

# Encountering THE SEASON

Lent for the Family

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Isaiah 43:16–21  
Philippians 3:8–14  
John 8:1–11

## Dear Family:

This week, we focus on *obedience* as we accompany Jesus and Mary during this crucial part of the Lenten journey. Read the reflection questions in the “Ponder and Pray” section, explore the challenges in the “Live It” section, and enjoy the family activity. Engage in *visio divina* to contemplate how Mary and Jesus teach us the importance of obedience and trust in God’s plan.

## Obedience Requires Trust Amid Turmoil

As we enter the fifth week of Lent, the journey to Jerusalem grows more intense. In Luke 18:31, Jesus tells his apostles that everything written about him by the prophets will be fulfilled. He will be delivered, mocked, scourged, and killed. But on the third day, he will rise again. These words hold a heavy weight as Jesus prepares to face his Passion, and those closest to him—Mary and the apostles—walk with him in quiet obedience.

Mary, who has always trusted in God’s will, remains by Jesus’ side, ready for whatever lies ahead. Her obedience is not passive; it is an active, loving response to God’s call. She has taught us how to say “yes” to God in every moment, from the Annunciation to now. Even as the tension mounts and the

threat of suffering grows, Mary trusts that God’s plan is unfolding perfectly.

Imagine walking alongside Mary and hearing Jesus tell of his death and Resurrection. As his words sink in, Mary turns to you and asks, “Are you ready for this part of the journey?” Obedience like Mary’s requires trust in the midst of uncertainty, even turmoil. It asks us to surrender our plans, our fears, our understanding, and follow where God leads.

“ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. ”  
—Psalm 126:3



Wedding at Cana by Mike Moyers

As we prepare for this Holy Week, let us ask for the grace to be obedient to God’s will. Like Mary, may we walk with courage and trust, knowing that God’s plan, though it may lead through suffering, ultimately leads to resurrection and new life.

To read more about how Mary embodies radical obedience, see *The Ascension Lenten Companion: Walking with Mary to Jerusalem*.

## Ponder and Pray

- Mary said at Cana, “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). How will you apply this call to obedience in your life? What might Jesus be asking you now?
- When have you hesitated to trust in God’s plan? Will you follow Mary’s example of stepping forward in faith, even when the path is unclear?
- Do you notice God’s quiet miracles in your life, similar to the transformation at Cana? Try to cultivate greater gratitude for these moments.

## Fun for the Family

Create a “Follow the Leader” activity—with a twist! Choose one family member to lead, and have everyone else follow his or her instructions for simple tasks (like walking a path or completing small chores). After each round, switch leaders. Afterward, discuss how following instructions in the game relates to obeying God. How does listening and trusting make a difference?

## Live It

This week, reflect on how you can practice obedience in your life. Identify one area where you’ve been resisting God’s call—whether it’s a relationship, a responsibility, or a personal habit—and make a conscious effort to surrender it to him. Ask for Mary’s intercession to help you say “yes” to God with trust and courage, just as she did.

## Visio Divina

Spend time reflecting on the image of *Wedding at Cana*. In this scene, imagine the joyous celebration as Mary quietly observes that the wine has run out and, with quiet confidence, turns to Jesus for help. Jesus, at her request, performs his first public miracle, turning water into wine.

### Question 1:

As you reflect on the scene, what strikes you about Mary’s role in prompting this miracle? How does her quiet obedience to God’s plan inspire you?

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### Question 2:

How do you imagine Jesus responding to Mary’s request? What does this teach you about trusting God’s timing and will?

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### Question 3:

What does Mary’s posture in relation to Jesus reveal about her receptivity and obedience?

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For free videos and downloadable resources featuring *Lenten Companion: Walking with Mary to Jerusalem* with Fr. Mark Touns, scan this code with your camera. This bulletin’s reflection by Fr. Touns and “Family Fun” were adapted from *Lenten Companion*.

