



How will you pray during Lent?

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What will you give up for Lent?

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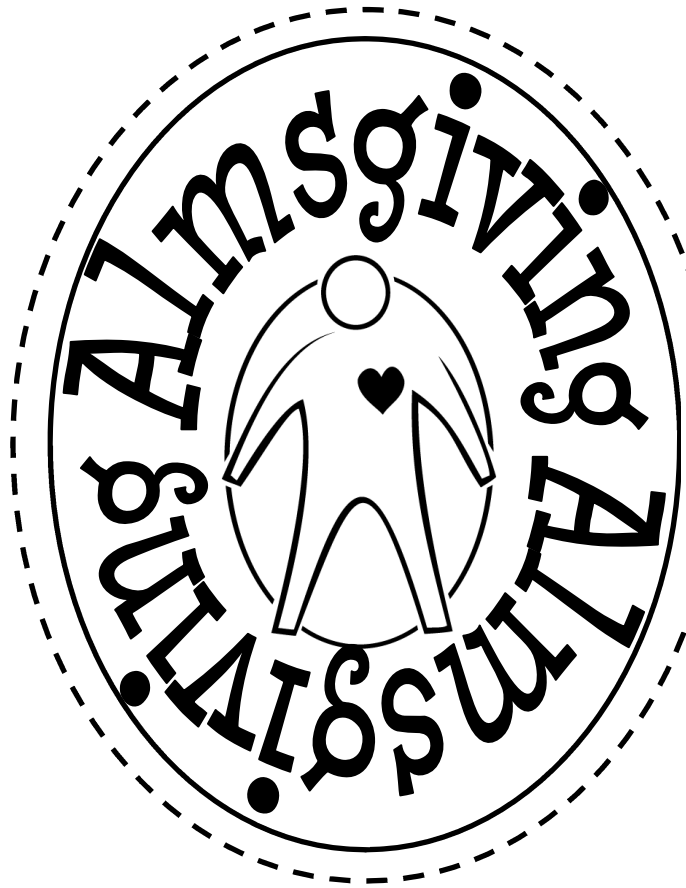
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What will you share during Lent?

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How can you stay close to God?

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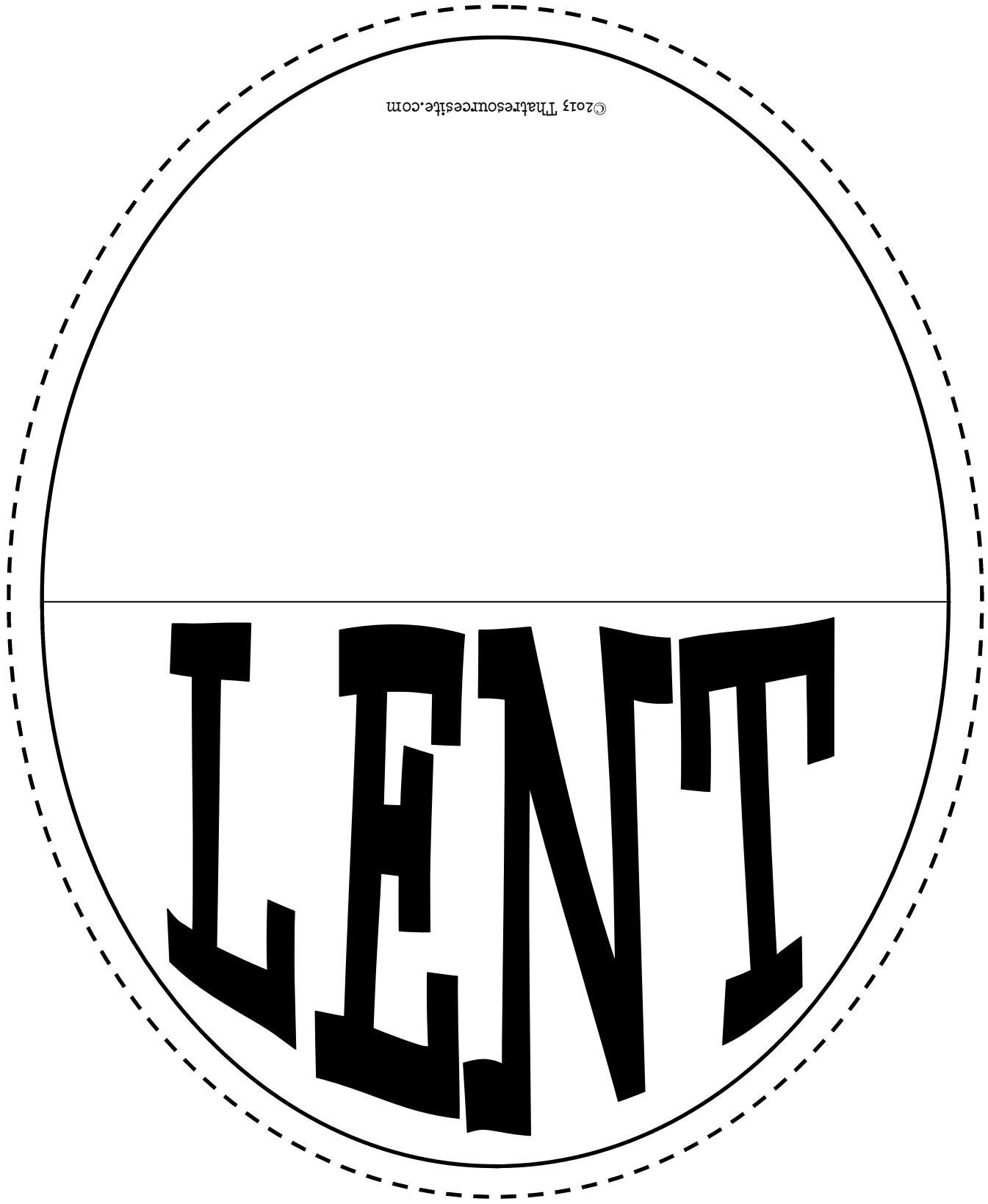
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# Lenten Mobile

