

# BRING LENT TO LIFE

**2023 LENTEN CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES**  
**DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)**

# WEEK ONE

## FEBRUARY

SUNDAY  
**19**

### GREAT BAREKENDAN

While not strictly one of the Sundays of Lent, this day of celebration is our Carnival Day, preceding Lent. It recalls the happy and innocent life of Adam and Eve in Paradise. Read Genesis 1-2:3. Pray for the world and everyone in it.

MONDAY  
**20**

### FIRST DAY OF LENT

Try to have some quiet time and consider how well, by God's grace, you are living up to your baptismal commitments as we start our Lenten journey. Focus on praying more, eating simple meals, and helping others in need.

TUESDAY  
**21**

### DAY TWO

Draw or take note of the places you felt God was present and the way you responded to Him. Tomorrow, resolve to pay more attention to God's presence. Say a bedtime prayer with your children.

WEDNESDAY  
**22**

### DAY THREE

As a family, read Psalm 51:10-12. Try to memorize this verse: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and put a new and upright spirit within me." Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

THURSDAY  
**23**

### DAY FOUR

Make a list of all your extended family members and friends. Pray for one of them every day of Lent. Select a charity to support during Lent. Consider FAR, the Eastern Diocese, or your local church.

FRIDAY  
**24**

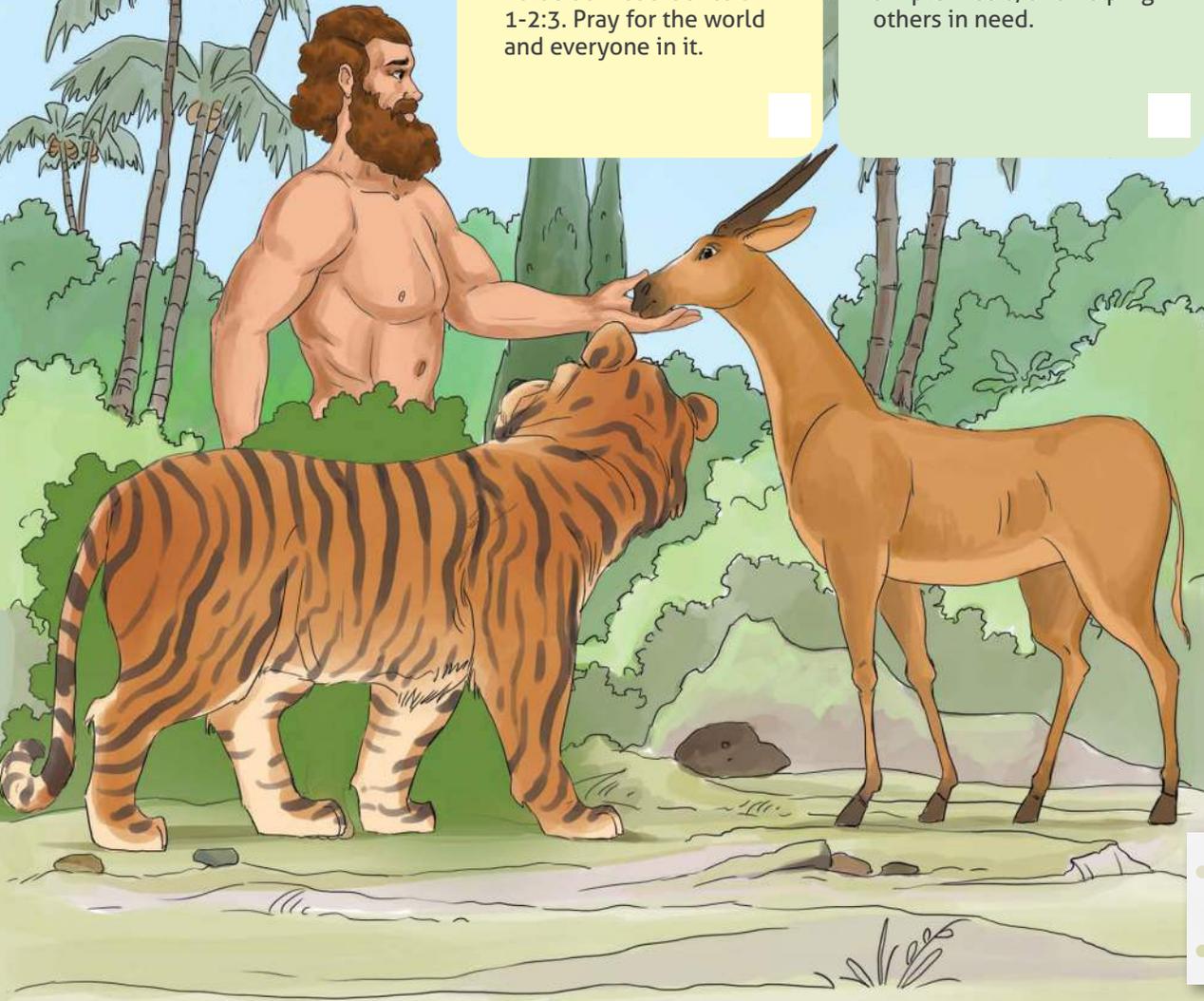
### DAY FIVE

Pray the Lord's Prayer together. When you come to ask to be forgiven of our "debts" or "trespasses," pause and try to remember who needs your forgiveness. Refrain from taking second helpings at meals. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

### DAY SIX

St. Theodore the Warrior was a 4th-century Roman army soldier who demonstrated his faith in Jesus Christ by refusing to perform required pagan rites. He was eventually martyred for his continued protests. Take over a disliked chore for a family member, or friend.

SATURDAY  
**25**





**THE GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 1-2:3)**

# WEEK TWO

## FEBRUARY + MARCH



SUNDAY  
26

### SUNDAY OF EXPULSION

Attend *Badarak* often. Divine Liturgy is our greatest communal prayer and our way to encounter Christ. Today we remember the loss of our original joy in Paradise because of wrong choices. Pray for the refugees of the world—people who had to leave their homes because of war, violence, or poverty.

MONDAY  
27

### DAY EIGHT

Pray for people in need, especially for someone you know who is having a difficult time. Choose a story from the newspaper or Internet of a troubled country or people and pray for them.

