

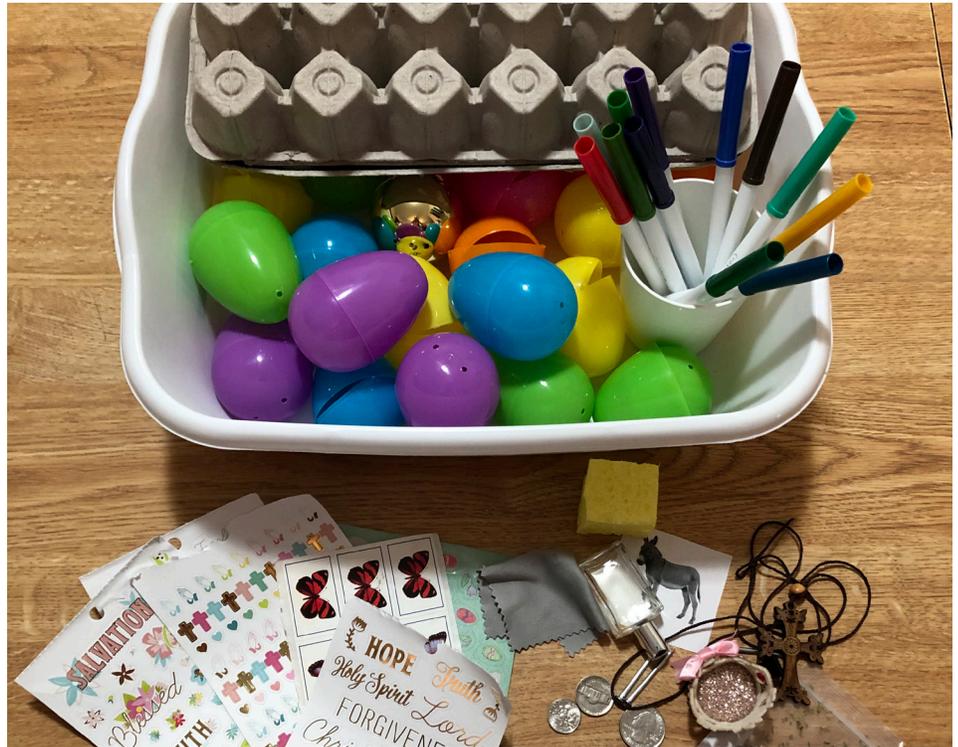
Lenten Activity for Toddlers and School-Aged Children

WE welcome you to prepare this project with your children as you journey together as a family during the Lenten season. In addition, there are a plethora of lessons, resources, and activities in our We Believe Sunday School curriculum available on VEMKAR (www.vemkar.us/sundayschool). Please feel free to reach out to us at vemkarofficial@armeniandiocese.org should you have any questions or need further information.

The Twelve Days of Easter Eggs

This activity provides an opportunity for children to learn more about the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection through scripture, tangible objects, and discussion that will help them gain a greater understanding.

Be sure to start preparing this activity early on during Lent, so you will be able to open each egg to discuss each verse and object for the 12 days leading up to Easter, just as you would with an Advent calendar leading up to Christmas. Spend time reflecting as a family about each verse and image. Conclude each of the twelve lessons with a prayer.



1. Brainstorm 12 Bible verses that you feel are important in the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Here are 12 suggested verses to help get you started:
 - I. Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:1-11)
 - II. Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. (John 12:2-8)
 - III. The Last Supper. (Matthew 26:26-29)
 - IV. Judas betrays Jesus. (Matthew 27:3-5)
 - V. Jesus carries his cross to his crucifixion site. (John 19:17-19)
 - VI. Jesus is crowned king of the Jews. (John 19:2-4)
 - VII. Soldiers divide up all of his clothes. (John 19:23)
 - VIII. Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 20:25-29)
 - IX. They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink. (John 19:28-30)
 - X. Jesus' body is prepared for burial. (John 19:40)
 - XI. They covered Jesus' tomb with a great stone. (Matthew 27:59-60)
 - XII. The tomb was empty. He has risen. (Matthew 28:6)
2. Decide which 12 verses you would like to use. Assist your child with writing each book, chapter and verse out on 12 small strips of paper.



3. Gather or buy 12 plastic fillable Easter eggs.
4. For each verse, help your child find the objects below around the house, or make a small drawing of the objects listed below. Be sure the objects are small enough to fit inside the Easter egg.
 - I. Donkey - Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:1-11)
 - II. Mini Perfume Bottle - Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. (John 12:2-8)
 - III. Bread - The Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29)
 - IV. Silver Money - Judas betrays Jesus (Matthew 27:3-5)
 - V. Cross - Jesus carries his cross to his crucifixion site. (John 19:17-19)
 - VI. Crown/Thorn/Sharp Object - Jesus crowned king of the Jews. (John 19:2-4)
 - VII. Cloth - Soldiers divide up all of his clothes. (John 19:23)
 - VIII. Nail - Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 20:25-29)
 - IX. Sponge - They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink. (John 19:28-30)
 - X. Spices in a Bag - Jesus' body is prepared for burial. (John 19:40)
 - XI. Stone - They covered Jesus' tomb with a great stone. (Matthew 27:59-60)
 - XII. (Empty Egg) - The tomb was empty. He has risen. (Matthew 28:6)
5. Place each coordinating piece of paper and object inside each egg together. Be sure to number the eggs 1 through 12 with a marker on the outside so they don't get mixed up.
6. Place the eggs in order from 1 to 12 inside an empty egg carton.
7. Encourage your child to decorate the outside of the egg carton using crayons, markers, and embellish it with religious stickers, stamps, and more.
8. Begin opening one egg each day for the 12 days leading up to Easter. Reflect as a family about the image, the verse, and the story. Conclude each evening with helping your child to say a prayer.
9. On Easter, ask your child to share what they most enjoyed and learned from this Easter Egg activity.

