

LENT 2018

RESOURCES FOR COORDINATORS



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

Planning Resources

- Get Started in Five Easy Steps 2
- Tips for Collecting CRS Rice Bowls 3

Prayer Resources

- Blessing to Begin the Lenten Season 4
- Weekly Prayer Intentions 5
- Offertory Prayer to End the Lenten Journey 6

Communication Resources

- Pulpit Announcement: Introduction to CRS Rice Bowl 7
- Letter to Families 8
- Bulletin Insert 9
- Bulletin & Newsletter Announcements 10

Download these resources as editable Word documents at crsricebowl.org!





PLANNING RESOURCES

GET STARTED IN FIVE EASY STEPS

Ready to encounter Lent with CRS Rice Bowl? Follow these **five** simple steps to a fruitful Lent.

1 Talk with your pastor or principal.

Getting the support of your pastor or school principal is essential to CRS Rice Bowl success. He or she can help engage the wider community, recruit volunteers, and promote the program from the pulpit or at meetings.

2 Order materials.

Place your order for FREE CRS Rice Bowl materials at least 3 weeks before Lent. You can call 800-222-0025 or order online at crsricebowl.org/order. Order a CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar for every family, and use the posters, educational resources, community reflections and videos to enhance your Lenten journey.

3 Spread the word—CRS Rice Bowl is coming!

Hang this year's CRS Rice Bowl poster in a prominent place. Include our ready-made announcements in your weekly bulletin or newsletter. Request an ad from our website. And spread the word from the pulpit or in your morning announcements: CRS Rice Bowl is coming, and our community is participating!



Photo by Lauren Carroll/CRS

4 Distribute CRS Rice Bowls at Mass. (Make sure every family gets one!)

Integrate your community's CRS Rice Bowl kickoff into the liturgy. Pass out CRS Rice Bowls to each family in your parish or school on the Sunday before Lent or on Ash Wednesday. The **Blessing to Begin the Lenten Season** on page 4 can help you get started.

5 Make CRS Rice Bowl materials part of your community's Lenten journey—visit crsricebowl.org.

There are 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, and CRS Rice Bowl has resources for each one. Our prayer intentions integrate CRS Rice Bowl themes into weekly liturgies, and our Stations of the Cross digital retreats infuse this Lenten devotion with Catholic social teaching. Families, students, youth groups and small faith-sharing communities will love incorporating simple meatless recipes from around the world into weekly Lenten suppers.



TIPS FOR COLLECTING CRS RICE BOWLS

STEP 1

Decide which collection method works best for your community.

■ OPTION 1

Participants bring their filled CRS Rice Bowls to the designated collection area. Collecting the rice bowls makes your community's Lenten efforts concrete and visible.

TO CONSIDER: Be prepared to empty the rice bowls, count coins and handle checks. Recruit youth group members or Confirmation candidates to help!

■ OPTION 2

Ask participants to convert their CRS Rice Bowl gifts to checks made out to your parish or school for easier counting. Combine gifts into one check, write "CRS Rice Bowl" on the memo line, and send to your local diocesan director (visit crs.org/contact to find your diocesan director) or to:

**Catholic Relief Services
CRS Rice Bowl
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303**

■ OPTION 3

Participants donate directly to CRS. Donate online at crsricebowl.org/give or by sending a check to the address above.

STEP 2

Plan a meaningful ritual to collect CRS Rice Bowls.

CRS Rice Bowl offers an **Offertory Prayer to End the Lenten Journey** to help your community conclude this holy season. Visit crsricebowl.org/parish for more ideas.

STEP 3

Publicize when and where CRS Rice Bowls will be collected.

Announce details in a variety of ways, including in your bulletin or newsletter, on your community's social media pages, announcements at Mass or school, and by hanging the CRS Rice Bowl poster you will receive midway through Lent.

STEP 4

Collect and count Lenten gifts.

Recruit volunteers from your parish ministries, religious education program, youth ministry or parish school to help you count coins. Send one check to your diocese or directly to CRS at the address in Step 1.

STEP 5

Thank your community and let them know the impact their gifts will have.

Display the **thank you poster** you receive from CRS at the end of Lent. See crsricebowl.org for other creative ways to thank your community.



PRAYER RESOURCES

BLESSING TO BEGIN THE LENTEN SEASON

This blessing will help your community begin your Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. You can incorporate it into Mass after the homily, or during prayer services or other gatherings. Make sure you have enough CRS Rice Bowls to pass out after they've been blessed—and recruit volunteers to hand one to each family.

INTRODUCTION

As we look ahead to our Lenten journey, may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers a reflection of humble and grateful hearts. We ask the Holy Spirit to accompany us as we spend these 40 days reflecting on what it means to be companions on the journey to encounter our global human family. How may this encounter with our neighbor transform our own lives? How may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities? We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

READING

Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah (58:5–8).

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pray for those in need around the world.
(See page 5 or crsricebowl.org/parish.)

BLESSING OF THE CRS RICE BOWLS

God of all people,

You are the source of every blessing. May we be mindful of your presence now and as we use these CRS Rice Bowls in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May they be instruments of encounter, bringing us closer to you, our God, and to our neighbors both near and far. May this time of reflection help us to see our role in caring for the most vulnerable—those experiencing hunger, lack of economic opportunity and violence that force them to migrate. Through these 40 days, may we deepen our faith in you, and our love for one another, as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

Amen



Photo by Lauren Carroll/CRS



WEEKLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Integrate CRS Rice Bowl into your liturgical celebrations with these prayer intentions.

