

# FELINE LENTEN DECORATIONS

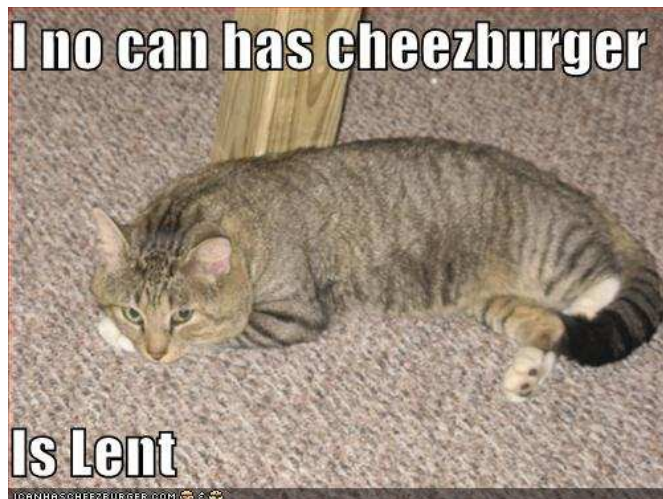
Yes, “Lenten decorations” does seem like a contradiction in terms.

Lent is a penitential season, and so we remove all decoration such as flowers from the Church building. Many people follow this custom at home, doing without cut flowers until Easter arrives.



Meanwhile, some Roman Catholic Parishes in the USA have developed a newer Lenten tradition. Holy Water is removed from the stoups and replaced with rocks, twigs, sand or something that looks suspiciously like cat litter.

Happily, the Vatican has just outlawed this bizarre practice. Holy Water remains in place!



But if you're feeling in need of some nature, why not follow an old Slavic tradition and bring in some pussy willow branches?

It being a bit cold for date palms and olives, many Eastern Europeans know Palm Sunday as ‘Pussy Willow Sunday.’ They gather the branches with their catkins during Lent, and keep them in a vase of water at home, ready to bring to Church for blessing and carrying in procession on the Sixth Sunday of Lent.

