

I WILL!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- strips of light purple paper, approximately 1.5 x 8 inches, one per child, on which are written the words "I Will"
- crayons or markers (if you choose to have the children draw)
- pencils (if you choose to have the children write)
- basket to hold the paper strips

Prior to the celebration of this prayer, place the strips of paper in the basket, and place the basket on your classroom Lent prayer table.

Gather the children around the prayer table. Remind them that Lent is a time to prepare for Easter by thinking about our Baptism, and by choosing ways that we can better live as children of God. Invite volunteers to say aloud their ideas of ways we can do so (by helping our parents, loving our brothers and sisters, doing our best at school, praying, paying attention at Mass, etc.).

After listening to volunteers' suggestions, invite each child to come forward and take a purple strip of paper from the basket. Invite the children to return to their seats and quietly write or draw one way they can prepare for Easter during Lent. Encourage them to choose one of the ideas shared aloud or an idea of their own. (Play quiet instrumental music as the children are doing so. Encourage those who finish the activity first to remain quiet by listening to the music or by praying.)

When it seems that all have had enough time to write or draw their choices, again gather the children around the prayer table, and invite each child to place his or her purple strip in the basket. Encourage those who wish to name aloud what they have written or drawn as they place their strip in the basket.

After all of the children have placed their slips of paper in the basket, lead and invite the group to echo the following prayer:

**Loving God,
Lent is the beginning!
Every one of its forty days,
with your help,
we will grow in your love!
AMEN.**

Leave the basket of strips on the Lent prayer table as a visual reminder of the Lenten promises the children have made. From time to time, invite them to stop and think about how they are honoring their promises, or about what they need to do in order to honor their promise to God. Continue to offer the concluding prayer (above) throughout Lent, and invite the children to think about what they are doing to grow in God's love.

