



Since 2006, the Immigration Ministry has provided a Lenten calendar asking all Catholics to accompany immigrants on their journey for justice. This year, please pray, fast and act in support of integrating the immigrants and refugees searching for safety and instead find denial and detention.

PRAY

We pray to you, God the Father of all peoples,
You who called your chosen ones out of Egypt,
And guided them through the desert with bread from heaven.
Protect the migrant families who are coming to this nation with your mercy.
You gave to us your only Son, Jesus the refugee,
Who preferred the way of the cross above all else,
And rose from the tomb, transcending death.
Bring new spiritual life to the migrants on their journey.
With Him, you sent the Holy Spirit to accompany
Us, your children, throughout the whole world,
To proclaim justice and mercy for sinners.
Help us every day to welcome those whom you send as missionaries. Amen.

FAST

On Fridays during Lent, abstain from meat and eat one simple meal of rice and beans to commemorate Christ's fasting in the wilderness and to empathize with the immigrants coming to our country "hungry" for a better and dignified life.

ACT

During Lent, serve migrant and refugee families at the border and in detention by giving or volunteering to one of the Catholic respite centers on the border such as Annunciation house in El Paso, Texas (annunciationhouse.org), Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona (kinoborderinitiative.org) or volunteer remotely with data entry at American Immigrant Lawyers Association (aila.org).