This project is designed to help children become familiar with the facets of the season of Lent - prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and our journey out of temptation and sin back to God. CCC: 540, 1095, 1438.

## **Supplies:**

Pages from file, printed on cardstock, if desired

Scissors

Scotch tape

Glue Stick

Pencil

Stapler

1 piece of purple construction paper

Yarn, string or clear cord (used in beading) cut into pieces accordingly:

1 piece 24 inches long

2 pieces 14 inches long

2 pieces 8 inches long

## **Instructions:**

1. Have children cut out all pieces on the dotted lines. (The solid lines are fold lines.) There will be four pieces to represent the different facets of the Lenten season and one title piece.
2. Isolating one idea at a time, begin explaining what prayer, fasting and almsgiving mean. As each idea is covered, have children write in their own answer to the question posed on each piece. Once those pieces are completed, draw a link between how all of those penitential things can prepare us for Easter by drawing us to God. This will lead to completion of the final piece about ways of staying close to God.

Note: In your explanation, you may want to draw attention to these little details.

- Each piece is in the shape of an egg, which is the symbol of new life and spring. The resurrection gives us “new life” as Jesus opens the gates of heaven to each of us.
- The center image on three of the pieces depicts a person with a visible heart. This represents the fact that we should lovingly participate in Lent because we are a people of hope; because is a forgiving God, but most of all, because God loves us.
- The center image on the fourth piece depicts Jesus on the cross. The passion of our Lord illustrates His love for us, His obedient love for the Father as well as the fact that love and mercy are the vehicles that God uses to draw each of us to Him.
- Purple is used for the construction paper piece as it is liturgical color for the season.

# Lenten Mobile (cont.)

5. Assemble the mobile by doing the following.

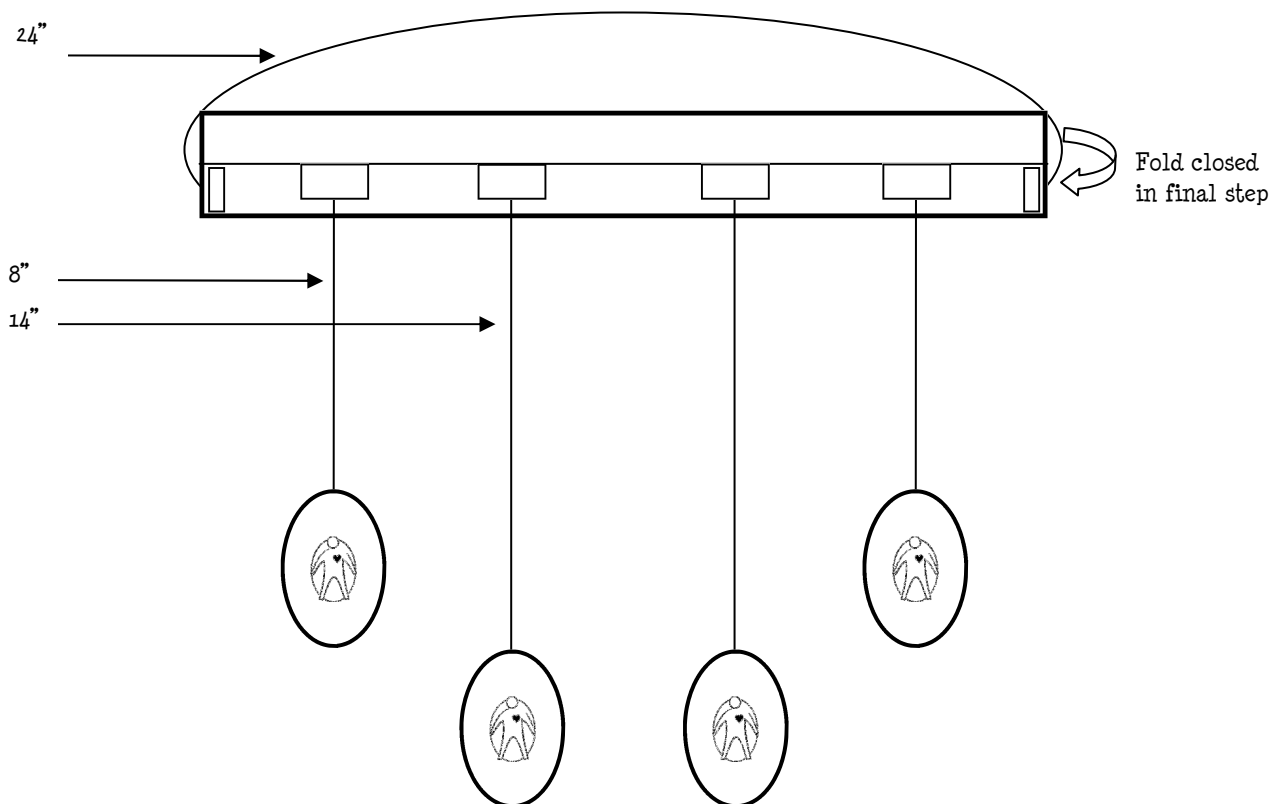
First, fold pieces the children colored in half on the center line (colored side out) and then reopen each. Tape one end of the yarn to the inside of the folded piece one inch from the top. (See the following illustration to see the length of yarn needed for specific pieces.) Using a glue stick, fold and glue the piece shut. Repeat for each piece. The pieces are now ready to be attached to the base.

