

# School-wide Lenten Activities



## Grades PK-8

✝ All children participate in Stations of the Cross Classroom Services.

## Grades K-8:

✝ Works of charity and promotion of social justice are key elements of the Catholic Christian approach to life. As part of our Lenten observance, we have chosen to focus our almsgiving efforts on the Pennies for Peace campaign. *"Pennies for Peace"* is a service-learning program designed to broaden our students' cultural horizons while teaching them about their capacities as a philanthropist – one penny at a time. We felt that this was a fitting way for the students to demonstrate care for those in need as well as express their gratitude for all that God has given them.

✝ Children participate in Stations of the Cross formal services including a particularly touching rendition from the viewpoint of the Blessed Mother. We thank Miss Plank for sharing this.

## Pre-K:

✝ Our children listen to stories and sing songs about Jesus' life. We create palm fronds and crosses and focus on prayer and Jesus' message of forgiveness. They are introduced to stations using Benjamin's Box and Resurrection Eggs.

## Grade 1:

✝ In first grade, we took the three ideas of Lent: Prayer, Sacrifice, and Alms Giving and printed them on egg shapes. Each week we pick one egg/idea to color/live. We added an extra egg shape for Ash Wednesday.

✝ M. Plank's class has a special Lenten Prayer Table with Lent Cards. Each day they read a new card and follow the directions i.e. give extra hugs today, set the dinner table today, go to bed with no fuss when told, share a smile today, etc.

✝ In Holy Week the "Big Kids" make each child in first grade their own set of Easter Story Eggs. They use five or six plastic eggs and fill them with objects (rock - for stone at the cave, coin for the selling of Jesus ....). The "Big Kids" tell the story using the eggs and first graders repeat the story to them.



## Grade 2:

✝ After several experiences with the Stations of the Cross, students write a journal reflection about what they would have done/felt/said if they were there watching Jesus. The students are also drawing the Stations of the Cross after discussing the events that occurred during Christ's passion.

✝ Pennies for Peace this year—the children are encouraged to *earn* their pennies so that it is truly the student giving alms.

✝ Silent pack up/hush pack up--during pack up time we save time by not talking to our friends, etc. We use that extra time at the end of the day to pray for personal or group intentions.

### Grade 3:

✝ Pretzel Prayers. Third grade is partnering with Miss Veltre's fourth grade class to talk about pretzels and the meaning behind them. We will write our own Lenten prayers and share.

**The secret of making great pretzels is not only in the baking but also in the shaping. We, like pretzels, are made from the best ingredients, by the best hands available, the hands of our Father in Heaven.**

✝ Third grade will also complete a Triduum puzzle which incorporates reading Bible passages to more truly understand the Good Friday/Crucifixion/burial and the Easter Resurrection of Jesus.

### Grade 4:

✝ Lenten Journals: Bible verses are read, followed by time for reflection and prayer. The students then create written record of the experiences.

✝ Lenten Promises: The students combine art, reflection and literacy skills to create formally written promises accompanied by Lenten Cross art work.



### Grade 5:

✝ During the Lenten season, self assessment and reflection on improving our path to Jesus is a strong focus for Fifth graders. They develop daily journal entries based on intentions to be better stewards of our faith and daily gifts.

### Grade 6:

✝ Living Stations: The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have the opportunity to portray the Way of the Cross in costume as narrated by student readers. Miss Best directs the creation of the tableau scenes. Family members and friends are welcome to share in this service.

**Grade 7:**

✝ This class has chosen to focus almsgiving efforts on the Pennies for Peace campaign. They also initiated this campaign throughout the school. We thank them for researching this worthy Lenten appeal.

✝ The students also create their own special stations through art, music, and prayer that they use to celebrate as a class during Holy Week.

**Grades 6-8:**

✝ Middle School plans "Hush" days... starting with Hush Fridays and increasing days as we get closer to Holy Week. This means that our students should be quiet in the hallways, stairs, and in the cafeteria.

✝ **Grade 8:**

Along with all other activities, eighth grade researches the history and symbolism of crosses used throughout the centuries.

*.....these are just a sampling of the many varied activities designed to bring Catholic Lenten awareness into the daily lives of the children at Queen of Angels School.....*

