

FAITH IN 5

Lent: Week 7

Ages 8+

1. **What is Palm Sunday?** Palm Sunday is the first Day of Holy Week. It commemorates Jesus' glorious entrance into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover with His Disciples. In the gospel we will also read about Jesus' Passion. **What do we mean when we say Jesus' Passion?** The Greek word for passion means to suffer. **Why do we receive palm branches at mass?** The palm branches are blessed by the priest and are a reminder that the same people who waved Palm branches in worship turned around and called for Jesus' crucifixion days later. It is a reminder of Jesus' love for us and our own weakness.
2. **What is the Easter Triduum?** The Easter Triduum are the three holy days before Easter. They are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday are normally evening masses while Good Friday services are often held at noon or 3 pm. They are not holy days of obligation but they will deeply enrich your Easter experience!
3. **What do we do on Holy Thursday?** On Holy Thursday we remember Jesus' celebration of the Passover meal with his disciples. More importantly, we celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist. It was THIS night that Jesus gave his body and blood to the disciples in the form of bread and wine. **Why does the Priest wash some of the congregants' feet?** We recall Jesus' washing His disciple's feet in the gospel reading. Jesus is showing His disciples to lead by serving. On Holy Thursday we leave the church in silence as the Eucharist is exposed for Adoration. Parishioners are encouraged to spend time with Jesus during his agony.
4. **What is Good Friday like?** Good Friday is actually not a mass. The altar is stripped bare and the tabernacle is empty. It is a day of mourning and fasting. The Passion of Christ will be read and then the parish will venerate the Cross. **What does venerate mean?** Venerate means to treat something with great respect. We will process up and kiss the cross.
5. **What is the Easter Vigil?** The Easter Vigil is the mass celebrated late Saturday night before Easter. This mass is very long but very spectacular. It begins outside the church with a fire to light the new Paschal candle. There is a beautiful sung Easter proclamation, many readings of the history of Salvation. One of the most beautiful parts of the mass are the Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations that occur for all the new Catholics. After the gospel reading at this mass it is officially Easter! Because Easter vigil is late at night, it is more common for kids to celebrate Easter mass on Sunday morning.

Review Question: What is the virtue of Fortitude? Fortitude is the virtue that gives you the strength to do the right thing, especially when facing difficulties.

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