

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Palm/Passion Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. It begins the most solemn week of the Church year. During Holy Week, we remember Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We also listen to the Passion according to Matthew at this Sunday's Mass.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Bring home a blessed palm and display it. Talk about welcoming Jesus into your home and into your hearts. Talk about the joy you have because Jesus is with your whole family. Sing hosanna in praise to Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): The class learned about how Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem and talked about the ways we welcome people. Your child also reviewed all the events of Holy Week. Try to take your child to at least one of the Holy Week liturgies. Talk about Jesus' suffering and Death with your child, and comfort them with the promise of new life at Easter.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week your child learned about the events of Holy Week. Ask your child to show you his or her Holy Week Prayer Book and to explain each event to the family. Decide together on ways you will celebrate Holy Week in your home. Work the word, Hosanna, into your prayers of praise for Jesus.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class, your child experienced the many events of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. Ask your child to share with the family "My Good Friday Stations of the Cross," a booklet that contains dramatic paintings of the traditional moments in the final hours of Jesus' life. Plan to go to church during the week and pray the stations, guided by the booklet. At the end, kneel together and pray to understand the Resurrection's role in your lives

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your child's class adopted a reporter's viewpoint to learn more about the events of Holy Week. Ask your child to share the reports on how the city of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus and the events of Good Friday. Plan to attend Good Friday services together. After the liturgy, spend a few minutes sharing together what the experience meant to each of you.

Pray Together

Each day of Holy Week, plan to eat a simple meal together. Begin and end the meal with prayers appropriate to the day. For example, on Palm/Passion Sunday the prayer might simply be, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." On Holy Thursday, you may wish to use some of the prayers from Mass. The important thing is to bring the prayerful spirit of these days into your home.