



Family: A Community of Life and Love Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter 2021

Special points of interest:

- March 28—
Palm Sunday
- Holy Week
- April 1:
Holy Thursday
- The Three Days
- April 2: Good
Friday
- April 3: Holy
Saturday
- April 4: Easter
Sunday

Did you know?

The word Triduum means Three Days. Which days are they in our Liturgical Calendar?

Palm Sunday—March 28th

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ into Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. On **Palm Sunday** faithful Christians receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's triumphant arrival into Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, to the Hosannas of

the townspeople. They threw their cloaks and palms onto the ground in front of him as a sign of homage. In those days, this is how the people would greet victorious armies. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is symbolic. It represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. On Palm Sunday, palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them into church and bring them home, often to display them in a prayer corner until the following year. The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ is read on this day to prepare us for Holy

Week which follows.

Read John 12:12-19

Click on: [Palm Sunday and Holy Week](#)

Did you know?

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from the palms of Palm Sunday the year before? The palms are burned and mixed with holy oil to create the substance to mark our foreheads in the Sign of the Cross.

Does your pastor ask you to bring in last year's palms before Ash Wednesday?



Holy Week—Begins Palm Sunday March 28

Every year, we mark 52 weeks in our calendar. As Catholics, however, we set aside one week during the year to recall that which is most precious to us - the saving acts (suffering, Death, and Resurrection) of Jesus Christ. In this issue of our Family Newsletter, we explore how we set aside the seven days of **Holy Week**. Watch Joe Paprocki from Loyola Press Explain.

Click: [We Learn About Holy Week](#)

We encourage you to discover the [following resources](#) to help your family celebrate Holy Week.

Praying the **Stations of the Cross**—alone or with a group—is a Lenten tradition. Read and pray these stations very slowly. Imagine the scene in Jerusalem as Jesus walked his Way of the Cross. Often, the Stations of the Cross is [an action prayer](#). Catholics walk to the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross and stop to pray at each one. The stations can be displayed outside in a park but are usually found inside churches. Note: some Churches display a 15th Station: Jesus Rises from the Dead!

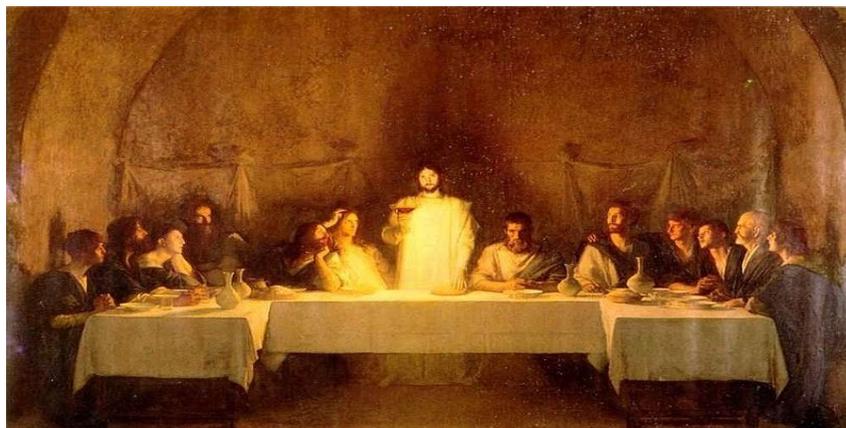
Click: [Stations of the Cross for Children](#)

We pray the **Stations of the Cross** to walk with Jesus as he suffers in his Passion and we comfort him with our love along the way. At each station we stop, pray, and reflect.

Click: [Stations of the Cross Booklet](#)

In Baptism, each of us takes on the name of Jesus Christ: we become *Christian* and, throughout our lives, we are called to live every moment of every day “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This means living up to a name that stands for compassion, mercy, selfless love, forgiveness, and so many other virtues that Jesus modeled for us during his earthly ministry. During this Holy Week, may we commit ourselves to living “in the name of the Lord.”

Click: [3 Minute Retreat: Living Our Lives in the Name of the Lord](#)



Holy Thursday: The Night of the Lord's Supper



Holy Thursday is one of the most important days of celebration in the Catholic Church. Holy Thursday celebrates the **Institution of the Eucharist** as the true body and blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the **sacrament of the priesthood**.

During the Last Supper, Jesus offers himself as the Passover sacrifice, the sacrificial lamb. (Read Exodus 12:1-28) Christ also bids farewell to his followers and prophesizes that one of them will betray him and hand him over to the Roman soldiers.

During the Mass, the Bishop of the Diocese blesses the sacred oils that will be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick, or dying, in parishes throughout the area.

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the priest washes the feet of twelve priests, ecclesial (Church) ministers or parishioners, to symbolize Christ's doing the job of a servant and washing the feet of his twelve Apostles (our first Bishops and Priests). Jesus did this to tell His followers that we are called to serve the needs of others.

Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent and the beginning of the sacred "Triduum," or three days, of Holy Week. These days are **the three holiest days** in the Catholic Church.

Good Friday—Why Do They Call It Good?

What is Good Friday and why do we call Good Friday "good," when it is such a sorrowful day of suffering and death for Jesus?

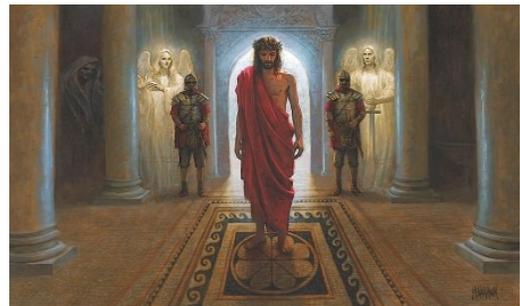
Because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins. 1 Peter 2:24

Click on: [What's So Good About Good Friday?](#)

For children: Click on video—[Jesus Sacrifice](#)

Mom and kids travel back in time to the time of Jesus. 23 minute video. Some scary images. Uses words from Scripture in animated version of the Three Days.

Click on: [Good Friday to Easter Sunday!](#)



Created by the Catechetical Office Family Catechesis Advisory Committee

Members of the Committee:

Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.
Sr. Zelide Ceccagno, MSCS
Sr. Mary Crucifix Pandullo, CSJB
Mrs. Margaret Hoblin
Mrs. Janan Lane
Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, SSC

Contact and address:

Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, S.S.C., Editor

Director, Family Catechesis

Catechetical Office

1011 First Avenue

New York, New York 10022

Phone: 212-371-1000, X 2867

E mail:

nancy.doran@archny.org

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Click: [Jesus of Nazareth - full movie](#)

Click: [Jesus of Nazareth Discussion Guide](#)

Easter Sunday

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holy day on the Christian calendar.

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day, Sunday, following his crucifixion. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death.

Read: John 20;1-23

Click on: [Easter Sunday](#)

Click: : [Holy Week Activity for Kids](#)



Did you know?

Remember we have not had the Alleluia during the season of Lent. The Alleluia returns to our worship of God during the Liturgy on Easter Sunday! This word expresses glory and praise to God. He is Risen! He is alive! Alleluia.