INTRODUCTION

Trusting in the mercy and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who invites us to “go and do likewise” in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, we voice our own petitions, asking for what we need, and for the needs of our brothers and sisters all over the world, saying, *“Lord, may we love as one human family.”*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For Majd and his family, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, and all refugees fleeing violence and hardship in search of safety and security. We pray to the Lord ...

For those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities. We pray to the Lord ...

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For Cesia, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, and all young people in Nicaragua struggling to find meaningful work, that their God-given gifts be used for the common good. We pray to the Lord ...

For those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities. We pray to the Lord ...

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

For Safiata, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, and all farmers near and far, that they find abundant harvests to feed their families, their communities and the world. We pray to the Lord ...

For those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities. We pray to the Lord ...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For Andrise and her students in Haiti, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, that what they learn together may be for the betterment of their community. We pray to the Lord ...

For those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities. We pray to the Lord ...

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For Alefa and her family in Malawi, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, that the seeds she plants today may also sprout hope and grow opportunity. We pray to the Lord ...

For those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes for safety or better opportunities. We pray to the Lord ...

PALM SUNDAY

For those we encountered on our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl, and all people around the world who struggle to provide enough food to meet their families' daily needs. May we welcome the homeless, the lost and the wanderer, recognizing that Jesus himself lived without a permanent home. We pray to the Lord ...

EASTER SUNDAY

For those we encountered through CRS Rice Bowl, and all members of our one human family, that we may follow the example of the Good Samaritan this Easter season, to “go and do likewise,” encountering our brothers and sisters who need help on the road.

And, that we may recognize in our lives this Easter Season those Good Samaritans who have helped us better ourselves. We pray to the Lord ...



PRAYER RESOURCES

OFFERTORY PRAYER TO END THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Use this offertory prayer at a CRS Rice Bowl closing ceremony or as part of the Mass. Encourage children and families to process forward with their CRS Rice Bowls, and place them in a basket or collection area in the sanctuary or other church location.

God of the journey,

You offered us the example of the Good Samaritan, who stops to heed the cries of a person in need. As we end our Lenten journey, may we continue to walk with our brothers and sisters around the world who are hungry, with those who must flee their homes because of war or lack of opportunity, and with all who need our comfort and compassion.

We pray that these, our Lenten sacrifices, may be an offering of solidarity and a promise of ongoing encounter with our one human family.

As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember to love our neighbors as ourselves. And wherever we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty or welcome the stranger, may we remember that we are encountering the Risen Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS



PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT: INTRODUCTION TO CRS RICE BOWL

Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____, and I'm here to invite each of you to participate in CRS Rice Bowl during Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily in the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And, it's an opportunity for us as a parish/school to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call to go out and encounter those most in need.

During the next 40 days, we will encounter the stories of people in Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso and other places around the world where CRS is at work. We'll be invited to eat simple, meatless meals each Friday from these countries. And, through the stories, we'll learn about the principles of Catholic social teaching—and ways we can put them into action during Lent and beyond.

We will reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and almsgiving can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

I'm excited to take this journey with our parish/school community, and to connect the prayer and reflections of each of our families to our global community of faith. I hope you will take home a CRS Rice Bowl, located _____.

If you have any questions, please contact me at _____ or talk to me after Mass. Thank you for your time.



"Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his Word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor." —Pope Francis

Dear Families,

During Lent our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter our neighbor, as companions on the journey, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We will reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

As we prepare for this holy season, it is especially meaningful to come together in prayer as a family. Reflecting on the crosses of hunger, poverty and war carried by our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homes, we have an opportunity to also reflect on our roles in caring for them as members of our human family.

Please consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and guide your Lenten almsgiving.
- Prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Visit crsricebowl.org/stories to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

We will collect your CRS Rice Bowls at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more.

Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

Sincerely,

P.S. Did you know that CRS Rice Bowl has a web page specifically for families? Visit crsricebowl.org/families for activities that will help your family grow in our Catholic faith this Lenten season.

encounter *Lent*

Companions on the journey



Photo by Karen Kamauskas for CRS

This Lent, become companions on the journey through

- Daily prayer
- Weekly fasting
- Almsgiving that changes lives

Jesus gives us the example of the Good Samaritan. With CRS Rice Bowl as our guide, we set out to encounter and love our neighbor.

Learn more at crsricebowl.org





COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY(S) BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY

ENCOUNTER LENT

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from [LOCATION] on [DATE]. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER MAJD

In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER CESIA

We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER SAFIATA

In Burkina Faso, we encounter Safiata, a mother, grandmother and farmer who relies on the money she makes from her crops to put her children through school. How can our purchases this Lent support farmers and artisans? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

*IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO INCLUDE YOUR COMMUNITY'S PREFERRED METHOD FOR TURNING IN LENTEN GIFTS.

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER ANDRISE

We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community—and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER ALEFA

We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

PALM SUNDAY

ENCOUNTER OUR NEIGHBORS

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

EASTER SUNDAY

ENCOUNTER THE RISEN CHRIST

We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we celebrate Easter joy! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl ends as we encounter our Risen Lord. We reflect on our brothers and sisters we have walked with, and we commit to bringing Easter joy to each person we meet in our daily lives. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at [LOCATION] on [DATE].*

AFTER-EASTER MESSAGING

THANK YOU

We changed lives this Lent, thanks to YOU! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at [LOCATION] on [DATE].*