

FAITH IN 5

Lent: Week 7 (Holy Week)

Ages 3-8

1. This Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is the first day of Holy week. **What happens on Palm Sunday?** On Palm Sunday, we remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey in the days before he was crucified. As Jesus entered the city, people waved palm branches at him. This was a sign of respect and a symbol of peace! On this special feast day, the Church will give us palm branches before Mass as a reminder of Christ's glorious entrance. We want to welcome Jesus into our lives just as the people of Jerusalem did when he entered the city! At Mass we will also read Christ's Passion. **What does passion mean?** Passion is another word for suffering. **What can we do to prepare for Palm Sunday Mass?** We can read the Gospel reading ahead of time, wear red, or arrive early and fold our palm leaves into a cross (with mom and dad's help!)
2. **What is Holy Week?** During Holy Week, we remember the days leading up to Christ's passion. It starts on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday. **What is the Easter Triduum?** The Easter Triduum are the 3 holy days before Easter- Holy, Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. They are very special days. **Do you know why each day is important?** On Holy Thursday, we remember Jesus's Last Supper. On Good Friday, we remember Christ's passion and death on the cross. And on Holy Saturday, we remember when Jesus lay in the tomb. Remember what happens next?! It is so exciting!
3. **Do you know what happened at the Last Supper?** Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast, known as Passover. This was Jesus's last meal. We call it the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and told them many important things. The Last Supper is where Jesus taught us about the Eucharist. He took bread and broke it, saying to his disciples "take this and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you." He then took the wine, gave thanks to God, and said "Take this and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of Me." At every Mass, the priest repeats these words and through the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ!

4. **Why are the crucifix and some of the statues at Church covered with purple cloths?** During the last two weeks of Lent, many Catholic churches will cover (or "veil") their Crucifix and statues with purple cloths. This tradition occurs during Passiontide, which marks the last two weeks of Lent. It is the time where we are most focused on Jesus's passion and death. When we see the purple drapings, we are instantly reminded of the important time that we are in. The veils are a great reminder to prepare our hearts for Christ's passion and death. **Will you do anything special this week to remember Holy Week?** (some ideas: pray a Rosary on Good Friday, watch the Prince of Egypt, wash each other's feet on Holy Thursday, do some Spring cleaning!)
5. **What is the Easter Vigil?** The Easter Vigil is a special Easter Mass that is said late Saturday night on Holy Saturday. After the Gospel reading is read, it is officially Easter! At this special Mass, some people receive the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation! We welcome them into the Church as new members of the Catholic faith! It is absolutely beautiful. This tends to be a very long Mass, so oftentimes families with children go to Mass on Sunday morning instead!

Review Question: What is original sin? Original sin does not refer to our individual sins, but is the sin that was caused by Adam and Eve. It is the sin that all people are born with.

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