

summary

Vol. 22, Part 4, Sections 1 to 7
Monthly - March 2025

Dear parents
Section 1 of 7

From the fullness of the heart
the mouth speaks
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Section 2 of 7

Your Father sees what is
hidden

Ash Wednesday
Section 3 of 7

Jesus was led by the Spirit
into the desert
1st Sunday of Lent
Section 4 of 7

This is my chosen Son; listen
to him
2nd Sunday of Lent
Section 5 of 7

Sir, leave it for this year also
3rd Sunday of Lent
Section 6 of 7

My son was lost and has been
found
4th Sunday of Lent
Section 7 of 7

Publisher: Pierre-Marie Dumont • Executive Advisor: Father Daniel Barron, OFM • Promotion Manager: John Sacco • Editorial Staff Secretary: Isabelle Galmiche, Isabelle Girault, and Pauline Trémolet • Graphics Editor: Amélie Hosteing assisted by Gilles Malgonne • Also collaborating on this edition: Carrie Akoun, Janet Chevrier, Mathilde Curallucci, Bernadette Dumont, Julie Hackett, Philippine de Lovinfosse, Hélène Pécheux. MagnifiKid! (ISSN: 1553-9407) is published monthly by MAGNIFICAT Inc., 86 Main Street, Yonkers, NY 10701 • Periodicals postage paid at Smithtown, NY, and at additional mailing offices (USPS Number 022-646) • Pierre-Marie Dumont: Manager • Axel d'Epinau: Chief Operating Officer • The annual subscription rate is US \$39 • The single copy price is US \$3.95 • Circulation records are maintained at MAGNIFICAT Inc., 86 Main Street, Yonkers, NY 10701 • POSTMASTER: send address changes to MagnifiKid!, PO Box 842, Yonkers NY 10702 • MagnifiKid!, copyright 2025 by MAGNIFICAT Inc. • Printed in France by Siep. Published with the approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops • Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, Second Typical Edition © 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner • The English translation of the Psalm Responses and Conclusions of the Readings from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL); excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). 1. Publication Title, MagnifiKid. 2. Publication no., 1553-9407. 3. Filing Date, 09/30/2024. 4. Issue Frequency, Published Monthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually, 12. 6. Annual Subscription price, \$39. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication, MagnifiKid, 86 Main Street, Suite 303, Yonkers, NY 10701. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher, MagnifiKid, 86 Main Street, Suite 303, Yonkers, NY 10701. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor, Pierre-Marie Dumont, C/O MagnifiKid, 86 Main Street, Suite 303, Yonkers, NY 10701. Editor, Pierre-Marie Dumont, C/O MagnifiKid, 86 Main Street, Suite 303, Yonkers, NY 10701. 10. Owner, Magnificat SAS, c/o MagnifiKid, 86 Main Street, Suite 303, Yonkers, NY 10701. 11. Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities, None. 12. Tax Status, N/A. 13. Publication Title, MagnifiKid. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below, October 2024. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: A. Total Number of Copies (Net press run), Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, 42,083. B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 1.) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541, 11,919. 2.) Paid In-County Subscriptions, 0. 3.) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution, 27,058. 4.) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS, 75. C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 39,052. D. Free Distribution by Mail, 1.) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541, 394. 2.) In-County as Stated on Form 3541, 0. 3.) Other classes Mailed through the USPS, 246. 4.) Free Distribution Outside the Mail, 2,304. E. Total Free Distribution, 2,944. F. Total Distribution, 41,996. G. Copies not Distributed, 87. H. Total, 42,083. I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 92.99%. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, A. Total Number of Copies, 48,000. B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 1.) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541, 13,643. 2.) Paid In-County Subscriptions, 0. 3.) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution, 30,891. 4.) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS, 86. C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 44,620. D. Free Distribution by Mail, 1.) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541, 423. 2.) In-County as Stated on Form 3541, 0. 3.) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS, 294. 4.) Free Distribution Outside the Mail, 2,438. E. Total Free Distribution, 3,155. F. Total Distribution, 47,775. G. Copies not Distributed, 225. H. Total, 48,000. I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation, 93.40%. 16. Electronic Copy Circulation, None. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the March 2025 issue of this Publication. 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner, Axel d'Epinau, Chief Operating Officer, September 30, 2024. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Letters to the Editor: MAGNIFIKID! - PO Box 842, Yonkers NY 10702
Customer service: MAGNIFIKID! - PO Box 842, Yonkers NY 10702
Tel.: 1-866-273-5215 - Fax: 1-914-969-6446
www.magnifikid.com - magnifikid@magnificat.com



ISSN 1553-9407

\$3.95

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- Vol. 22, Part 4
- Section I of 7

Dear parents,

Lent usually begins in February, but this year it begins in March. The later date may actually enhance our sense of preparing for a new springtime in our souls. These forty days will help us to prune ourselves in order to grow again toward God and heaven. Lent does not have to be a sad and gloomy penance, but rather a time of joyous new life. It can be the excuse we need to get rid of the burdens that keep us from flourishing. In particular, the readings from Ash Wednesday invite us to examine and reform our words and attitudes. Who doesn't need to do some "spring cleaning" of words and attitudes? Prayer, charity, and fasting are the traditional "pillars" of Lent. Practice these and learn to see them as gifts rather than punishments. As we hear in the readings from Ash Wednesday, let us tear our hearts rather than our garments. Your children will be making a Lenten notebook (included in the Ash Wednesday issue). Encourage them to use it! It will surely bless the whole family with new life. A wonderful Lent to you all!

Pray as a family

The Gospels this month invite us to change our lives, especially our attitudes. God isn't interested in pious actions performed so that others will see them. God wants a heart that is open to love and forgiveness. The Word of God placed before us in the liturgy this month is rich and abundant with exhortations to conversion. Let us turn to the Word of God as the basis for family prayer this month.

Celebration of the Word of God

Place a Bible or a Gospel text in the place where the family gathers for prayer. If possible, choose a quality book. The book should be displayed in a closed position. You may place a few lit candles around it. One of the parents opens the prayer with: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

One of the parents opens the Bible to the page (which can be marked beforehand) with Sunday's Gospel.

The family can sing a refrain or an acclamation such as *Your word, Lord, is truth, and your law, deliverance* or *Glory to Christ, eternal Word of the living God. Glory to you, Lord.*

Another alternative would be to sing one of the Lenten Gospel acclamations, such as, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!"

Depending on the age of the children, one of the parents reads all or part of the Sunday's Gospel and concludes by saying:

The word of the Lord.

All respond with:

Thanks be to God.

Children and parents are invited to repeat a word or a sentence that they particularly noticed or were touched by. The parent

concludes by repeating the words of Paul in his Letter to the Romans of the first Sunday of Lent:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Repeat the song or the acclamation as you put down the Bible in an open position. Then one of the parents invites the family to pray together in the words of Jesus, the living Word, for protection and deliverance from evil.

Our Father...

And may God bless us and keep us. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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