The word “Lent,” is from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten*, meaning Spring; *Lencten faestes*, meaning Spring fast.

**Why was Lent instituted?**
In order to honor the fast of our Lord in the desert and to help the faithful prepare for the mysteries of Christ’s death and Resurrection.

**How long is the Lenten fast?** It lasts for 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Holy Saturday.
The History Of Lent

All for Jesus
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Maundy Thursday

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday
HOLY OR MAUNDY THURSDAY
It was on this day that Our Lord gathered together His twelve Apostles for the Last Supper. It was then that He instituted the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the Last Supper He went to the Garden of Gethsemani and it was here that He suffered the Agony in the Garden and where Judas betrayed Him with a Kiss.

During Mass on this day the Bishop blesses the oils used in Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Extreme Unction. After the Gloria in the evening Mass the bells are rung no more until the Easter Vigil.

PALM SUNDAY
Today is the first day of Holy Week. It was on this day that Our Lord entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey as the people threw palms in His path saying, “Hosanna to the King.” The palms are blessed before the High Mass today. Then carried in procession around the Church before the Mass and given to the Faithful at the Communion rail. Some of the blessed palms are saved for next year to be burned to make the ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. The palms symbolize triumph and the Cross, symbolize death and penance.

GOOD FRIDAY
On this day Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ died on the Cross for us. It is the most somber day of the entire year. A silence pervades, socializing is kept to a minimum. People go to church, the phone is turned off, the television is turned off, and radio is on. As a special prayer, the three most sacred hours of the day are considered: 9:00 AM - the first hour after Christ’s death, a silence is kept; 12:00 PM - the second hour when Jesus was nailed to the Cross, a silence is kept; 3:00 PM - the third hour when Jesus died, a silence is kept.

HOLY SATURDAY
Christ is in His tomb. Rather, His Body is in the tomb, but His Soul left His Body to release the just that were in Limbo and Purgatory.

EASTER VIGIL
Bells are rung no more until the morning Mass. The Bishop presides at Holy Saturday Mass. After the Last Supper He went to the Garden of Gethsemani and it was here that He suffered the Agony in the Garden and where Judas betrayed Him with a Kiss. Again in the Garden and where He gathered together His Twelve gathered together His Twelve

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Stations
Of the
Cross Pictures
Template for Resurrection picture
Prayer in Commemoration of
Our Lord’s Passion, to be said at
three O’clock on Fridays:

I bless Thee, O Thou Lord of heaven!
Whose life for sinful man was given.
Let not Thy cross and bitter pain
Have been for me borne all in vain.
The two weeks of Passiontide begin today, the first week being known as "Passion Week," and the second week being known as "Holy Week." Today, statues and sacred images (except for the Stations of the Cross) are veiled with purple cloth at the Vespers of Passion Sunday, and they remain covered until the Gloria of Holy Saturday, at which point Lent ends and Eastertide begins. Catholics cover statues and icons in their homes for the same time period.

Today, the veiling also symbolizes the moment that Christ's Divinity was hidden, as it is a moment that sheds light on the audience of the Church's year. One of the most glorious liturgical moments of the entire Church year is the Vespers Mass on Holy Saturday, at which the veils are removed, and Eastertide begins. This veiling also symbolizes the fact that Christ's Divinity was hidden during His Passion and death. At the Vespers Mass on Holy Saturday, Lent ends and Easter begins: the statues are unveiled at that time in one of the most glorious liturgical moments of the entire Church year, a moment that affirms Christ's divinity and proclaims that "He is risen!"