IMMIGRATION MINISTRY

LENTEN CALENDAR | 2020



<p>The Immigration Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites everyone — individuals, classrooms and parishes — to use this calendar during the Lenten season to nourish a deeper compassion and a lived spirituality of following Christ in these difficult times. Let us be challenged to see the face of Christ in all those we call a stranger, to see the suffering of Christ in immigrants and refugees and to work toward comprehensive immigration reform that will preserve human dignity and preserve families.</p>			<p>February Wednesday 26 Ash Wednesday. Begin this Lent with ashes and fasting to lament the devastation of sin, personal and social, that causes the alienation of immigrants. “Rend your hearts, not your garments.” [See Jl. 2:12 - 18]</p>	<p>February Thursday 27 In accepting the cross, Jesus suffers in solidarity with the immigrant community and all humanity. Offer up your discomforts today in union with them.</p>	<p>February Friday 28* “This rather is the fasting that I wish... sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed.” [See Is. 58:1 - 9a] Join in prayer for detained immigrants.</p>	<p>February Saturday 29 “I have not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners.” [See Lk. 5:27 - 32] Consider that to eliminate the injustices oppressing immigrants, we must first eliminate the injustice in our own hearts.</p>
<p>March Sunday 1 First Sunday of Lent. The desert journey happens today for immigrants searching for a better life. How can we remove the “Satan” challenges they face and welcome them? [See Mt. 4:1]</p>	<p>March Monday 2 “Lord when did we see you a stranger and welcome you?” [See Mt. 25:31 - 46] Encourage your pastor to recognize newly arrived families at Mass, give them a welcome basket and follow up to ensure they are well provided for.</p>	<p>March Tuesday 3 “If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” [See Mt. 6:7 - 15] Reflect how you can forgive those with whom you disagree or have offended on immigration issues.</p>	<p>March Wednesday 4 Like Jonah, the immigrant community is sent to preach repentance to a people who have lost their way. [See Jnh. 3:1 - 10] Reflect how immigrants are missionaries to this country.</p>	<p>March Thursday 5 Queen Esther bravely advocated for her oppressed people in a hostile land and won their protection. [See Est. C: 12, 14 - 16, 23-25] Visit your legislators to support comprehensive immigration reform.</p>	<p>March Friday 6* “Go first and be reconciled with your brother.” [See Mt. 5:20 - 26] Reflect on the need for reconciliation between immigrants and non-immigrants in this country.</p>	<p>March Saturday 7 When the laws of man do not reflect God's law, we are called to action. Write to your government representatives, urging them to support comprehensive immigration reform. [See Mt. 5:43 - 48]</p>
<p>March Sunday 8 Second Sunday of Lent. “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.” [See Gn. 12:1] God calls us to move and search. May our welcoming actions lead our country to be transformed.</p>	<p>March Monday 9 “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” [See Lk. 6:36] Mercy is more than forgiveness. Mercy is knowing the needs of others and meeting those needs. Be merciful today to an immigrant in need.</p>	<p>March Tuesday 10 “Make justice... redress... hear... defend.” [See Is. 1:17] God's call is clear — change the injustices heaped upon immigrants! Make a donation to the Immigration Ministry to support direct aid to the immigrant.</p>	<p>March Wednesday 11 [See Mt. 20: 17 - 28] Be careful of what you wish for! Be humble and servant to those in need. Take time to pray and ask God what you can do to serve the immigrant.</p>	<p>March Thursday 12 [See Lk. 16: 19 - 21] How can we persuade those who treat the immigrant with disdain to recognize the evil of their actions before it's too late? Through our actions of love and dialogue in peace.</p>	<p>March Friday 13* “Finally, he sent his son... They will respect my son.” [See Mt. 21:37] God's children are not respected, but forced to languish outside our country. Visit: hopeborder.org.</p>	<p>March Saturday 14 “We must welcome the immigrant as the Father welcomes the Prodigal Son.” [See Lk. 15:11 - 32] Must we also embrace those who speak against immigrants as the forgotten brother? Can our love open their eyes?</p>
<p>March Sunday 15 Third Sunday of Lent. “Is the Lord in our midst or not?” [See Ex. 17:7] This is the cry of the immigrants seeking asylum. It is also the cry of those working for immigrant justice. Pray for the hearts of ICE, CBP and our readers to no longer be hardened.</p>	<p>March Monday 16 How clear God's call is... and yet many look away or do not believe. They grow in anger and fear. Educate yourself and your community on immigration issues by having a guest speaker from the Immigration Ministry.</p>	<p>March Tuesday 17 St. Patrick's Day. We are here because of our immigrant ancestors. Now many deny welcome to today's immigrants, similar to the ungrateful servant. [See Mt. 18:21 -35] Pray that God opens their eyes.</p>	<p>March Wednesday 18 [See Mt. 5:17 - 19] Jesus came to fulfill the law. Work for legislation that embodies Catholic social teaching and basic human rights. Visit cliniclegal.org.</p>	<p>March Thursday 19 St. Joseph's Day. [See Rom. 4:13] The righteousness of you who serve the immigrant will bring God's promise that all will be just. Do not lose hope! Watch “Living Undocumented” on Netflix to learn about unending hope.</p>	<p>March Friday 20* Pray the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary for the Dreamers who live in fear and painful uncertainty due to their status.</p>	<p>March Saturday 21 “The one who humbles himself will be exalted.” [See Lk. 18:14] Learn about the difficult path immigrants take. Explore Pope Francis' #sharethejourney in social media.</p>
<p>March Sunday 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent. “Live as children of Light...” [See Eph. 5:8 - 14] Stand firm in your faith that justice will prevail. Your actions are a light to the world.</p>	<p>March Monday 23 “A royal official, hearing that Jesus had come to Galilee, begged him to heal his son who lay ill in Capernaum.” [See Jn. 4, 43 - 54]. Pray for the health and mental well-being of immigrants in these stressful times.</p>	<p>March Tuesday 24 “The man who cured me told me to pick up my sleeping mat and go in peace.” [Lee Jn. 5, 1 - 16] Thank God for his healing hand in the lives of many immigrants.</p>	<p>March Wednesday 25 Annunciation. “May it be done to me according to your word.” [See Lk. 1:36 - 38] Reflect on your own journey and recognize God's hand in it. Pray for the immigrants making their journeys.</p>	<p>March Thursday 26 “With Jesus before them, it was still hard to believe.” [See Jn. 5:31 - 47] Receive the sacrament of reconciliation and do penance for those who abuse immigrants seeking asylum.</p>	<p>March Friday 27* “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.” [See Ps. 34:19] Pray a rosary for the families of detained immigrants.</p>	<p>March Saturday 28 “Let the malice of the wicked come to an end.” [See Ps. 7:8]. How will you turn malice against immigrants into a calling?</p>
<p>March Sunday 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent. Station 1: Jesus is condemned. Learn the push and pull factors of immigration and why many immigrants decide to come to this country.</p>	<p>March Monday 30 Station 2: Jesus accepts his cross. Pray for those immigrants who have recently left home in search of a better life.</p>	<p>March Tuesday 31 Station 3: Jesus falls the first time. Pray for the families of immigrants who continue to suffer violence and instability in their countries of origin.</p>	<p>April Wednesday 1 Station 4: Jesus meets his grieving mother. Learn the stories of immigrants in your community and share in the grief of the Church for her sons and daughters.</p> <p>APRIL</p>	<p>April Thursday 2 Station 5: Simon helps Jesus carry the cross. Consider becoming an Immigration Parish Coordinator (IPC) or PM Agent to support your local immigrant community. Contact the Immigration Ministry for more info.</p>	<p>April Friday 3* Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. Visit a detention center to pray for and accompany detained immigrants.</p>	<p>April Saturday 4 Station 7: Jesus falls the second time. Pray for the immigrants who have arrived in this country, only to be confronted with discrimination and hardship.</p>
<p>April Sunday 5 Palm Sunday. Reflect on the presence of Christ among the immigrants searching for safety and asylum. Pray that they be welcomed with dignity.</p>	<p>April Monday 6 Station 8: Jesus comforts the women. Pray for all mothers, fathers and children who have been separated from each other at the border.</p>	<p>April Tuesday 7 Station 9: Jesus falls a third time. Reflect on the endurance of immigrants despite how many times immigration reform has failed in this country.</p>	<p>April Wednesday 8 Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his garments. In detention centers, immigrants are forced to wear uniforms and are sometimes released without proper clothing for the weather. Donate coats to be delivered to detainees.</p>	<p>April Thursday 9 Holy Thursday. Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross. Attend your parish's liturgy in solidarity with the suffering of immigrants who are arrested and abused while in detention.</p>	<p>April Friday 10* Good Friday. Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross. Attend and offer your parish liturgy for the eternal peace of the many immigrants who have died while in detention centers.</p>	<p>April Saturday 11 Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross. Station 14: Jesus in the tomb. Pray for Mary's intercession for an end to the unjust detention and abuse of migrants around the world.</p>
<p>April Sunday 12 Easter Sunday! Jesus is alive! Alleluia! as Christ conquered the grave, may his resurrection bring about the victory of a just and fair immigration legal system.</p>	<p>April Monday 13 Easter Monday. Celebrate the mystery of life and in a hospitable way by holding an Easter party with immigrant newcomers to your community.</p>	<p>For more information about the Immigration Ministry, including resources, speakers, donations and opportunities to get involved visit catholicsandimmigrants.org.</p>				<p>*7:15 a.m. Interfaith Prayer Vigil Broadview Detention Center 1930 Beach Street Broadview, Illinois 60155</p>