Next, create the base by folding the purple piece of construction paper in half lengthwise. Fold it in half again. Open the last fold and begin taping the prepared pieces according to the diagram below.

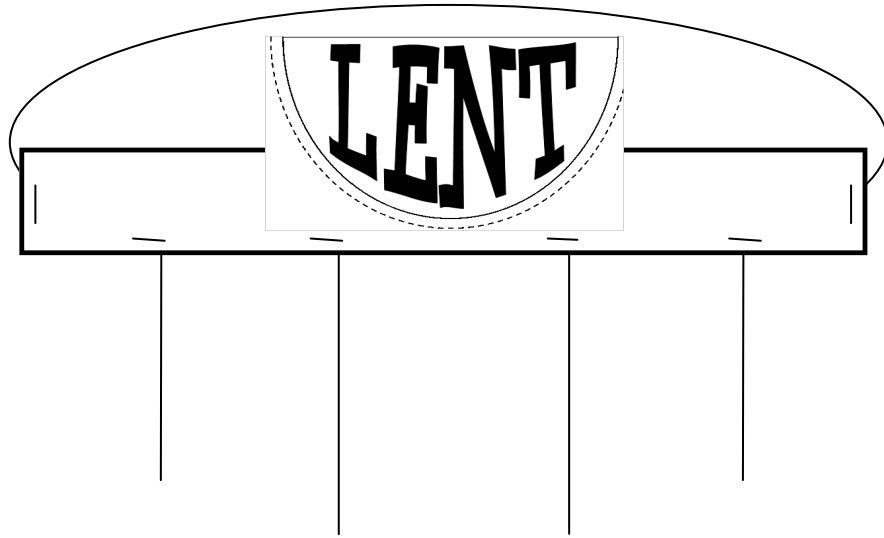
Then, tape the longest piece of yarn (24") to the ends to make the hanger.

Finally, refold the base piece closed to hide the pieces of tape. Staple around the perimeter of the base being certain to get the hanger piece under a staple.

## Attach pieces.



Affix title piece with staples. Staple perimeter to finish.



### **Reference:**

**Almsgiving** is the giving of one's time, talent or treasury (money) to help others. (CCC: 1434, 1969, 2447)

**Fasting** is the traditional giving up of meat on Fridays. Many children choose to give up some nicety such as candy, playing video games, or drinking soda as well. (CCC: 538, 1434, 2043)

**Lent** is the liturgical season that prepares us for Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days, not counting Sundays as the Mass is like a weekly mini-Easter celebration. Ash Wednesday is the day that we are marked with ashes on our forehead to remind us of our mortality. The Bible tells us that we came from dust that God, our Creator, breathed life into, and we shall again return to dust of the earth. The ashes used in Mass come from burnt leftover palms from Palm Sunday of the previous year. Holy Thursday officially ends Lent, as the second Vatican Council redefined Good Friday and Holy Saturday as part of the Easter Triduum, although we still observe them as part of Lent. During Lent, we prepare ourselves for Easter by practicing prayer, almsgiving, penitence, and self-denial (fasting). Persons aged 14-59 must fast on Ash Wednesday, Fridays, and on Good Friday during Lent. (CCC: 540, 1095, 1168, 1438)

**Penitence** is being sorry for one's sins, and Catholics traditionally receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Lent in preparation for Easter. (CCC: 1440-1469)

**Prayer** is lifting our hearts and minds to God. (CCC: 2559-2565)