Lent Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which observance opens Lent in the Roman Catholic calendar described by the Archdiocese of New York?

A. Ash Wednesday
B. Epiphany
C. Pentecost
D. All Saints’ Day

Correct answer: A. Ash Wednesday
The archdiocese identifies Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent. Its description also notes the custom of marking worshippers with ashes on that day.

2. In the Orthodox Church in America, what is the name for the Monday that begins Great Lent?

A. Bright Monday
B. Shrove Monday
C. Clean Monday
D. Whit Monday

Correct answer: C. Clean Monday
The Orthodox Church in America marks Clean Monday as the beginning of Great Lent, following a period of preparation.

3. The Church of England’s Common Worship rules allow an unbleached linen Lent array. Which liturgical color can it replace during Lent?

A. Green
B. Purple
C. White
D. Red

Correct answer: B. Purple
Common Worship lists purple and allows unbleached linen as an alternative from Ash Wednesday until the day before Palm Sunday.

4. Which food gives Shrove Tuesday its nickname in the Church of England’s guide to English Lent customs?

A. Shortbread
B. Hot cross buns
C. Mince pies
D. Pancakes

Correct answer: D. Pancakes
The guide calls Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day. It connects making pancakes to the custom of using eggs and fat before Lent began.

5. What seasonal change does the United Methodist Church’s guide connect with lencten, the older word behind the name Lent?

A. Nights getting longer in autumn
B. Days getting longer in spring
C. Temperatures peaking in summer
D. Leaves falling as winter approaches

Correct answer: B. Days getting longer in spring
The United Methodist guide connects the Old English word with the lengthening days of spring.

6. On which Sunday of Lent does the Church of England’s Common Worship allow the Mothering Sunday prayers to be used?

A. The fourth Sunday
B. The first Sunday
C. The second Sunday
D. The fifth Sunday

Correct answer: A. The fourth Sunday
Common Worship places Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday of Lent and provides prayers that may be used for it.

7. Which alternative vestment color does the Roman Catholic General Instruction of the Roman Missal permit on Laetare Sunday where it is customary?

A. Blue
B. Green
C. Red
D. Rose

Correct answer: D. Rose
The instruction permits rose on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, in places that follow the custom.

8. The Orthodox Church in America’s guide describes an object placed in the middle of the church on the third Sunday of Great Lent. What is it?

A. A wreath
B. A baptismal font
C. A cross
D. A pair of altar curtains

Correct answer: C. A cross
The guide calls this the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross is displayed in the church as part of that observance.

9. In the Orthodox Church in America’s guide, when are the Communion gifts consecrated for the Lenten Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts?

A. At an earlier Divine Liturgy
B. At the beginning of the Presanctified service
C. After the Presanctified service ends
D. During a reading at that same service

Correct answer: A. At an earlier Divine Liturgy
The Orthodox Church in America explains that the gifts are already consecrated at an earlier Divine Liturgy, usually on the preceding Sunday.

10. In St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church’s description of Great Lent, what happens to the main altar curtain during the Divine Liturgy?

A. It stays closed for the readings and then opens again.
B. It stays open throughout the service.
C. It opens for the readings and then closes again.
D. It stays closed throughout the service.

Correct answer: D. It stays closed throughout the service.
The parish describes celebrating the Divine Liturgy with the main altar curtain closed during Great Lent.

11. Which schedule matches the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen’s guide to the Rite of Election and the scrutinies for the elect?

A. Rite of Election and all three scrutinies together on Lent’s first Sunday.
B. Scrutinies on Lent’s first Sunday, then the Rite of Election on its fifth Sunday.
C. Rite of Election on Lent’s first Sunday, then scrutinies on its third, fourth, and fifth Sundays.
D. Rite of Election on Lent’s third Sunday, then all three scrutinies on its fifth Sunday.

Correct answer: C. Rite of Election on Lent’s first Sunday, then scrutinies on its third, fourth, and fifth Sundays.
The Diocese of Metuchen places the Rite of Election on the first Sunday. It sets the scrutinies, which are rites of preparation for the elect, on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays.

12. A Roman Catholic parish schedule lists the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper in Lent and starts the Triduum the next morning. Which edit fits the U.S. Catholic bishops’ guidance?

A. Start the Triduum at midnight after the evening Mass.
B. Mark the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper as the start of the Triduum.
C. Start the Triduum at the Good Friday liturgy.
D. Start the Triduum at the Easter Vigil.

Correct answer: B. Mark the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper as the start of the Triduum.
The U.S. Catholic bishops identify the Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper as the opening liturgy of the Triduum.

13. A Church of England parish draft begins Passiontide on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Which calendar correction follows Common Worship?

A. Move its beginning to Ash Wednesday.
B. Move its beginning to the third Sunday of Lent.
C. Move its beginning to the first Sunday of Lent.
D. Move its beginning to the fifth Sunday of Lent.

Correct answer: D. Move its beginning to the fifth Sunday of Lent.
Common Worship marks the beginning of Passiontide at the fifth Sunday of Lent.

14. An Orthodox Church in America editor needs to mark when the church first draws on the Lenten Triodion, its seasonal service book. Which entry belongs first?

A. Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
B. Sunday of the Prodigal Son
C. Sunday of the Last Judgment
D. Forgiveness Sunday

Correct answer: A. Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
The Orthodox Church in America marks the beginning of the Lenten Triodion on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, during the weeks of preparation before Great Lent.

15. Which sequence fits the Orthodox Church in America’s account of the close of Great Lent and the next two observances?

A. Palm Sunday comes first, followed by the close of Great Lent and then Lazarus Saturday.
B. Lazarus Saturday comes first, followed by the close of Great Lent and then Palm Sunday.
C. Great Lent closes Friday evening, followed by Lazarus Saturday and then Palm Sunday.
D. Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday come before Great Lent closes.

Correct answer: C. Great Lent closes Friday evening, followed by Lazarus Saturday and then Palm Sunday.
The guide places the formal close of Great Lent on the Friday evening before Lazarus Saturday. Palm Sunday follows Lazarus Saturday.