TUESDAY  
28

### DAY NINE

Let Psalm 25:4 be your prayer for the day: "Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." At bedtime, pray for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets tonight.

WEDNESDAY  
1

### DAY TEN

Find a time during the day to take a break from electronics and all means of communication to spend some quality time in silence. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

THURSDAY  
2

### DAY ELEVEN

Make a list of 5–10 things you are grateful for in your life. Then make a list of 5–10 things that you can do to become a blessing for others.

FRIDAY  
3

### DAY TWELVE

Pray for your neighbors by name. Avoid criticizing others, whether aloud or silently in your mind, and seek to understand instead. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

SATURDAY  
4

### DAY THIRTEEN

Pray while creating a piece of artwork or playing a musical instrument. Do something creative and do so for the glory of God. Today is the feast of St. Cyril of Jerusalem who was an important bishop and champion of the church in the 4th century. He described the Holy Spirit as "gentle, One who comes to us in sweetness; beams of light and knowledge gleam forth from Him..."



**ADAM AND EVE ARE FORCED OUT OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 3)**

# WEEK THREE

## MARCH



SUNDAY  
5

### SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

This is a story of a lost son who returns to his loving father and family home in sorrow and repentance. We learn how great our Father's love and forgiveness are for us (Luke 15:11–32). Pray for young people throughout the world. Think of ways you can get closer to Christ.

WEDNESDAY  
8

### DAY SEVENTEEN

Did you know that pretzels were first made as a Lenten treat? The loops and twists were meant to suggest arms in prayer. Have some pretzels today and pray.

MONDAY  
6

### DAY FIFTEEN

Pray for the poor. Go through your closets and donate usable clothing and household goods to a local charity. Help your children to do the same. Ask them what they think they can give away from their toys and clothes.

THURSDAY  
9

### DAY EIGHTEEN

Pray at the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles. Pray for the people who might be in trouble. Be more courteous in your attitude, words, and deeds.

TUESDAY  
7

### DAY SIXTEEN

Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside. At the grocery store, pray for the farmers and all those who help make available the food that you will bring to your table.

