



CCB Parent Connector



March 2019

[www.billericacatholic](http://www.billericacatholic.org)

You are invited to experience Lent in a new way this year. Of course, you don't need a formal invitation from anyone. And it's not like you've never "experienced" the Lenten season, or given up candy or coffee. But, consider this a personal invitation to take these six weeks to look at where you are in your relationship with Jesus, and where you would like to be. Or rather, where you should be.

If you had your baptism preparation meet with me, then you received the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. Perhaps you took a look at it, or perhaps you didn't. If you need another copy please let me know. But this would be a great time to give it another glance. There are 40 short chapters. No coincidence, there are 40 days in Lent. Chances are you can read a "chapter" each day and allow yourself to think about what is being presented to you. If you have already read the book and would like another title, please email me. I have other books that I will gladly give you!

If reading isn't your thing, maybe you could add the practice of grace before meals during these 40 days. You may want to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Or pray the Stations of the Cross (see schedule). The important thing is that you take a deliberate action that will draw you closer to Christ.

The Lenten schedule for the Catholic Community of Billerica is on our website: www.billericacatholic.org

Here is a quick look:

- Ash Wednesday (March 6): 6:45 AM and 7 PM Mass at St. Theresa, 9 AM Mass and 4 PM Service at St. Mary, 12:05 PM Mass at St. Andrew. In addition, ashes will be distributed at the Billerica Train Station at 6 AM.
- Stations of the Cross will be Fridays during Lent from 6:30 -8 PM at St. Mary Church
- The Light is On For You (Adoration and Confession) will be from 6:30 – 8 PM on the following Wednesdays at designated church:
- 3/27 at St. Andrew, 4/3 at St. Mary, 4/10 at St. Theresa, and 4/17 at all three churches in Billerica
- The Weeping Tree – a beautiful prayer experience to begin Holy Week on Monday 4/15 at 7 PM at St. Andrew Church
- Holy Thursday Mass at 7 PM at St. Theresa Church
- Good Friday Services at 3 PM at St. Andrew Church and 7 PM at St. Mary Church

Blessings to you and your family this Lenten Season



OH, THE POSSIBILITIES OF THOSE FORTY DAYS!

By Peggy Hassett



Often each Lent finds me pondering the same questions. Maybe, I like you wonder should I fast, give up, take up during the forty days ahead or should I pray for the grace to become a better me?

I want to listen to Our Lord's answer and direction, but the bombarding of many loud and constant multi-media messages oftentimes squelch the Divine Utterance offered in the uncommon quiet.

Is it possible this could be the Lent when you and I place ourselves at the foot of His Cross requesting his needed grace to become deaf to those inane sounds, while opening the door of our hearts and minds to the divine wisdom needed to change for the better?

Perhaps, this needed grace will offer us the strength and courage to live this season with renewed faith allowing us to rise above all sounds and behaviors that offer something in this world; but are of no value to us in the next.

Could this be the Lent we are offered the grace to attempt a new beginning allowing us to step from where we are into the dawn of a fresh new future prepared for us by God.

Could this be the Lent we are given the grace and the opportunity to be a sweet song to someone without one or to bring the comforting Presence of the Divine to someone, who has been hurt and soured by life.

Could this be the Lent we with God's grace listen carefully to his voice offering you and me the courage to attempt and to our astonishment succeed where we have so often failed.

Could this be the Lent we sincerely and whole-heartedly ask for the grace to forgive the unforgiveable. Maybe, healing will fill that empty space created by our letting go of unforgiveness.

Could this be the Lent we are given the grace to forgive ourselves for a sin long ago committed, confessed, and pardoned, a sin that continues to quietly devour us from the inside.

Could this be the Lent we with God's grace step out of the dark tomb of useless habits hitting the road full speed into the light that transforms us, transforms heartache into hope, repeated disappointments into new faith, and tears of regret into tears of resurrected joy.

Oh, the possibilities of those forty days!