p> 	<p>3 Holy Saturday</p> <p>Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p> 

Virtual Resources and Mission Videos

Plan a Virtual Mission Experience for your CLASSROOM, PREP or SCHOOL.

Over the last year, the **Missionary Childhood Association** has been uploading videos and presentations that can be used in the classroom to promote Mission! Visit the channel to view and access the Missionary Animations below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC50uuJ5bhC9aj3-tiaCj8tA>



Virtual World Mission Rosary



Missionaries & their Stories

... like this one about Tanzania and the Holy Spirit Sisters



Virtual Mission Day

Mission Games and Activities
Mission Talk featuring Sister Lisa Valentini, SHJ



Mission Presentations

Special Invitation to Students from Archbishop Perez

Listen to the words of our Archbishop on the importance of being Missionary and encouraging everyone to be a part of MCA!

A Lenten Litany for a Humble Heart

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles *[unlit]*, a globe to represent the missions and a World Mission Rosary, which can be obtained from the **MCA** Office.

LEADER: A litany is a type a prayer. One person reads a list of prayers and the group responds with the same answer. Today, we will pray a **Lenten Litany for Ourselves and for Children in the Missions**. During Lent, we are asked to reflect on ways that we can live out our Catholic faith more fully. Every day, we are given opportunities to put others—and Jesus—first. To do so, we must ask for the grace to be humble.

READER 1: As we listen to God's word today, let us be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, "Do I live with a humble, peaceful heart?"

READER 2: A Reading from the Book of James

JAMES 3:13-18

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.
The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks Be to God.

Pause for silent reflection

READER 1: In this Lenten Litany, we pray for ourselves and for all the children of the world whose lives we touch through our membership in the Missionary Childhood Association.

READER 2: As we pray for ourselves, our response is:

ALL: *Remind me to be humble, Lord Jesus.*

READER 1: When I desire to always be first.

ALL: *Remind me to be humble, Lord Jesus.*

READER 2: When I feel the need to be preferred over others.

ALL: *Remind me to be humble, Lord Jesus.*



READER 1: When I have fear of making public mistakes.

ALL: *Remind me to be humble, Lord Jesus.*

Reader 2: When I fear being ridiculed by others.

ALL: *Remind me to be humble, Lord Jesus.*

READER 1: As we pray for children in the Missions, our response is:

ALL: *Give me a humble heart, Lord Jesus.*

Reader 2: That I may put the needs of others before my own.

ALL: *Give me a humble heart, Lord Jesus.*

Reader 1: That by living a holier life I may bring others to holiness.

ALL: *Give me a humble heart, Lord Jesus.*

Reader 2: That I may remember daily to pray and sacrifice for children in the missions

ALL: *Give me a humble heart, Lord Jesus.*

LEADER: Lord Jesus, as Missionary Disciples, You call us to a life of humble service to others. We can learn this by following Your example. This Lent, we pray that we put aside our own self interests and develop a habit of putting the needs of others first—even those who live so far away that we may never meet them. We know they are your children, too. Bless us all as we grow in Your humble love.

ALL: *Amen.*

Crown of Thorns Activity

A great Lent and Mission activity, that is *so inexpensive and easy* to make, you can make them with your whole classroom! *[They're also great for at home, but easy enough for a classroom environment]*

HOW IT WORKS: Every child makes the Crown of Thorns and take it home at the beginning of Lent.

Each time that child does a good deed or makes a sacrifice during Lent, they may remove a thorn from the crown to help Jesus! **Students can remove TWO thorns if they make a special sacrifice for the Missions.**

What you will need:

- Cheap Play-Doh [red, yellow, blue]
- Toothpicks (cut in half)
- Small paper plates

Instructions are simple!

After mixing the Play-Doh to make a brown color, distribute to the children, with 40 half pieces of tooth picks and a paper plate. Let each student get creative in creating their thorns. Allow each student to take their crown home and don't forget to make one for your classroom.



Need a bit of inspiration on what to give up for Lent?



Here are some ideas:

- † Delectable treats: candy, chocolate, coffee, dessert or another special treat you have regularly
- † Limit or cut screen time *[TV, computer, iPad, notebooks, etc.]*
- † Limit or cut out social media
- † Give up a favorite toy or stuffed animal
- † Bad habits *[complaining, fighting, raising your voice in anger, not listening, etc.]*

SACRIFICE THIS LENT, Give up something you love and give to **MCA** to help children in **Mission Lands!**

