

Chapter 21 The Three Days

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

The Three Days

Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 18)

Overview

In this chapter the children will learn that the Three Days celebrate Jesus' passing from death to new life.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 647 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

What is your most memorable liturgical experience of the Three Days? Why?

The celebration of the Three Days is the high point of the Church year. Lasting from Holy Thursday evening's Mass of the Lord's Supper to the evening of Easter Sunday, this brief but brilliant season is actually one great liturgy. Each day focuses on a particular aspect of the Paschal Mystery of the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord.

At the Holy Thursday liturgy, the Church experiences itself as a "eucharistic people." The washing of the feet rededicates us to Christian service in response to Christ's command: "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:15). By our partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we fulfill his desire that we "Take and eat" and "Drink from it, all of you" (Matthew 26:26, 27).

The liturgy continues on Good Friday. Now the Church listens once again to the proclamation of the

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter's correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living*.

Passion and venerates the holy cross as the sign of the world's salvation.

On Holy Saturday, at the Easter Vigil, the Church joyfully sings the "Easter Proclamation" (*Exsultet*), praising the Passover Lamb who

"broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave."

The catechumens are welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, and the faithful renew their baptismal promises.

How can you keep your usual observance of the Three Days and yet add (or discover) a new dimension this year?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 177
Introduce the Season

- Read the *Chapter Story*, page 177C.
- Introduce the Three Days.
- Proclaim the words on the banner.

page 178

- Answer the questions about special times with families.

2 WE BELIEVE

pages 178–180
The Three Days celebrate that Jesus passed from death to new life.

- Read and discuss the Three Days as the greatest celebration of the Church.
- Begin mural for the Three Days.
- Welcome a guest to speak about the Three Days.

- mural paper hung on one wall, markers
- construction paper
- paper doll pattern for tracing
- scissors, tape or glue
- a guest speaker (priest, deacon, or a person initiated into the Church last year at the Easter Vigil)
- crayons or markers

3 WE RESPOND

page 180



Write or draw something to share with others about the Three Days.

Text page 181
Guide page 181–182
We Respond in Prayer

- Prepare to renew baptismal promises.
- Bless each child with holy water.

- prayer space items: white candle, Bible, crucifix, flowering plant, white tablecloth, bowl of holy water
- parish hymnal (optional)

Text page 182
Guide pages 181–182, 182A
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Complete the Reproducible Master 21 activity. See guide pages 182A and 177C.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** guide page 182B.

- pencils, colored pencils or crayons
- art materials for cross decoration
- copies of Reproducible Master 21, guide page 182A
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 182B

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com