

FAITH IN 5

Lent Week 6

- 1. Do you know the name for the last Sunday in Lent?** Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent. **What do we do on Palm Sunday?** On Palm Sunday, the Church remembers Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It is a tradition to have a Procession or a Solemn Entrance where the mass begins outside of the Sanctuary with the Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11 proclaimed. **Why do we hold Palm branches?** We hold blessed Palm branches as a reminder of the crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. They recognized Him as the Son of God saying "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" The story of Our Lord's Passion is also read on Palm Sunday. Your Priest will read the words of Jesus, with other lectors reading the parts of the narrator, Pilate, the crowd and Peter. The Priest will wear red vestments. Our palm branches are also a stark reminder that some of the same people who hailed Jesus as He came into Jerusalem, would later cry out "Crucify Him!" We, too, can be fickle and weak in our devotion to Jesus. Jesus' love for us is not weak, and he never changes His minds about us! Let us enter into the last week of Lent meditating on His great Passion and love for us.
- 2. Did you know the sixth week of Lent is called Holy Week?** On Wednesday, the gospel is about the betrayal of Judas, Matthew 26: 14-25. **What does Judas get in exchange for handing over Jesus?** Judas receives 30 pieces of silver. We also betray Jesus, in spite of our best efforts to be good Christians. We betray Him when we take His name in vain, fail to spend time with him, or don't obey His commandment of love. *Family Challenge: To recognize Spy Wednesday, named for Judas' sneakiness, hide 30 pieces of silver (quarters or dollars) around a room of the house. Children can look for them while the gospel is read to them. The money can be donated to the church.*
- 3. What is done on Holy Thursday?** On Holy Thursday there is an evening mass called the Mass of the Lord's Supper. **Why does the Priest wash people's feet?** The priest washes peoples feet because Jesus washed His disciples feet. In John 13:1-15 Jesus explains "I, therefore, the master and the teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." **Why is the Blessed Sacrament moved after Communion?** The Blessed Sacrament is moved by way of a procession to a side chapel, as a place of rest, where parishioners can remain in Eucharistic Adoration after mass. Holy Thursday celebrates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last

Supper. Jesus asked His disciples to remain with Him, to keep watch and pray, the night before His Passion. We can do that by spending time in Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday night.

4. **What happens on Good Friday?** On Good Friday, we commemorate the Lord's Passion. **How do we do this?** At Good Friday service, we read Jesus' Passion from the gospel of John. There will also be Adoration of the Holy Cross. **What is Adoration of the Holy Cross?** A Cross with a purple veil is processed in the Church and elevated while we sing "Behold, The Wood of the Cross." In most cases, the parishioners will come forward individually for a chance to momentarily adore and kiss the cross. **Is Good Friday a mass?** No, Good Friday is not a mass but we still receive the Eucharist, consecrated at an earlier time.

5. **What is the Easter Vigil Mass?** The Easter Vigil mass begins late at night, outside around a fire. The fire is blessed by the Priest and then used to light the Paschal Candle. From the Paschal Candle, the parishioners will have a small candle lit of their own as they process into the church. A beautiful Easter Proclamation is read or sung. **Why are there so many readings?** The readings on Easter Vigil take us on a journey through all salvation history. The readings culminate in the gospel of the Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10) It is no longer Lent, but Easter! **Are there any other parts to the Easter Vigil Mass?** Yes, Easter Vigil has a baptismal liturgy, where all those who have been preparing to enter the Church are baptized, and confirmed and will receive their First Holy Communion!

Dear Parents, It can be challenging to attend the Holy Triduum masses of Holy Week with children. It is a worthy and beautiful thing to attempt, but know that you can still enter deeply into Holy Week if you are unable to attend services. Here are some ideas:

Holy Thursday- recreate a Passover Meal, read the gospel reading for the day. Wash your children's feet.

Good Friday- Keep the Good Friday fast, read the gospel reading, attend Stations of the Cross, or sing Lenten hymns, silence between 12-3

Holy Saturday- Have a day of minimal noise/excitement, include children in practical preparation for Easter (cleaning/cooking). Make hot cross buns. Pray for all the new Catholics that will be entering the Church tonight.

REVIEW QUESTION: **Why do we pray?** We pray to ADORE God, to THANK Him for His blessings, to ask for FORGIVENESS of our sins and to ASK for blessings or graces for ourselves or others. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 37)

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