

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

Lent is the time we spend getting ready for Easter.

HOW LONG DOES LENT LAST?

There are forty days in Lent. But there are two ways in which we can count those forty days. The first is to begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Easter Sunday. The second is to begin on the First Sunday of Lent and end on Holy Thursday.

In 2011 Ash Wednesday is on February 9th . If Lent ends on Easter Sunday, April 24th , does that make forty days? Let's see:

There are 31 days in March.

How many days from the 9th to the 31st ? _____

How many days are there in March? _____

24 days in April: _____

How many altogether? _____

Oops! That's not right!

Count how many Sundays are in Lent _____

Subtract that number from your answer

Did that work?

In 2011 the First Sunday of Lent is on March 13th and Holy Thursday is April 21st . Does that make forty days? Let's see:

There are 31 days in March.

How many days from the 13rd to the 31st ? _____

How many days are there in March? _____

24 days in April: _____

How many altogether? _____

WHY ARE THERE 40 DAYS IN LENT?

There is a very good reason for having forty days in Lent. The reason can be found by looking up the following references in your bible:

- Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11;
- Mark, chapter 1; verses 12-13;
- Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Forty is an important number in the bible as you will see when you fill in the blanks in these sentences. Match each sentence with the correct bible reference to complete the activity.



It rained for _____ on Noah and his family: Numbers 13:25

The Israelites wandered in the desert for _____ years: 2 Chronicles 9:30

King Solomon reigned for _____: Joshua 4:13

_____ soldiers helped Joshua fight: Genesis 7:11-12

Moses' twelve men spent _____ exploring Canaan: Numbers 32:13

Colour the Picture of Jesus in the Desert



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert