

Triduum/Holy Thursday

Faith Focus

What do we remember as the Church celebrates Holy Thursday?

The Word of the Lord

Choose one of the Scripture readings for Holy Thursday. Read and discuss it with your family.

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel

John 13:1-15

Do you remember eating a special meal with your family or your friends? What made it special to you? Did you eat special food? Did someone say something that made you feel good about yourself? The Church remembers a special meal that Jesus ate with his disciples.

On the evening of Holy Thursday, we remember the last time Jesus gathered the disciples and shared a meal with them. This meal celebrated the Passover. On this special day, the Jewish people celebrate their passage from slavery in Egypt to freedom. They remember the Covenant with God.

All his life, Jesus celebrated this greatest of Jewish feasts with his family and friends. Now he shared the foods of the Passover for the last time. But at this Last Supper, Jesus did something special. Jesus changed the bread and wine he shared with his disciples into his own Body and Blood. He took the bread and broke it and said,

“This is my body, which will be given for you, do this in memory of me.”

LUKE 22:19

After they had eaten, he passed the cup of wine for them to drink. He said,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”

LUKE 22:20

Later that night, one of the disciples betrayed Jesus, and he was arrested.

Traditional food for a Jewish Seder



The Lord's Supper

Tonight, at the celebration of the Eucharist, the Church continues to do what Jesus asked his disciples to do. On Holy Thursday evening, we especially remember his last Passover with his disciples. We call our celebration on that day the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Create an announcement inviting your family to join in celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Point out to them the importance of sharing in the celebration. Display your announcement in your home.

MY FAITH CHOICE

On Holy Thursday, I will honor Jesus' command to remember the special meal he shared with the disciples. I will



"Dear Jesus, help me remember the depth of your love for me. Amen."

Triduum/Good Friday

Faith Focus

How does the Church remember the Death of Jesus?

The Word of the Lord

Choose one of the Scripture readings for Good Friday. Read and discuss it with your family.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:14–16,
5:7–9

Gospel

John 18:1–19:42

At some time in your life, someone you love will die. This may have already happened to you. You know that when this happens, everyone in your house is sad. People tell stories about the one who has died. The Church does this too as it remembers the Death of Jesus.

On Good Friday, our churches have no decorations. The tabernacle is empty; its door is open. There is no altar cloth covering the altar table. The Church gathers to reflect on the Passion and Death of Jesus.

Our liturgy on Good Friday is called the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which Mass is not celebrated. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion is made up of three parts:

- The first part is the Liturgy of the Word. The Gospel reading is a proclamation of the Passion and Death of Jesus according to John. After the Gospel proclamation, the Church invites us to pray for the needs of the world (Solemn Intercessions).
- The second part of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion is the Adoration of the Holy Cross. In this part of the liturgy, we show reverence and respect for the cross because Jesus died for us on a cross. We might do this by walking in procession, bowing before the cross, and kissing it.
- The third part of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion is Holy Communion. The Church invites us to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, which is consecrated at Mass on Holy Thursday and reserved in a tabernacle as a place of repose, meaning pause or rest.

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion ends as it began. The altar cloth is removed from the altar, and the tabernacle is empty. In deep silence, we leave to begin the long sabbath rest until the celebration of the Easter Vigil.



Jesus Asks, You Respond

Each day, you do many things to show your love for God and others as Jesus did. You make sacrifices. You give your time. You share your gifts. You take up your cross and follow Jesus as he asked you to do.

On one of the beams of this cross, describe something you have done for someone during Lent. On the other cross beam, describe how it helped the person.



MY FAITH CHOICE

On Good Friday, Jesus died on the Cross for my Salvation. I will honor his sacrifice of love. I will



Honor Jesus, who died for us. Pray, "Jesus, you saved all people from sin and death. All glory and praise to you!"

Triduum/Easter

Faith Focus

Why is the Easter season a time of rejoicing?

The Word of the Lord

Choose the Gospel readings for Easter Sunday this year. Read and discuss them with your family.

Year A

John 20:1-9
or Matthew 28:1-10
or Luke 24:13-35

Year B

John 20:1-9
or Mark 16:1-8
or Luke 24:13-35

Year C

John 20:1-9
or Luke 24:1-12
or Luke 24:13-35

On our best days, we feel great joy just to be alive. We can do many wonderful things. Easter is a wonderful day in the Church—a day when we rejoice because God has raised Jesus to new life.

Saint Augustine reminds us that we are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. *Alleluia* is a Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord.” At the Easter Vigil, the presider solemnly intones the Alleluia, which we have not heard all during Lent. The Church sings “Alleluia!” repeatedly during the Easter season. We continuously thank and praise God for the new life of Easter. We praise God because we have passed from death to life through our Baptism.

Throughout Lent, we focused on turning away from sin to become followers of Jesus. During the Easter season, we rejoice in our new life in Christ. We sing “Alleluia!” and may proclaim,

*“This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad”*

PSALM 118:24



Celebrating Easter

Write a cinquain to celebrate Easter. Share the Good News of the Resurrection with a partner and with your family.



Title

Write two words that describe the title.

Write three action words that describe the title.

Write four words that tell a feeling about the title.

Write another word for the title.

MY FAITH CHOICE

Easter marks new life in Christ. I will live my new life in Christ. I will



Honor the new life you have received from Jesus. Pray, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus Christ has risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Faith Focus

How is the Ascension part of the Paschal Mystery?

The Word of the Lord

These are the Gospel readings for the Ascension of the Lord. Choose the reading for this year and read it. Talk about the reading with your family.

Year A

Matthew 28:16-20

Year B

Mark 16:15-20

Year C

Luke 24:46-53

The Ascension of the Lord

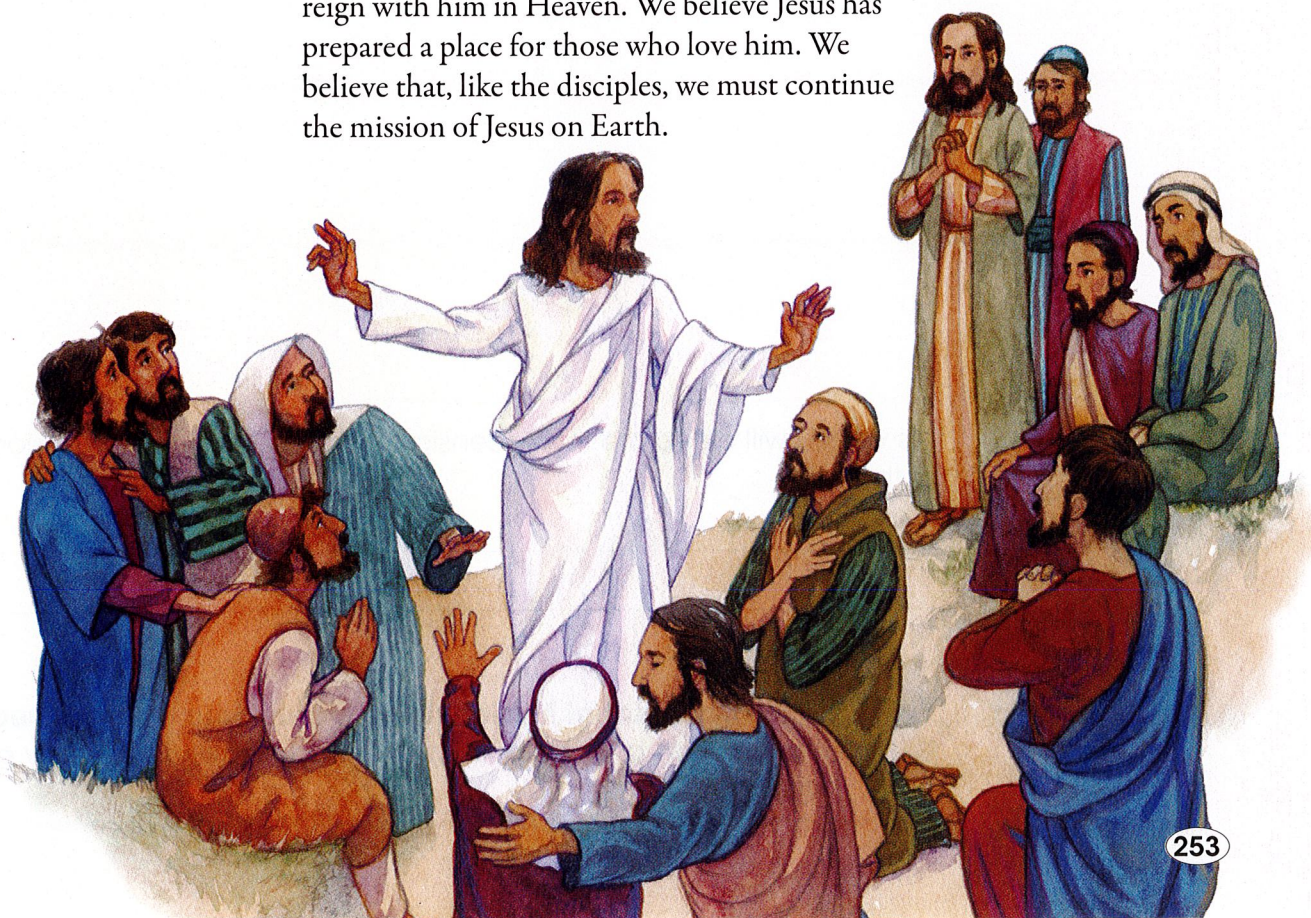
For forty days after the Resurrection, the Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples and continued to teach them about the Kingdom of God. At their last meeting, he gathered them together on a hill near Jerusalem and reminded them that they must wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew he would soon be home in Heaven with his Father. The power of the Holy Spirit would fill the disciples with wisdom and courage to continue the mission of Jesus on Earth.

Jesus said to the disciples, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me, go, therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . ." (Matthew 28:18). Then, as the disciples looked on, Jesus was taken up into Heaven.

The Ascension of the Lord completes Jesus' Paschal Mystery, the passing over of Jesus from life on Earth through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into a new and glorified life with God, the Father, in Heaven.

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord forty days after Easter (or on the Seventh Sunday of Easter). This holy day of obligation expresses our belief that Jesus has returned to his Father in glory and majesty to reign with him in Heaven. We believe Jesus has prepared a place for those who love him. We believe that, like the disciples, we must continue the mission of Jesus on Earth.



Continuing Christ's Mission

Before he ascended to the Father, Jesus gave his disciples a mission. He asked them to continue his work in the world. Your parish responds to Jesus' command in many different ways.

Look through a parish bulletin. Find four ministries that serve your community. Write the names of these ministries on the church steps. Choose a ministry you would like to participate in and explain your reasons on the lines below.



**MY FAITH
CHOICE**

This week, I will celebrate the Ascension by continuing Jesus' mission on Earth. I will



Honor the Paschal Mystery. Pray, "Jesus, your Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension are the source of our glory and hope. Alleluia!"

Pentecost Sunday

Faith Focus

How did the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost strengthen the disciples?

The Word of the Lord

Choose this year's Gospel reading for Pentecost. Read and discuss it with your family.

Year A

John 20:19-23

Year B

John 20:19-23
or John 15:26-27,
16:12-15

Year C

John 20:19-23
or John 14:15-16,
23-26

Can you think of a day when you felt as if you could do anything you set your mind to? What had happened to make you feel that way? Did someone say something to you or give you a gift?

The disciples knew a day like that. They received a great gift that made them strong in their belief in the Risen Lord. That day was Pentecost.

Pentecost is a Jewish harvest festival. On this holy day, the Jewish people offer the first fruits of the new harvest to God. At the time of Jesus, Jews traveled to Jerusalem for this great feast.

The disciples gathered in Jerusalem too. As they prayed together in an upper room, they heard the noise of a great wind. Flames gently settled over their heads.

They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They felt new and strong. They went out and boldly proclaimed the Risen Lord. As they spoke, all the people in the crowd heard the message in their own languages. People who could not understand one another before suddenly did! People who were separated drew together. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as Jesus promised. The Church was born. The work of the Church, filled with the Holy Spirit, had begun.



My Proclamation

What do you wish all people could know about Jesus? Write here the Good News you would like to proclaim. Then pray to the Holy Spirit to help you tell others.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and
they shall be created, and you
shall renew the face of the earth.

MY FAITH CHOICE

On Pentecost, I will honor the gift of the Holy Spirit. I will



Pray, "Most Holy Spirit, fill us with the grace and strength to tell others the Good News about Jesus."