

Family Faith at Home



Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



Palm Sunday

Mass Readings:

Mark 11: 1-10

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalms 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Philippians 2: 6-11

Mark 14: 1-15: 47

Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Discuss

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. Why do you think there are two readings from the Gospels today (one at the beginning of Mass and one at the normal time)? What makes this Sunday different from other Sundays?
2. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the Messiah being beaten and spit on. How do you feel when you think about this happening to Jesus? What would you feel if this were happening to your best friend? What about a family member?
3. How many times did St. Peter deny Jesus? When are we like Peter?

4. Throughout this long Gospel reading, we see the apostles and disciples of Jesus responding to the events in different ways. How do you think you would have responded if you were in their shoes? Why?

Share

Throughout scripture, we see mankind sinning against God, yet God is always faithful and seeks to bring us back into relationship with Him. In the Gospel reading, we see the apostles and disciples abandoning or outright betraying Our Lord. We see in St. Peter and in Judas two very different responses after their betrayals. St. Peter breaks down and cries after denying Jesus three times. He recognizes his sin and regrets it. He goes back to be with the other disciples and when he hears that the Lord is risen, he runs to the tomb to find Him. We hear that Judas also recognizes his sin but he despairs and hangs himself. He does not return to the others and to the Lord, but instead he goes out alone and gives up. When we mess up, do we try to make it right and reconnect with God and with others whom we have hurt? Or do we run and hide or give up trying to connect with God and others? The story of the Passion is a story of God who loves us so much that He wants to save us from our sins. He wants to give Himself totally to us. It is all about relationship with Him. As we come to the end of Lent and approach Holy Week and Easter, let's remember that this week is all about God calling us back to Him.

Watch

For families with small children, [watch this video.](#)
For families with older children, [watch this video.](#)

Pray

This Holy Week, gather as a family and [pray this prayer](#) based on the words of Pope Pius XII.

Do

Choose one or all of the Holy Week liturgies and attend as a family. If you are unable to attend, pray the [Stations of the Cross](#) sometime together this week or find a time to read the Gospel account of Christ's passion or some other reflection together as a family.

