

PRAYER TO BEGIN THE LENTEN SEASON

This prayer will help your community begin their 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 the prayer—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 our responsibility to share what we have with our global human family. How may our Lenten reflection inspire us to reach out to those most in need? How may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving support people worldwide, especially those who are hungry and lack proper nutrition? 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 Gospel of Matthew (25:31-40).

Weekly Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in need around the world and our own community. See page 5 or crsricebowl.org.

Prayer to Begin CRS Rice Bowl

God of mercy,

You call us to recognize you in our sisters and brothers and to care for those most in need—for whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.

This Lent, ignite your love in us so that through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving we may support all who experience hunger in body, heart and spirit.

May these CRS Rice Bowls be instruments of encounter, bringing us closer to you—our God—and to our neighbors both near and far.

May our Lenten journey help us to see our role in caring for the most vulnerable—particularly those experiencing hunger, poverty and obstacles to thrive.

Through these 40 days, may we deepen our faith in you and our love for one another, as we await with joyful anticipation the great celebration of Easter.

Amen



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS

OFFERTORY PRAYER TO END THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Use this offertory prayer for a CRS Rice Bowl closing ceremony or as a part of 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 love,

You call us to love one another as you love us, caring for the least of our sisters and brothers and recognizing that what we do for them, we do for you.

As we end our Lenten journey, we pray that these, our sacrifices, may be an offering of solidarity and a promise of ongoing efforts to support our sisters and brothers who are hungry and in need of our help.

As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember to reach out beyond ourselves to encounter the needs of all. And wherever we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty or clothe the naked, may we remember that we are encountering your risen Son, Jesus Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen



Photo by Michael Stulman/CRS