FRIDAY  
10

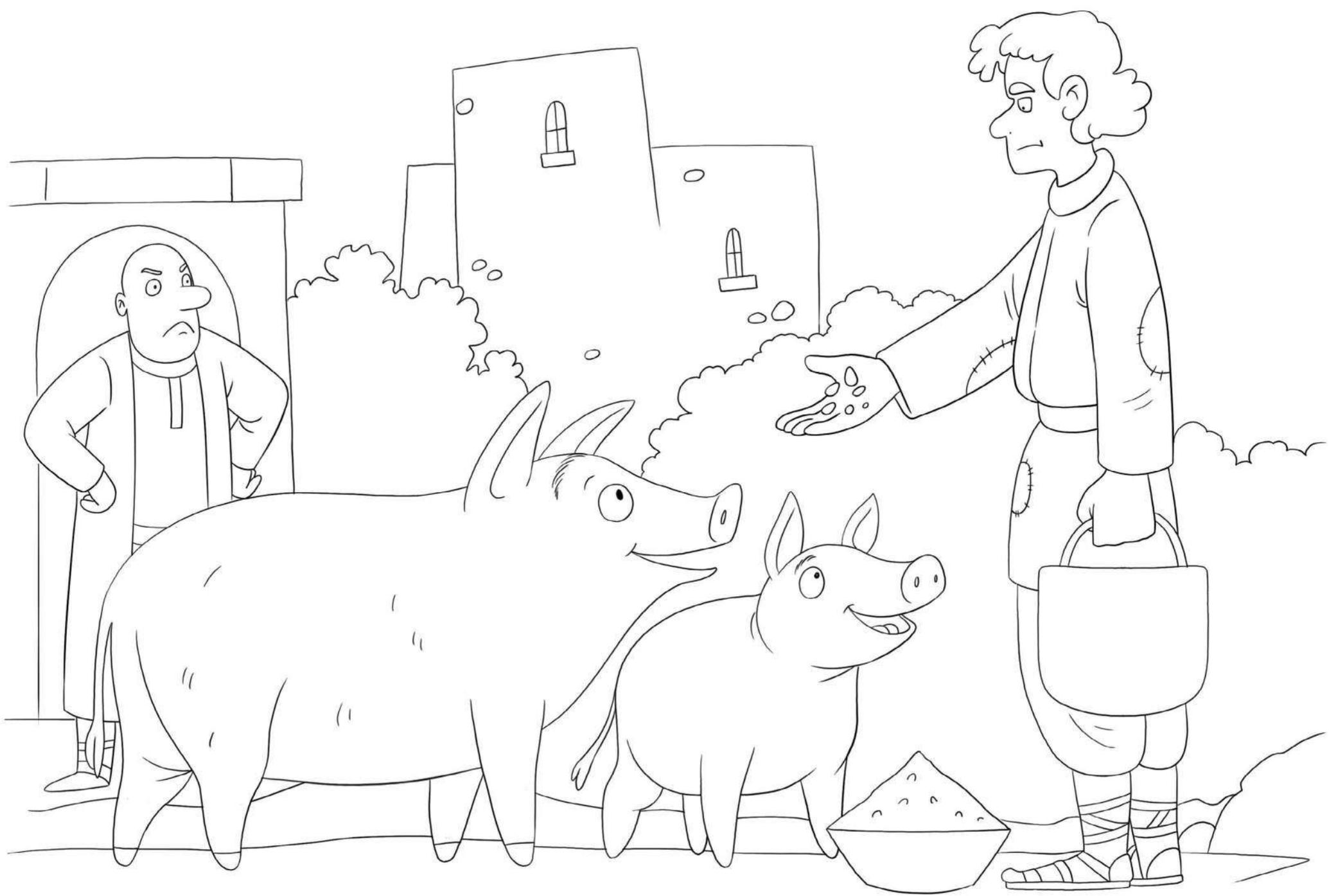
### DAY NINETEEN

Fast from email, text messaging, or both for a day or a few hours. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

