



# Check It Out

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March 2011

## A Lenten Season

### Threshold Bible Study Resources

Jesus, The Messianic King: Part One: Matthew 1-16 (Book) Binz, Stephen J. Twenty-Third Publications, 2010. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus as Israel's royal Messiah, inaugurating God's kingdom in the world. It was written to help Jewish Christians understand that their faith in Jesus was entirely consistent with the faith of ancient Israel. With frequent quotations and allusions from the Old Testament, Matthew demonstrates how Jesus is both Son of David and Son of God. This study will help you understand the scope of this gospel, the clear advice it offers for the church, and its personal implications for the lives of disciples today. (S,A)

Jesus, The Messianic King: Part Two: Matthew 17-28 (Book) Binz, Stephen J., Twenty-Third Publications, 2010. The second half of Matthew's Gospel moves from the Transfiguration to the Resurrection, announcing Jesus as the world's true King. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus bring the hopes of ancient Israel to their dramatic climax, linking Jesus' royal character to his humble service and self-sacrificing love. This study completes the unique portrait of Jesus developed in the first half of Matthew's Gospel and offers firm guidance for the Church and disciples today. (S,A)

People of the Passion (Book) Binz, Stephen J., Twenty-Third Publications, 2004. Suffering seems to bring out the best and worst in our human nature. Some people are overcome with hopelessness that leads to despair; others are filled with courage that leads to heroism. The people of the passion in this book are the characters who participated in some way in the suffering and death of Jesus: Peter, Pilate, Mary Magdalene, Simon of Cyrene, the daughters of Jerusalem, and the woman who anointed Jesus. (S,A)

The Tragic & Triumphant Cross (Book) Binz, Stephen J., Twenty-Third Publications, 2005. The cross is both the world's most contemptible instrument of punishment and the symbol of humanity's greatest hope. In turning this tool of torture into his followers' proudest boast, Jesus produced the most dramatic reversal the world has ever experienced. (S,A)

### New Lenten Resources

The Little Way of Lent: Meditations in the Spirit of St. Therese of Lisieux (Book) Caster, Gary, Servant Books, 2010. St. Thérèse emphasized the way we do things for God rather than the things we do for him. In that spirit, Lent is less about what we're offering and more about why. That insight transforms this season from one of narrow concern over what to give up into one of joyful freedom to enter into the love of Christ. The meditations in The Little Way of Lent—all colored by St. Thérèse's Little Way of Spiritual Childhood—will transform your Lenten observance and help you focus on God's redeeming love. (S,A)

Wondrous Encounters for Lent (Book) Rohr, Richard, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2011. Rohr's meditations on the daily readings of Lent are not for the sake of mere information, or even for academia, but for the sake of our transformation into our original "image and likeness," which is the very image of God. What always and finally matters for all of us is encounter. (S,A)

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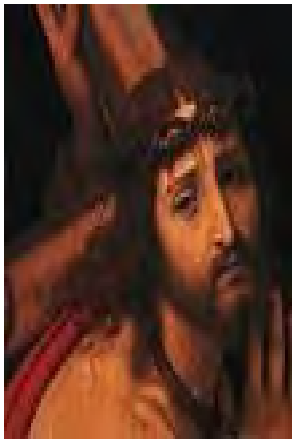
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Lent and Easter with the Church Fathers (Book) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010. These selections from the writings of the Fathers of the Church provide prayerful meditations for the Lent and Easter seasons. This daily companion will help readers reflect on the Paschal Mystery at the feet of some of the Church's greatest teachers. (S,A)

The Mystery of Faith: Meditations on the Eucharist (Book) Dajczer, Tadeusz, Paraclete Press, 2009. The Eucharist is—for most of us—the undiscovered land, the unknown world. We want to live the Eucharist, not just go to Mass, and now comes a clear and compassionate voice of encouragement: “Set your foot on the undiscovered land, take the first, second and third step and He’ll lead you on. He, your God, who by rising from the dead has overcome all obstacles, now wants to introduce you to this stunning truth that’s regularly occurring on our altars.” (S,A)

## Resources for Family & Children

Lent and Easter, Prayer at Home (Book), Boyer, Mark G., Ave Maria Press, 2002. Twenty ways to make Lent and Easter special simply by paying attention to ordinary things all around us. In three sections covering Lent, Holy Week, and Easter readers are provided with fifty-nine short chapters containing a brief scripture passage, a prayerful reflection, meditation questions and a prayer drawn from the Psalms. A concluding section offers opportunities for journaling. A wealth of prayer for families or individuals. (S,A)

A Family Journey with Jesus through Lent: Prayers & Activities for Each Day (Book) Burrin, Angela M., Word Among Us Press, 2004. Hebrew children from Capernaum, Nazareth, and Jerusalem narrate stories about Jesus, starting with his baptism in the River Jordan and ending with his passion, death and resurrection. Each story contains interesting historical details to show what life was like in Jesus' time. Suggestions for Lenten and Holy Week activities also included. (S,A)

Praying Lent: Renewing our Lives on the Lenten Journey (Book) Alexander, Andy, Loyola Press, 2009. Reminds the reader that if we focus too much on what we give up we may miss the message of what God wants to give us during this grace-filled time. The book also provides readers with a transformative Lenten prayer experience, one in which hearts, minds, and lives are truly renewed as Lent takes on a far deeper and more meaningful purpose. (S,A)

The Angel's Lenten Lesson (DVD, 14 min.) Twenty-Third Publications, 2008. As 8-year Danny grumbles and groans over a religion quiz about Lent, angel Theo appears. They go through the quiz together and Danny remembers that the heart of the Lenten message is to follow Jesus. He and Theo talk about the most significant days of Lent and Holy Week. Theo reminds Danny about the practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, parish Lenten reconciliation services, the Stations of the Cross, and daily prayer with the family. (I,J)

My Catholic Lent and Easter Activity Book (Book) Paulist Press, 2003. Crafts and activities designed to teach the meaning of Lent and Easter in a way that children will understand and remember. (P)

Way of the Cross for Families (Book) Liguori Publications, 2009. This booklet provides suggestions for ways that families can walk and pray together the classic devotion of Stations of the Cross, both at home and in the parish setting. (I, J, S, A)

Celebrating the Seasons: Advent and Lent (DVD, 18 min.) St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2001. This video explores customs, traditions, prayers and ways we can keep Lent as we walk together on the path to Jerusalem, preparing for the new life of Easter. During these 40 days, we pray, we fast, we do good works, we remember. (I,J)

Learning Centers for Advent and Lent (Book) Murphy, Doris, Twenty-Third Publications, 2008. Offers thirteen creative centers for learning about Advent, twelve for Lent, five for Holy Week, and nine seasonal centers for everyone in the parish. All the learning centers offer children and their families the opportunity to experience the church seasons in a unique, inviting, and fun learning environment. (J,S)