

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO READ DURING LENT

The Garden of the Good Shepherd by Peter Mazar;
illustrated by Tomie dePaola (ages 3-6)

The Garden of the Good Shepherd' provides the ideal way to teach young people, from preschoolers on up, about the entire season of Easter. It is the perfect gift for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and godparents to give children for Easter or for First Communion. The engaging art of the garden background and stickers will make this calendar the centerpiece of seasonal classroom or home decor. Published by Liturgy Training Publications.

God Gave Us Easter by Lisa Tawn Bergren (ages 3-7)

This is a great story for sharing the reason for Easter in simple terms. It shows 'new life' found where things are seemingly dead and it reiterates the story of Jesus and the promise that he would come to take care of our sins.

The Donkey That No One Could Ride by Anthony DeStefano (ages 3-7)

This is a simple story about a young, scared donkey. He meets a man who asks him to carry him on an important ride. The little donkey does not feel he is worthy, but the man gives him courage. He agrees to the job and as he carries the man through Jerusalem and people call him a prophet, the donkey feels special.

The Parable of the Lily by Liz Higgs (Ages 3-8)

This book tells the story of a farmer's young daughter who receives a bulb as a gift. She is disappointed and the gift is forgotten and eventually thrown into the garden. She is surprised when she wakes up on Easter morning to find a Lily blooming in its place. Part of a series of parables for little children, this story shares the message of forgiveness and new life.

Easter by Fiona French (ages 3 and up)

Twelve radiant tableaux reflect the timeless beauty of the Easter story in stained glass. Beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the dramatic events unfold: the last supper, Jesus' betrayal and arrest, his trial and mockery, the crucifixion, resurrection and his appearance to the disciples, culminating in his ascension into heaven.

Petook: An Easter Story by Caryll Houselander,
illustrated by Tomie dePaola (ages 4-7)

Petook and Martha, proud parents of twelve chickens, are visited by a stranger, and years later, they learn the meaning of Easter when they witness that stranger lifted onto a cross, as another batch of Martha's eggs hatch.

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The Colt and the King by Marni McGee (ages 4-7)

A donkey tells how he reluctantly played a part in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, in a sweet and poignant tale that will help the youngest readers come to understand the true spirit of the Easter season.

Easter Eggs for Anya: A Ukrainian Celebration of New Life in Christ by Virginia Kroll; illustrated by Sally Wern Comport (ages 4-7)

This story explains one of the origins of the Easter egg traditions in the Ukraine. With Pap away at war and Mama struggling to make ends meet, Anya's family was too poor to buy eggs to decorate one year. That is, until Anya discovered an abandoned nest of goose eggs and began planning an Easter surprise for her family.

God's Easter Gifts by Brenda Castro (ages 4-7)

Join siblings Bella and Pablo on their Easter egg hunt after Easter Mass! Each egg they find holds a story about a gift from God. The children learn that Easter is definitely about celebrating God's gifts, especially Jesus.

What we do in Lent: A Child's Activity Book by Anne E. Kitch (ages 4-7)

Fun activities that teach children and their families about the holy season of Lent. Includes family Lenten devotionals. Suitable for any Christian denomination that follows the liturgical calendar. These fun-filled activities for home, pew, or church school, help children learn about the seasons of Lent and Easter. This book includes mazes, crossword puzzles, connect the dots, and more. 41 pages of activities and a 4-page parent guide designed to promote parenting in the pews.

Rechenka's Eggs by Patricia Polacco (ages 4-8)

Old Babushka, known throughout all of Moskva for her beautifully painted eggs, is preparing her eggs for the Easter Festival when she takes in an injured goose. She names the goose Rechenka, and they live happily together until one day when Rechenka accidentally overturns a basket, breaking all of Babushka's lovingly crafted eggs.

The Miracles of Jesus by Tomie de Paola (ages 4-8)

After Jesus of Nazareth was baptized, he began his public life, and he performed many miracles. The Miracles of Jesus begins with the Wedding at Cana, the first miracle, when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. This is followed by other miracles Jesus performed, such as his calming of a storm, walking on water, and raising the dead to life. This delightful collection filled with memorable illustrations is perfect for sharing and reading aloud.

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Humphrey's First Palm Sunday by Carol Heyer (ages 4-8)

This is a sequel to Humphrey's story as a young camel when he first met Jesus when he was just a baby. Now he is much older and wiser and is present during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The pictures are beautiful and the camel's goofy nature brings fun to the story. This story stays true to the story of Palm Sunday and is great for kids.

The Easter Cave by Carol Wedeven (ages 4-8)

This child-friendly book tells the story of Easter using the creative format of repetitive rhyming text. The book takes the reader from the cross to the resurrection.

Little Colts Palm Sunday by Michelle Abrams (ages 5-6)

A young donkey asks his mother to retell how his great-great-grandfather once carried the mother of Jesus while she was with child, then learns for himself how marvelous it feels to do something for God.

Walking with Jesus to Calvary: Stations of the Cross for Children by Angela M. Burrin (ages 5-10)

This is a beautiful introduction to the Stations of the Cross and will help children understand what really happened on Calvary and just how much Jesus loves them. Beautiful illustrations are accompanied by a simple but moving narration of the events of Jesus passion and death. Includes prayers traditionally used for the Stations of the Cross.

Into the Sea, Out of the Tomb: Jonah and Jesus by Maura Roan McKeegan (ages 8-12)

This book tells the story of Jonah and Jesus. Both were given special missions by God. And both have something very important to teach about obedience to His plan.