

Family Lesson 3 - April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday

At Our Lady Queen of Peace we firmly believe that families along with our catechists support each other in the faith formation of our children.

We continue with home lessons for each family. I am also posting the family lessons on the parish website.

Materials needed for this lesson – a candle, a crucifix/cross

Place the Cross in the center of the family group and light the candle

Opening Prayer – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

As a family slowly pray (not say) the Lord's Prayer.

Then each family member should offer a special prayer for someone that they want God to bless this week. When everyone is finished, mark each person in the family with the sign of the cross on the forehead. End this prayer time by praying a Hail Mary.

This week your family will focus on Holy Week which begins today, Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday as some call it.

All Christian churches celebrate this day of when Jesus and his followers entered Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. We prepare to celebrate our Christian Passover when Christ conquered death and rose again on Easter.

In each of your child's religious education books for grades 1-5 there are explanations for Holy Week on pages 177-182. For grades 6 and 7, chapter 15 does discuss the Passion of Jesus.

What IS important to understand????? The discussion and sharing should embrace these facts.

1. The days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the high holy days of our Catholic Christian faith. These days are called the Triduum – Latin for 3 days.
2. We count the days of the Easter Triduum from evening to evening (evening of Holy Thursday to evening of Easter Sunday).
3. Holy Thursday evening – Mass of the Lord's Supper – we remember the institution of the Eucharist (the time when Jesus celebrated Passover); we re-enact the washing of the feet because Jesus came as a servant (not one to be served); and this Mass does

not end, the Blessed Sacrament is taken from the church and the people leave in silence. The altar is stripped and candles are removed just like the empty tomb.

4. **Good Friday** – The Church is bare; nothing on altar, not even a cross. There is no Mass. People come to church at 3:00pm to hear the Gospel of the **Passion of Jesus**. We come at 3pm because we believe this is the time that Jesus died on the cross. At this service we venerate (honor) a wooden cross. There are many special prayers. There is a communion service and then everyone leaves the church in silence.
5. Holy Saturday (during the daytime) is the connecting time for us to pray and think about what Jesus has done for us. During the day families usually prepare at home for Easter celebrations.

The Easter Vigil is the highlight of this day. On Good Friday we remembered that Jesus died for us and now we will celebrate his resurrection on Easter morning. The holy sacrifice of the Mass begins with the lighting of the Easter fire and the procession of the Paschal Candle into a darkened church. Everyone's candle is lit as we remember Christ is the Light of the World. There are many beautiful Scripture readings, the Alleluia is proclaimed again, the Baptismal water is blessed, sacraments of initiation are celebrated and we renew our Baptismal promises.

6. Easter Sunday – He is Risen! The most important day of our faith. Jesus is with us always. The Mass is celebrated for everyone all around the world.

Remember – Three days but count evening to evening (sunset to sunset). All major religions of the world (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) celebrate from sunset to sunrise.

This year is very special because all the major religions are celebrating their holy days 3 weeks in a row. This week is Passover, next week is Easter and the following is Ramadan.

God the Father of all is truly good.

Activities

1. This year we are not able to participate in any of the Holy Week Masses and services at church. But you can re-enact each day at home (except of course receiving holy communion.) As a family do as many of these as possible. Look up the Scripture reading from the USCCB website and read some of them as a family. Check out the pages in your child's religious education books too.
2. Create a guessing game as to what happens on each day of holy week.
3. Google activities to day for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Unfortunately we have to postpone the annual egg hunt this Easter Sunday☹

But Jesus is Risen on Easter. Our prayers continue for all of you.

Angela Connelly and all the Catechists

Fr. Tony, Fr. Rafal, Fr. Jonathan and Deacon Joe

A Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic

O Mary,

you always brighten our path

as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,

who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain

while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,

you know what we need,

and we are confident you will provide for us

as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,

the Divine Physician,

for those who have fallen ill,

for those who are vulnerable,

and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with

protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge,

O Holy Mother of God.

In our needs, despise not our petitions,

but deliver us always from all dangers,

O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.