SATURDAY  
11

### DAY TWENTY

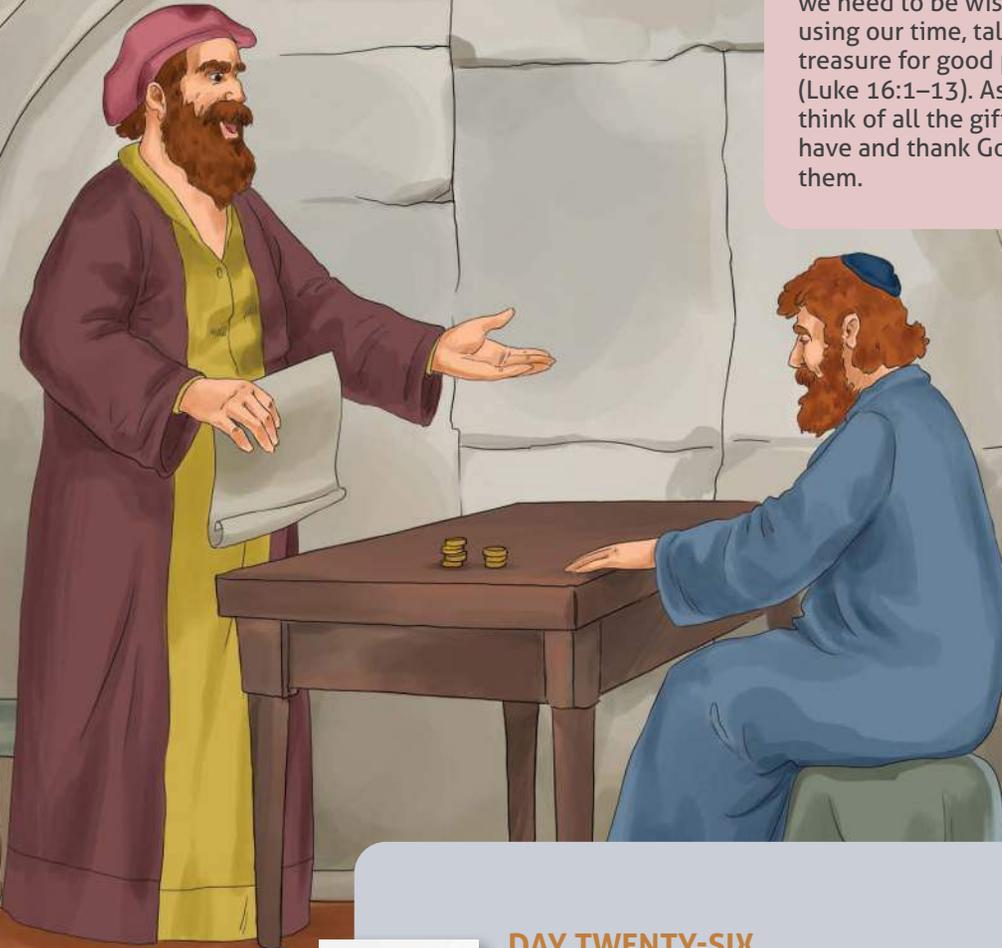
Today is the feast of St. Gregory of Datev, who was a priest in the 14th century and one of the greatest teachers of the Armenian Church. His most famous work is "The Book of Questions," or Kirk Hartzmantz, in which he defended the solid foundation of Armenian Church teachings. Write a prayer that starts with a question you have for God.



**THE LOST SON FEEDS PIGS FAR AWAY FROM HIS HOME (LUKE 15:11-32)**

# WEEK FOUR

## MARCH



SUNDAY  
12

### SUNDAY OF THE STEWARD

Attend the Divine Liturgy service. Think about your stewardship calling as we are reminded today that we need to be wise in using our time, talents, and treasure for good purposes (Luke 16:1–13). As a family, think of all the gifts you have and thank God for them.

MONDAY  
13

### DAY TWENTY-TWO

Fast from light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home. Remember that Jesus has called you to be a light for the world. Memorize St. Nersess Shnorhali's prayer: "Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom, that I may always think, speak, and do that which is good in your sight."

TUESDAY  
14

### DAY TWENTY-THREE

Make a prayer out of performing a loving action for others. For example, when you take out the garbage, do it mindfully. Look up Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12, Mark 11:35, and Luke 5:16. What was Jesus doing?

THURSDAY  
15

### MEECHINK MEDIAN DAY OF LENT

Take a moment to reflect on your Lenten experience so far. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

FRIDAY  
16

### DAY TWENTY-FIVE

When you see, hear, or read a news story about someone in trouble, pray for the person as a family. Speak less and listen more. Give others the gift of your undivided attention.

