

## LENT2015

The Lenten season is all about opportunity and flourishing. Can you think of a time where something was holding you back from the next big thing and you had to get rid of it this block somehow in order to get to it?

Well, Lent is the perfect time where we see that rock or obstacle keeping us back from living our life in a way that is true, good, and beautiful, and we face it and overcome it.

This journal provides space for you to take notes each day, as well as reflect on how God is leading you into the desert and calling you by name. What are you struggling with? How do you feel God is speaking to you?

We are excited to have you join us for this journey, and may Our Lady give you grace and guidance!



## Introduction to Lent

"Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life . . ."

[ James 1:12 ]

READINGS: James 1:12-15

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## DAY 2 Freedom to Love

"Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."

[ James 1:14 ]

READINGS: James 1:14

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## DAY 3 Resisting Temptation

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights . . ."

[ Matthew 4:1-2 ]

READINGS: Matthew 4:1-11

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## DAY 4

## Authenticity in Christ

"I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations . . . "

[ Isaiah 42:6 ]

READINGS: Isaiah 42:6-9

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# DAY 5 Standing on Truth

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

[ Matthew 11:28 ]

READINGS: Proverbs 3:4-5 | Isaiah 42:6 | Isaiah 43:1 | Isaiah 43:4 | Isaiah 43:25 | Matthew 5:6 | Matthew 11:28 | Matthew 24:4-5 | Luke 1:45

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## DAY 6

## Responding to God's Call

"The Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'"

[ 1 Samuel 3: 10 ]

READINGS: 1 Samuel 3: 1-19

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## DAYT Are You Comfortable?

"Remember your word to your servant by which you give me hope. This is my comfort in affliction, your promise that gives me life."

[ Psalm 119:49-51 ]

READINGS: Psalm 119:49-51

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# DAY 8 Sacrificial Love

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears in not yet perfect in love."

[ 1 John 4:18 ]

READINGS: Leviticus 19:18 | John 3:16 | John 15:13 | Romans 5:8 | 1 John 3:16 | 1John 4:18

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## THE DESERT

## DAY 9 Stranded

"Who stops wars to the ends of the earth, breaks the bow, splinters the spear, and burns the shields with fire . . . "

[ Psalm 46:10 ]

READINGS: Psalm 46:10

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## DAY 10 Bloom

"Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient."

[ Philippians 4:11 ]

READINGS: Philippians 4:11

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## Water

"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst."

[ John 4:13-14 ]

READINGS: John 4:7-15

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# DAY 12 Wait

"Some time after these events, God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Ready!' he replied."

[ Genesis 22:1 ]

READINGS: Genesis 22:1-19 | Exodus 3 | Matthew 4:1-11

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## DAY 13 Test

"But it is idle to say God does not hear or that the Almighty does not take notice. Even though you say that you see him not, the case is before him; with trembling should you wait upon him."

[ Job 35:13-14 ]

READINGS: The entire book of Job | Matthew 4:1-11

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"Yet he knows my way; if he proved me, I should come forth as gold. My foot has always walked in his steps; his way I have not turned aside."

[ Job 23:10-11 ]

READINGS: The entire book of Job

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## DAY 15 Humility

#### "Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you."

[ James 4:10 ]

READINGS: Genesis 22:1-19 | Job 1:21 | Matthew 24:35 | James 4:10 | 1 John 2:17

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## **DAY 16** Build

"Whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart . . . it shall be done for him."

[ Mark 11:23 ]

READINGS: Exodus 3 | Mark 11:23

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## A Heart of Gratitude

"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

[ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ]

READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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# **DAY 18** Cultivating Love

#### "Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

[ Colossians 4:2 ]

READINGS: Colossians 4:2 | Philippians 4:6

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## Gratitude in the Desert

"How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me?"

[ Psalm 13:2 ]

READINGS: Psalm 13

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## Gratitude in the Ordinary

"Keep me safe, O God; in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, you are my Lord, you are my only good."

[ Psalm 16:1-2 ]

READINGS: Psalm 16

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## Gratitude for the Journey

"Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness; in your abundant compassion blot out my offense."

[ Psalm 51:3 ]

READINGS: Psalm 51

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# **DAY 22** Gratitude in Suffering

"Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."

[ 2 Corinthians 4:16 ]

READINGS: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

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## Gratitude without Control

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing."

[ Luke 12:22-23 ]

READINGS: Psalms 46:10 | Jeremiah 29:11-13 | Luke 12:22-32

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## Gratitude in Imperfection

"But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

[ Romans 5:8 ]

READINGS: Romans 5:6-8

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## Kindness, Indulgence, or Mercy?

"The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness."

[ Lamentations 3:22-23 ]

READINGS: Lamentations 1-3 | The Problem of Pain

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# DAY 26 In the Silence of the Heart

"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

[ Colossians 3:3 ]

READINGS: Hosea 2:16 | Colossians 3:3-4 | Imitation of Mary | In the Silence of the Heart

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# DAY 27 Confession

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control."

[ 2 Timothy 1:7 ]

READINGS: Proverbs 18:2 | 2 Timothy 1:7 | Hebrews 9 | Imitation of Mary

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# DAY 28 Denzel Washington vs. St. Faustina

"It is God who governs the world with justice, who judges the peoples with fairness."

[ Psalms 9:9 ]

READINGS: Psalms 9: 8-10 | Psalms 84:11 | Isaiah 54:10 | Jeremiah 31:3

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# **DAY 29** Talk is Cheap . . . and Boring

"Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

[ Matthew 25:45 ]

READINGS: Matthew 25:41-46

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## Autobiography of Love

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her."

[ Ephesians 5:25 ]

READINGS: Ephesians 5:25-30 | A Severe Mercy

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## Calvary: No Glory without the Cross

"He surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses."

[ Isaiah 53:12 ]

READINGS: Isaiah 53 | Luke 23:34 | Catechism of the Catholic Church

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# DAY 32 The Hope of Heaven

"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him."

[ 1 Corinthians 2:9 ]

READINGS: Psalm 16 | Luke 23: 42-43 | 1 Corinthians 2:9 | Catechism of the Catholic Church

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# **DAY 33** Lamb of God

"Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care."

[ Isaiah 48:11 ]

READINGS: Isaiah 40:11 | 1 Peter 1:19

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## **DAY 34** Behold the Lamb (pt. 1)

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

[ John 1:29 ]

READINGS: Leviticus 4:32-35 | John 1:29

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## **DAY 35**

## Behold the Lamb (pt. 2)

"Thus the priest shall make atonement on the person's behalf for the wrong committed, that the individual may be forgiven."

[ Leviticus 4:35 ]

READINGS: Leviticus 4:32-35 | John 1:29

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## **DAY 36** The Lamb Who Takes Our Place

"Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter . . . he was silent."

[ Isaiah 53:7 ]

READINGS: Isaiah 53

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## **DAY 37** The Lamb Who Redeems

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a random for many."

[ Mark 10:45 ]

READINGS: Mark 10: 44-45 | 1 Peter 1:18-19

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# DAY 38 The Passover Lamb

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day."

[ John 6:54 ]

READINGS: Exodus 12: 3-14 | Matthew 26:26-30 | Mark 14: 12-16 | John 6:54 | 1 Corinthians 5:7

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## DAY 39: GOOD FRIDAY

### Retreat Day

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.'"

[ John 19:26-27 ]

READINGS: John 19 YOUR THOUGHTS

## **DAY 40** The Triumphant Lamb

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing."

[ Revelation 5:12 ]

READINGS: Revelation 5:1-14 | Revelation 19:5-10

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