

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOLY WEEK

As Catholics, Holy Week represents the summit of our faith. During this week, we celebrate the mystery of Christ's passion and resurrection, when He died to save us from our sins and resurrected, giving us hope for a new life. Every year we are called to celebrate Holy Week as if we were there with Jesus – living the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, when He instituted the Eucharist; walking with Him through His passion and death on Good Friday; and witnessing Him rise from the dead in glory on Easter Sunday.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the Eucharist.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 26:26-30](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 1322-1323](#)

On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death.

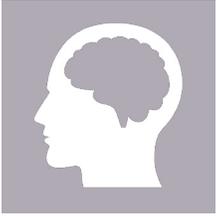
Scripture Resources: [Mark 15](#); [Psalm 22:14-18](#); [Matthew 27:32-61](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 595-598](#)

On Easter Sunday, we remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Scripture Resources: [Mark 16:1-18](#); [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 640](#)



PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions below each objective to explore the topic throughout the week. Remember that our faith is a mystery and you don't always need all the answers. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren).

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Learning Objectives

01 On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the Eucharist.

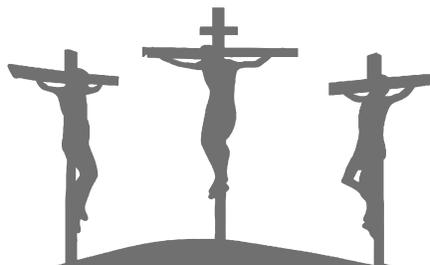
To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Eucharist means thanksgiving. Why do you think Catholics receive the Eucharist at Mass?
- Can you think of a special meal that you have had? What made it so special?
- Do you give thanks to God at any other meals that you eat? How do you give thanks?

02 On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

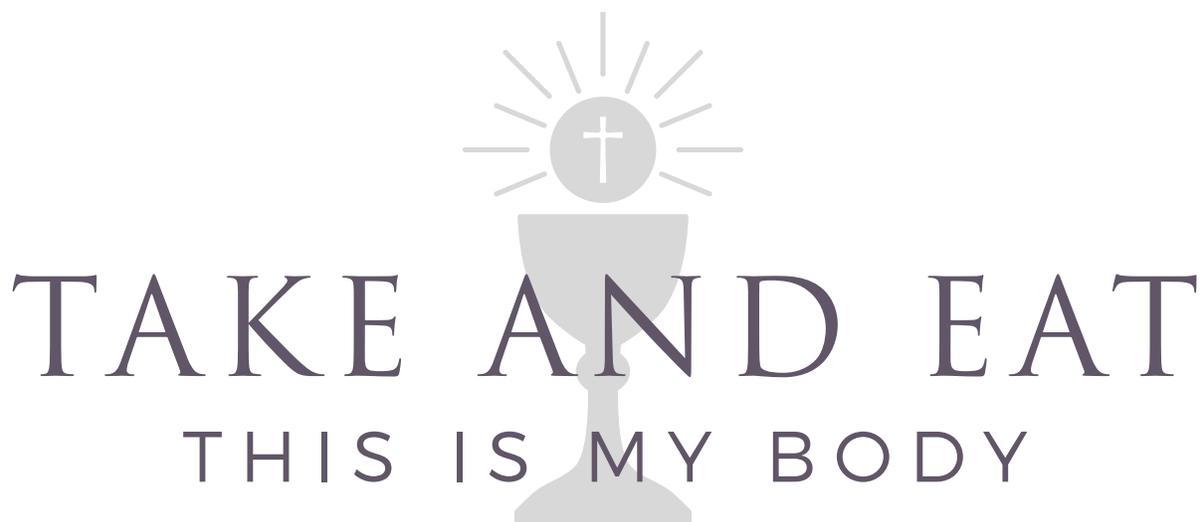
- Where do you see Jesus in your home today?
- When you see Jesus on the cross, what do you think of?
- Jesus knew that in order to save us He would have to die for us. What does Jesus' death tell you about the way He feels about you?



03 On Easter Sunday, we remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Many people celebrate Easter Sunday by dyeing eggs and having an Easter egg hunt. What happens when an egg hatches?
- Why do you think we use eggs as a symbol on Easter?
- Jesus' resurrection brought new life for us. Where can you see new life in your family?

**FOR OLDER CHILDREN***Learning Objectives***01 On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the Eucharist.**

On that night Jesus gathered the apostles and broke bread in order to teach them that He is the Living Bread, our source of life. When we celebrate Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, just like at the Last Supper. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- When you prepared to receive Jesus for the first time at your First Communion, how was that experience for you? What do you remember?
- What does the bread become? And what does the wine become?
- What does the Eucharist mean to you?

02 On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death.

After the Last Supper, Jesus was arrested, even though He had not done anything wrong. He willingly chose to die on the cross for us, saving us from our sins.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What are some ways that we know God loves us?
- What has Jesus done for us?
- What is sin?
- How can we respond to Jesus knowing that He gave His life for us?

03 On Easter Sunday, we remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the great joy of Jesus' resurrection which brought us new life and new hope. With His resurrection, He also gave all of us a mission: to proclaim the Good News throughout the whole world.

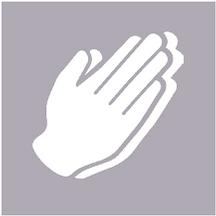
To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Why did Jesus rise from the dead?
- How do you think Jesus wants us to respond to His great gift of love: dying on the cross and resurrecting for us?
- Why are you thankful for Jesus' death and resurrection?

**LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA**

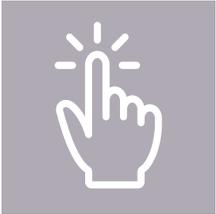
Choose one or more of the passages below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Mark 15:21-39](#) - Christ's Passion
[Mark 16: 1-8](#) - The empty tomb



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

FOR THE FAMILY: Pray the **ROSARY** on each day of the Triduum contemplating each mystery corresponding to the day (The Luminous Mysteries on Holy Thursday, The Sorrowful Mysteries on Good Friday, and the Glorious Mysteries on Saturday evening or Easter Sunday). If your child has difficulty praying the entire rosary, pray one decade as a family for each day. The full prayer can be found in the Prayer Guide on pages 13-15.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

To better live the mystery of the Holy Week, attend each celebration of the Triduum at your Parish.

As a family, plan your own Last Supper with a delicious meal, as Jesus did with His apostles. Start with a short spontaneous prayer in preparation for Holy Week. Towards the end of the meal a parent may invite the family to wash each other's feet as a gesture of humility and true service, as Jesus did with the apostles. Conclude this moment by praying the Our Father, which can be found in the Prayer Guide on page 3.

Good Friday is a day of fasting, prayer, and mourning, since it is the day on which Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. As a family, prepare a little altar with a cross and a purple cloth representing Jesus' royalty. Using brown paper bags, [build a crown of thorns](#) together.

On Easter Sunday morning prepare a delicious breakfast as a family. Before you say grace, sing any Alleluia song with your hearts full of joy and smiles to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. This is also a great opportunity to spend some time dyeing eggs. Explain that the eggs represent new life, and that is what we are celebrating: our new lives through Jesus' resurrection!