

Lenten Virtual Story Time

Use this powerful season of Lent to reach the families of your parish by hosting a weekly virtual story time. You can create a PowerPoint of the pages of the book and read the story using any virtual platform as families enjoy this cozy time together in their homes or try this technique to read the story. These books lend themselves perfectly to conversations about the truths of our faith and how we are to live as disciples of Jesus. They also can bring out the themes we think about during Lent which are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Some of these titles come in eBook versions and some in Spanish.



Leo's Gift

by Susan Blackaby and Joellyn Circiarelli

<https://www.leosgift.com/>

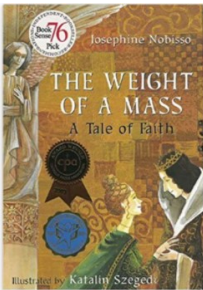
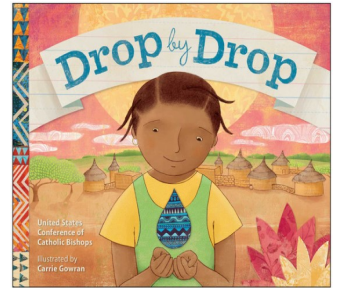
Leo's Gift beautifully illustrates with words and pictures, the importance of discovering, nurturing, and celebrating the unique gifts that all children possess and the value in sharing those gifts to bless others. This story is a wonderful way to encourage children not only to think about their personal talents and to explore how they might share them to help others, but also to urge children to recognize and champion the unique gifts in others. *Leo's Gift* has its own website with downloadable activities, lesson plans and teachable moments.

Drop by Drop

published by the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

<https://store.loyolapress.com/two-feet-of-love-in-action-drop-by-drop>

Drop by Drop contains colorful pictures and an engaging story that helps children understand important lessons of how to work for justice and peace and to help those in need. Downloadable activities and lesson plans to extend your story time and engage families further are available for free.



The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Truth

by Josephine Nobisso

<https://www.amazon.com/Weight-Mass-Tale-Faith/dp/0940112108>

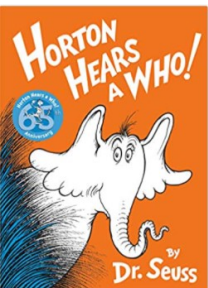
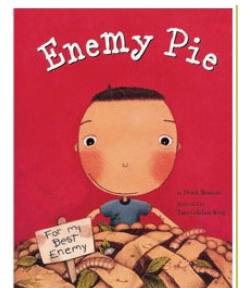
This beautiful story won the *Catholic Press Association Award* and is a timeless classic. Couched in the language and look of a fairy tale, and rich in solemn beauty, this tale of what happened when a destitute widow begs only a crust of bread in return for offering the *Royal Wedding Mass* is based on a true miracle. [Here](#) is an animated version of this story on YouTube that could be used for your story time.

Enemy Pie

by Derek Munson

<http://enemypie.com/blog1/>

In this funny, yet endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipe for turning a best enemy into a best friend. With charming illustrations that bring to life the difficulties and ultimate rewards of making new friends, *Enemy Pie* serves up a sweet lesson in friendship. It can tie into the Lenten theme of forgiveness and redemption. This site includes activities, lesson plans and other opportunities for extension work with this great storybook.



Horton Hears a Who!

by Dr. Seuss

<https://www.amazon.com/Horton-Hears-Who-Dr-Seuss/dp/0394800788>

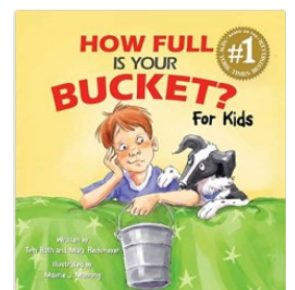
This classic beloved book is the quintessential story about caring for others. It is a crowd pleaser with wonderful pictures and all ages will enjoy the rhyming cadence of this story. This story lends itself beautifully to conversations on how everyone is important and all our lives are valued by God. This can relate to the Lenten practice of 'fasting' as we can fast from judging others or being unkind.

How Full is Your Bucket

by Tom Rath

<https://www.amazon.com/How-Full-Your-Bucket-Kids/dp/1595620273>

This is an illustrated adaptation of the long-running bestseller *How Full Is Your Bucket?* told through the story of a young boy. Felix begins to see how every interaction in a day either fills or empties his bucket and then realized that everything he says and does to others fills or empties their buckets as well. This story lends itself well to conversation on how God "fills our buckets" when we turn to God and seek his presence. Connect this to the Lenten practice of daily prayer.



The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross

by Carl Laferton

<https://www.thegoodbook.com/the-garden-the-curtain-and-the-cross>

This is beautiful story unpacks the *Kerygma* (or Gospel acclamation) in a way that is developmentally appropriate for children. This story teaches children why Jesus died and rose and why that is the best news ever! It would be the perfect story to read to families during *Holy Week*! Here is a [read](#) aloud video version of this story..