SATURDAY  
17

### DAY TWENTY-SIX

Avoid hitting the snooze button. Get up and use the extra time for prayer. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

SATURDAY  
18

### DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

Feast of the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia. These brave Christian soldiers in the 4th century Roman army gave their life for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for Christians throughout the world who are currently suffering persecution.



**THE SMART STEWARD FORGIVES DEBTS (LUKE 16:1-13)**

# WEEK FIVE

## MARCH



### SUNDAY OF THE JUDGE

SUNDAY  
19

This Sunday tells the story of how persistent and heartfelt prayer will always get God's attention (Luke 18:1-8). In the spirit of the persistent widow of our Sunday lesson, pray every hour today. During prayer, picture yourself meeting Christ in a scene from the Gospels. Think about your reactions and responses. Think about your persistence during the prayers.

MONDAY  
20

### DAY TWENTY-NINE

Abstain from overscheduling. Leave some time to simply be and gather yourself to pray for those who have hurt you.

TUESDAY  
21

### DAY THIRTY

Make moderate meals, curtail your extra spending, and donate what you save to your chosen charity.

WEDNESDAY  
22

### DAY THIRTY-ONE

At the end of the day, take time to thank God for all the graces you received during the day. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

THURSDAY  
23

### DAY THIRTY-TWO

Pray the Jesus Prayer - "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have Mercy on me, a sinner" or other prayers of the Church. Recognize that you are adding your voice to those who have prayed these prayers for centuries.

FRIDAY  
24

### DAY THIRTY-THREE

Recognize and avoid anything that stands in the way of you growing closer to God. Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

SATURDAY  
25

### ST. GREGORY'S COMMITMENT TO THE PIT

St. Gregory converted the Armenian nation in 301 A.D. and accepted a harsh punishment rather than deny his love of Christ. List three ways we need to make difficult choices to live God's way. Sit quietly and think about these choices.



**THE PERSISTENT WIDOW BEFORE THE JUDGE (LUKE 18:1-8)**



# WEEK SIX

MARCH

SUNDAY  
26

## SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday is dedicated to the Second Coming of Christ. Spend some time praying for the willingness to seek forgiveness from people you have hurt. Schedule a private confession with your priest and talk to him about some of your struggles.

MONDAY  
27

## DAY THIRTY-SIX

Send an Easter card or a letter to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner who is homebound.

TUESDAY  
28

## DAY THIRTY-SEVEN

Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, a park, church grounds, or at home. Make it a gift for the benefit of all.

WEDNESDAY  
29

## DAY THIRTY-EIGHT

Pray Psalm 150. What instrument do you think would best accompany this prayer? Attend a Lenten service or dedicate time for an evening prayer.

THURSDAY  
30

## DAY THIRTY-NINE

Invite a neighbor to join your family for a meal or prepare and drop off a meal for a homebound parishioner.