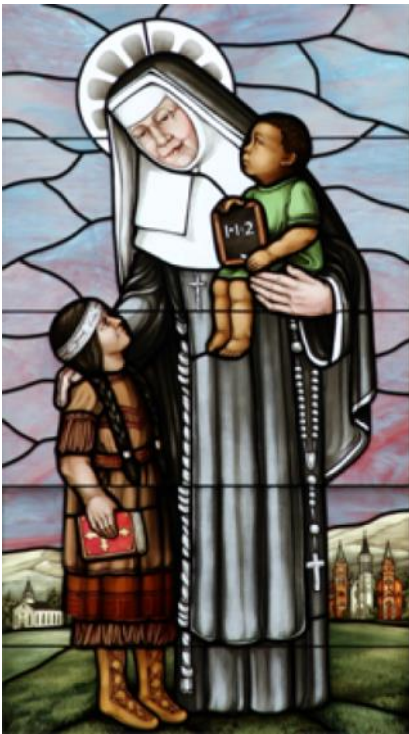
Mission Saint: Lent

Saint Katharine Drexel

Our own Philadelphia Mission Saint

Francis Drexel, Katharine's father, was a wealthy Philadelphia banker, gave generously to charity. Francis' wife, Emma Bouvier, opened their home three times a week to give food and clothes to the poor. Their daughter, Katharine was formed by this example.

In her travels to America West, Katharine saw the squalor and poverty of the Native American reservations. After her father's death in 1885, she used her inheritance to fund schools for the native people.



In 1887, Katharine went to visit Pope Leo XIII to beg for Missionaries that could help reawaken the desire of her youth and the native people she wanted to help. The Pope looked at Katharine and said, *"Why don't you go to them yourself?"* and become a Missionary? Katharine took his words to heart.

Katharine began her work knowing that her strength was in the Eucharist. She wished to share the love of Christ through her missions. Schools were a priority.

In 1894, Mother Katharine took part in opening the first Mission boarding school called Saint Katherine's Indian School, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 1897, Katharine asked the Friars of St. John the Baptist Province of the Order of Friars Minor to help staff a Mission for the Navajos in Arizona and New Mexico, and she would help finance their work with the Pueblo Native Americans.

By the time of her death, she had more than 500 Sisters teaching in **63 Schools** throughout the country and she established **50 Missions** for Native Americans in 16 different states.



Feast Day: March 3

Patron of: Racial
Justice and
Philanthropists

Birth: November 26,
1858

Death: March 3, 1955

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing." -Saint Katharine Drexel



Mission Focus: Zimbabwe

Sacrifice for the people of Zimbabwe this Lenten Season

Children in Zimbabwe, in Southern Africa, are just like *you*! They go to school, have chores, like to make new friend . . . but they and their families, unfortunately, have big issues that make their life hard.

People in Zimbabwe, deal with water scarcity and easily get cholera and other waterborne diseases. They also have a high rate of HIV/AIDS infections—almost 15% of the population is known to have the virus. AND most families living in Zimbabweans, especially those in the rural areas, cannot afford health care—three quarters of them living on about **\$3 per day for all their needs**.

All of these sobering facts, and many others, have Zimbabweans fleeing from their country in record numbers . . . millions of people have left. This has led to a “*brain drain*” in the society as most of the people who can afford to leave the country were the best educated.

At last report, MCA members worldwide donated **\$235,000** to build new classrooms at schools, drill for clean water, stock feeding programs, furnish schools and early education centers, and more.

At the same time, MCA members of Zimbabwe sacrificed **\$3,000** from what little they have to their brothers and sisters in need around the world.

While a majority of the country’s population is Christian, only about 7.3% of the people of Zimbabwe are Roman Catholic. *Of course*, this matters little to the Catholic Missionary Sisters supported by the **Missionary Childhood Association [MCA]** as they serve all children, especially those considered to be “*differently abled*”.

Missionary Sisters, like the Sisters of the Infant Jesus [SJI], are hard at work to “*bring Christ to the people*” in their own language. The SJI Sisters first began as teachers and nurses, says their first work was They soon saw the need for pastoral work among girls who had left school very young to be wives

and mothers. These girls had no skills, educationally or vocationally. Sister Theresa Camillo, SJI, says, “*Initially, we began hosting evening meetings—clubs—to teach these young women homemaking skills, like knitting, sewing, and embroidering. Soon these women were teaching their artistry to their own children, helping to uplift the status and provide a vocation for the local girls.*”

The women and girls were also able to earn extra money to support their families by selling their creations. The Sisters now also run a home for mentally challenged children called the **Alfred Walters Hostel**. These children, who have no family to care for them, depend on the Sisters for their spiritual, emotional, and physical care.



MCA members deliver their gifts to the Hostel.



Recently, Missionary Childhood Association members from the local parish of Saint John made donations to help children like those in the hostels of Zimbabwe. If children in Mission lands can make sacrifices for those that need help, can you and your family here in Philadelphia do that too? Especially during Lent?

Remember the Missions during Lent!

Lent Missionary Prayer
Jesus, help me during this
time of Lent to be your
Missionary.

**I offer my prayers and love to
all those who are in the
Missions.**

**I want to deepen my
relationship with you. Help
me to reflect on the things I
may do that hurt you, my
neighbors, my friends and
others.**

**Help me to thank you and see
You in everything and every
person I encounter in during
the day. *Amen.***



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



Young boy in MCA sacrificing during Lent & giving at a Mass in Kenya.

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

**This is Lent through Easter—
reflect and pray for children
like you in Mission Lands.**