

# Return to Me with Your Whole Heart

From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God's call to us clear: "Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12 NAB). It is an extraordinary invitation from God to each one of us - to me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defenses that I hold up between myself and God.

God wants us to realize that our standards, our ways of judging and loving, are very different from God's way, and so much smaller. God loves each one of us. For an entire Lenten season, for an entire lifetime, God loves each one of us.

"A clean heart create for me, God," Psalm 51:12 NAB offers. "Give me back the joy of your salvation." That is exactly what our loving God wants to give us, the joy of salvation.

This is the invitation of each day of Lent. Today is the day to accept it.

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## For your reflection...

- [40 Ideas for 40 Days](http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/resources/40-ideas-for-40-days), <http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/resources/40-ideas-for-40-days>
- 50 Things to Give Up for Lent, click [HERE](#)
- 41 Ways to Keep Lent, click [HERE](#).
- From our friends at the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**, **Journey to the Foot of the Cross: Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember for Lent** <http://usccb.org/news/2012/12-032.cfm>
- Why is Lent 40 Days, click [HERE](#).
- Lent, The Journey Begins.... click [HERE](#).
- For children, 5-8 years, but who doesn't love learning about the saints? Subscribe to [www.themeracybeggars.com](http://www.themeracybeggars.com)
- Busted Halo, <https://bustedhalo.com/>

- Blessed is She, Begin Your Day in Prayer, Sign up to receive our daily devotions straight to your inbox, click [HERE](#).
- Word Among Us, <https://wau.org/>
- Bishop Barron, Word on Fire, click [HERE](#) to peruse the many opportunities to pray.
- FORMED, thousands of books, movies, talks, documentaries, studies, for adults, teens and children. We have a parish subscription: Go to [FORMED.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
  - Enter parish zip code 30066
  - Select Transfiguration
  - Enter your name and email
    - For kids: search Drawing Closer to God
    - Brother Francis videos
- Hallow app, Join the Lenten challenge, free trial for 90 days, click [HERE](#) to register.
- How to Live Lent this year, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VcJh6PWzRk>
- JustFaith Lenten Series: Sowing Peace, 6 Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Adult Education Room, Click [HERE](#) to register.
- A quick thought on Lent, <https://app.formed.org/app/videos/780596>
- Made for Heaven: Lent with Fr. Agustino Torres, click <https://app.formed.org/app/collections/984311>
- For teens, click [HERE](#). (Instagram posts #Lent)
- Ave Maria Press, Weekly Lenten reflection videos on Exploring the Wilderness in your heart, click [HERE](#).
- Acts XXIII, podcasts with Fr. John Riccardo, click [HERE](#).
- In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way, click [HERE](#).
- Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, spend some quiet time with Jesus... just be! Anytime Monday-Friday, 9 am – 10 pm, Sunday 6-10 pm. [Click to read more....](#)