FRIDAY  
31

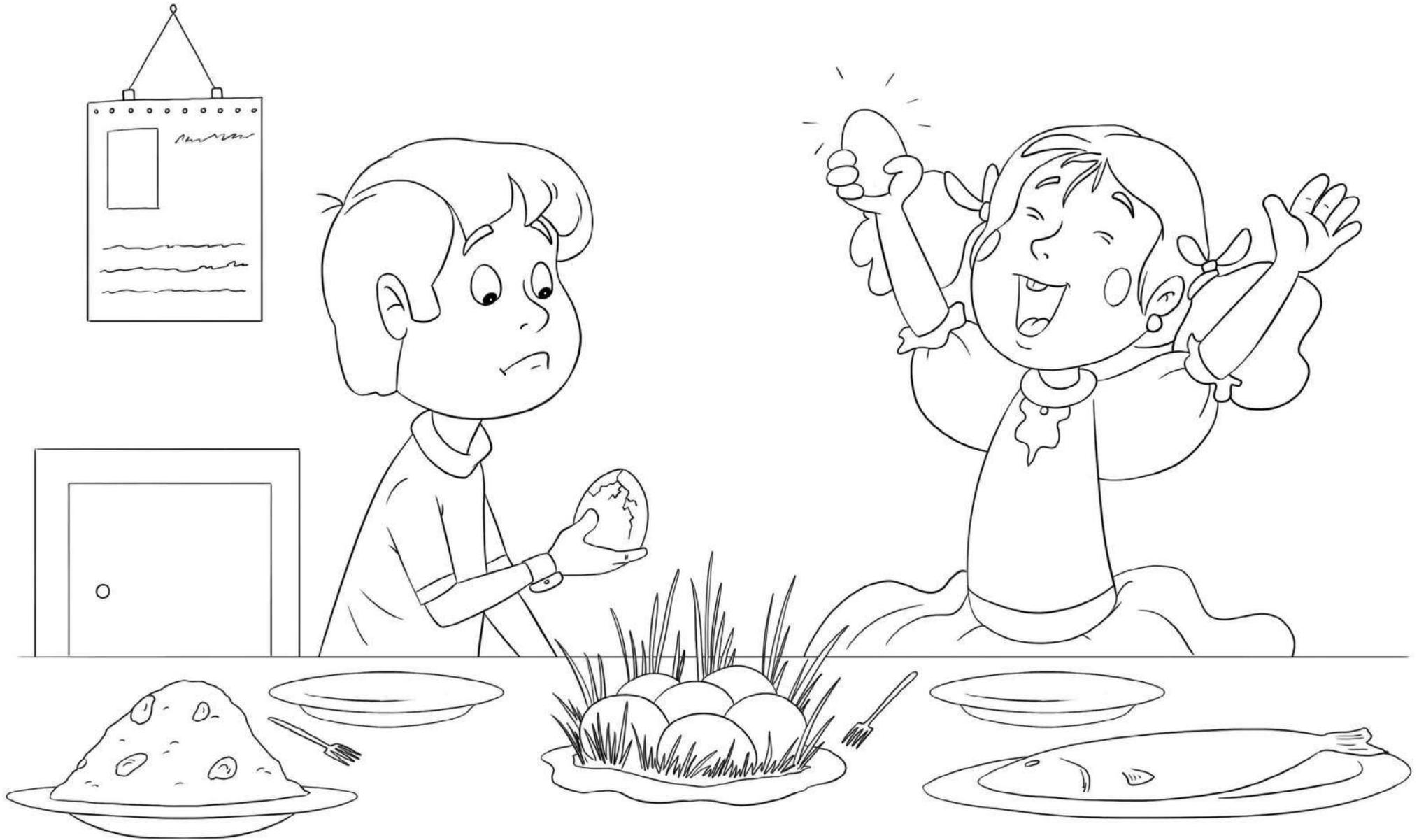
## DAY FORTY

Last day of Lent. Stop worrying and trust God instead. Read the Bible stories on how others trusted God. Examples: Judges 4; Luke 1:5-7, 13-14, 16-17; Isaiah 21:3; Mark 5:27-34. Write a prayer reflecting on the past 40 days of Lent.



**JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!**

AN EGG CRACKING CONTEST ON EASTER SUNDAY. HAPPY EASTER!



**TRADITIONALLY WE BLESS OUR HOMES AT EASTER**



## A LENTEN CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES

- Every day there is a suggested activity. Check the box each time you complete the prayer activity or reflection. Hopefully it will be a habit that continues throughout the year.
- Color together and retell the parables as you move through the weeks of Great Lent.



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN  
CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ  
ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵԻԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՍԻ

630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016  
ARMENIANCHURCH.US

AN ORIGINAL PUBLICATION OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

HOVHANNES YEDIGARYAN, ILLUSTRATOR



This year, **LENT** begins on Monday, February 20, and ends on Friday, March 31 — a special time to devote to Jesus!

### **ATTEND CHURCH.**

Follow the beautiful lessons of the Sundays of Lent and then attend Holy Week services that culminate in the joy of Easter.

### **READ THE BIBLE.**

Be inspired by God's story. Read about the events leading up to the Resurrection in the four Gospels: Matthew 21-27, Mark 11-15, Luke 19-23, John 12-19.

**FAST.** The Lenten practice of the Armenian Church is to avoid all meat and animal products, but if this seems too difficult, try doing without meat throughout Lent and without any animal products (milk, eggs, cheese) on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**SIMPLIFY.** Spend less time texting and talking on the phone, shopping, or watching TV and more quiet time with family and friends. This reminds us of what's really important and how precious life and loved ones are.

### **GIVE TO CHARITY.**

Almsgiving is an important Christian discipline, especially important during this season of self-giving. Set aside money daily or weekly for charitable causes. Use a special box or container just for that purpose. And most importantly... **PRAY!**