

# Tips for Lenten Stewardship

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Webinar Series  
Presented by Katie Price



# Agenda

I. Introductions

II. Thank You to Give Central

III. Relating Lent and Stewardship

IV. Common Lenten Stewardship Themes and Language

V. Stewardship Ideas and Tools

VI. Articles and Resources

# Introduction to Webinar Series

Thank you Give Central!

## Common Practices

# Fasting

# Almsgiving

# Prayer

### Fasting

- Physical hunger reminds us of our hunger for God, our faith
- Lent is a time people know, regardless how active they are, they are typically aware of “fasting”
- Act of reflecting on the materials goods, foods, physical items we have that control or may cause us to deviate away from the person God wants us to be

### Almsgiving

- Most commonly related to stewardship, as the act of being charitable or giving to those less fortunate
- Could be switched with the word “stewardship” today, in a sense the words are similar- giving outward what we have as gifts from God

### Prayer

- Out of all the practices, this could create a foundation for stewards in the Parish
- People looking for a sacred and safe experience, be that for them during Lent

## Lent and Stewardship

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.”

~Pope Francis

Traditional Practices-->

Prayer

Almsgiving

Fasting

Stewardship of Time and Talent--> Prayer, Fasting

Relating actions, withdrawal, response

Relating time set aside individually, or as a Parish

Looking inward, reflecting, and acting physically

Stewardship of Treasure--> Almsgiving

Recognizing abundance vs. scarcity

Catholic Missions/Ministries

Giving up vs. Giving Out

Spring or Easter Appeals

# Common Lenten Stewardship Themes and Language

## Themes

Exercising the Heart: Stewarding Lent

Stewarding Lent: Praying, Almsgiving, Fasting

40 Acts of Lenten Stewardship

Awakening Stewardship this Lent

\*Email me for graphics- see example in docs

## Language

Commonly, returners to the Church might have forgotten what Lent is about, so your stewardship theme needs to be general, non-intimidating

Using numbers or common language terminology, is easy on the eye, easy to follow and you could create a sense of coming back for more

Try to relate your stewardship theme, to the general Lenten theme for the Parish, if you have one

# Stewardship 3.0 Lenten Tips

## Passionate about Sundays

During Lent, try to find additional opportunities to be open for prayer, extend small group opportunities, or add in adoration/praying the rosary before or after Mass

## Radically Obsessed with Invitation and Participation

You will notice increasing numbers, be hospitable, make sure ushers are greeters or someone is designated as a greeter  
Highlight the participation of individuals in the bulletin and website during Lent, many coming might not know of opportunities that are not being highlighted in the bulletin at that time

## Forming Leadership Disciples

Lent is a great time to ask people to discern their ability to lead a ministry in the Parish  
Make sure there are programs at your Parish or neighboring Parishes that highlight Lenten learning

# Stewardship Ideas

## Stewardship of Thanks

Write notes to RCIA Candidates from staff, welcome committee, Parish Council etc.

Write one-thank you, handwritten per week to one of your larger Offertory Givers

## Stewardship of Prayer

### Lenten Stewardship Reflection Graphics

Ask me for samples, or send a picture and quote

Share in bulletin or website, as an image to reflect on in prayer during the week

### Learn about your Parish Saint

Saintly Stewardship- post about him each week during Lent

Introduction in Bulletin piece

## Stewardship of Service

Highlight a testimonial each week of someone offering their talents/time to the Parish

Share with the Parish the ministries supported throughout the year- "Giving Out & Giving Up"

# Stewardship Ideas Continued...

## Lenten Community Stewardship Prayer Cards

Similar to Giving Tree Concept, however someone writes a “challenge” on the card for someone else to pick up and do

People can fill out prayer card before/after mass for and place back in basket

Cards would look like attached doc

## Don't Give Up, Give Out

This campaign/theme would draw on the idea that we should be considering not just giving up food, drinks, etc. but that we have an opportunity during Lent to participate in sacrificial giving

Each week would highlight a particular ministry in need: crayons, paper, \$ for service trip, etc.

# Best Practices for a Spring Appeal

- Many Parishes not comfortable asking during Lent, however a spring appeal can be tastefully added to a post- Easter message or Easter card
- Try Video- phones horizontal please!
- If pre-Easter, don't forget to invite and list the Triduum times, Easter Sunday times
- Consider highlighting an RCIA candidates journey- many willing to participate and become Parishioners, let them share what inspires them to be Catholic
- Keep the ask small, soft, and appropriate
- Consider segmenting the appeal- send via email to the addresses you have vs. mail for the non-email Parishioners



# Articles and Resources

Lent Comes to “Reawaken Us”- <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2014/03/06/lent-comes-to-reawaken-us-pope-francis/>

Lenten Observance Data- <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/09/02/chapter-2-participation-in-catholic-rites-and-observances/>

Catholic Apps for Your Lenten Journey- <http://www.catholicdigest.com/articles/faith/lent/2014/03-03/catholic-apps-for-your-lenten-journey>

Ash Wednesday and Lent in Two Minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3L3c23MfC0&feature=youtu.be>

Pope Francis’ Message for Lent 2017- <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2017/02/07/full-text-pope-francis-message-for-lent-2017/>

Pinterest- Lenten Ideas, Recipes, and Graphics-

[https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Lent&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=Lent%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Lent&rs=typed&term_meta[]=Lent%7Ctyped)

# Easter is highest

In 2013, the highest share of searches for “church” are on the week of Easter Sunday, followed by the week of Christmas and the week of Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/18/when-easter-and-christmas-near-more-americans-search-online-for-church/>

# Top 3 Lenten Notes

1. Add New Parishioner forms to vestibule, bulletin, anywhere!
2. Make sure giving options mentioned in bulletin...online, cash, guest envelopes...
3. Make sure you THANK people!

Let's ask questions!