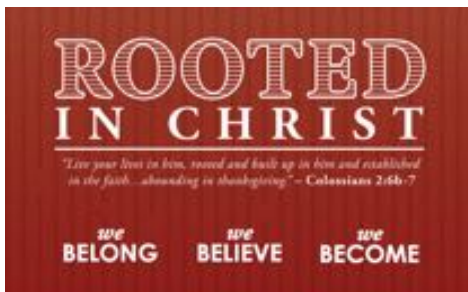


MARCH-APRIL 2021

Nurturing Our Families of Faith

HOLY WEEK EDITION



Some images have links.

"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13



From Death to New Life

**A message from the TCDSB
Nurturing Our Catholic
Community Team**

Welcome to "Nurturing our Families of Faith." This is a newsletter to support the faith journey of students, staff, and their families across The Toronto Catholic District School Board during these final days of Lent and Easter season, and amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

We are grateful for the chance to share this journey with you, and we hope this newsletter will be helpful to you as you live out your faith in these challenging times.


Holy Week

This Sunday (Palm Sunday), most of the Christian world enters into the most sacred and spiritually important seven days of the entire year: Holy Week. Beginning with our celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we prayerfully follow Jesus through his Last Supper on Holy Thursday, his arrest and crucifixion on Good Friday ... and then we burst into Easter Sunday with joy and new energy, as we celebrate his Resurrection from the dead, and the promise of new and eternal life that he offers to all of us. These days are at the very heart of what we believe as Christians, and what we celebrate in the Sacraments.

This year, the restrictions on social gatherings because of COVID-19 have made it difficult to attend Church liturgies and celebrations. But these days are so important to us that we need to celebrate them, even if (for this year) we do it in simpler (but still meaningful) ways in our homes, with our family members. For each of the days of Holy Week, we would like to suggest a simple format for family prayer that you might like to celebrate in your own families. Perhaps you could create a sacred space in your home, with a purple cloth (the colour of Lent), a Bible, some religious images and a cross. It can be the focal point of your praying together, especially during these very special days. As we journey through Holy Week, let us renew our faith, draw from the "living water" of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God.



HOLY WEEK INFOGRAPHICS



Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. The day recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of our salvation that takes place about a week before his Resurrection (Easter).

Why do we wave palms?
When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, crowds greeted him by waving palms and covering his path with small branches. We wave palms today to hail Christ in his triumph for our salvation in the light of his Paschal Mystery - his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

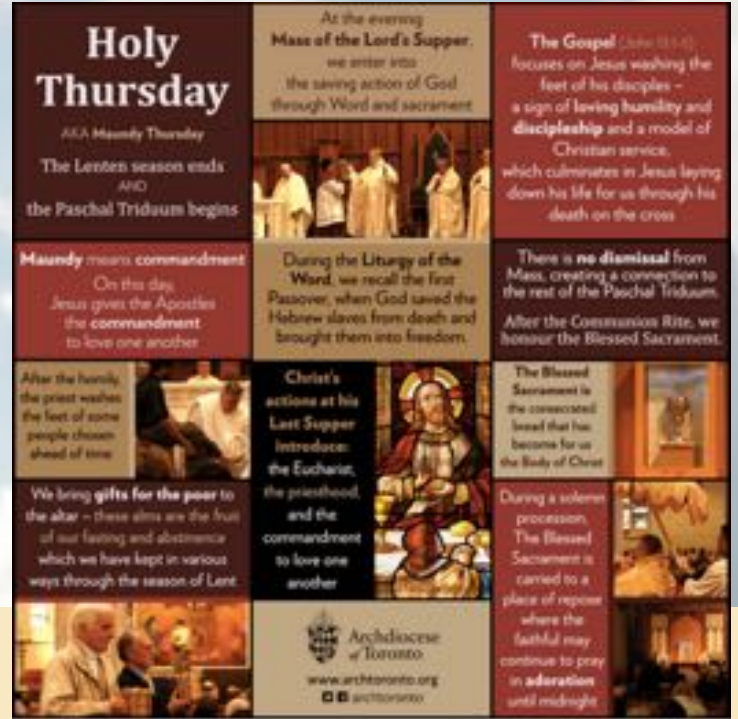
On Palm Sunday, priests will wear red vestments in keeping with the Church's focus on the Lord's glorious Passion.

Jesus enters Jerusalem. The crowd of disciples accompanies him in festive mood, their garments are strewn out before him, there is talk of the miracles he has accomplished, and loud praises are heard.
"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord, Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38)
POPE FRANCIS

Read the story of Palm Sunday: Luke 19:28-44

Traditionally, before the beginning of Lent the following year, the palms are collected and burned to a fine ash. The ashes are blessed and used for the Ash Wednesday Sturgy.

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Holy Thursday
Ash Wednesday

The Lenten season ends AND the Paschal Triduum begins

At the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, we enter into the saving action of God through Word and sacrament.

The Gospel (John 13:1-17) focuses on Jesus washing the feet of his disciples - a sign of loving humility and discipleship and a model of Christian service, which culminates in Jesus laying down his life for us through his death on the cross.

Maschady means commandment
On this day, Jesus gives the Apostles the commandment to love one another.

During the Liturgy of the Word, we recall the first Passover, when God saved the Hebrew slaves from death and brought them into freedom.

There is **no dismissal** from Mass, creating a connection to the rest of the Paschal Triduum. After the Communion Rite, we honour the Blessed Sacrament.

After the homily, the priest washes the feet of some people chosen ahead of time.

Christ's actions at his Last Supper introduce the Eucharist, the priesthood, and the commandment to love one another.

The Blessed Sacrament is the consecrated bread that has become for us the Body of Christ.

We bring gifts for the poor to the altar - these gifts are the fruit of our fasting and abstinence which we have kept in various ways through the season of Lent.

During a solemn procession, The Blessed Sacrament is carried to a place of repose where the faithful may continue to pray in adoration until midnight.

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For more infographics please visit the Archdiocese of Toronto website



Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Good Friday

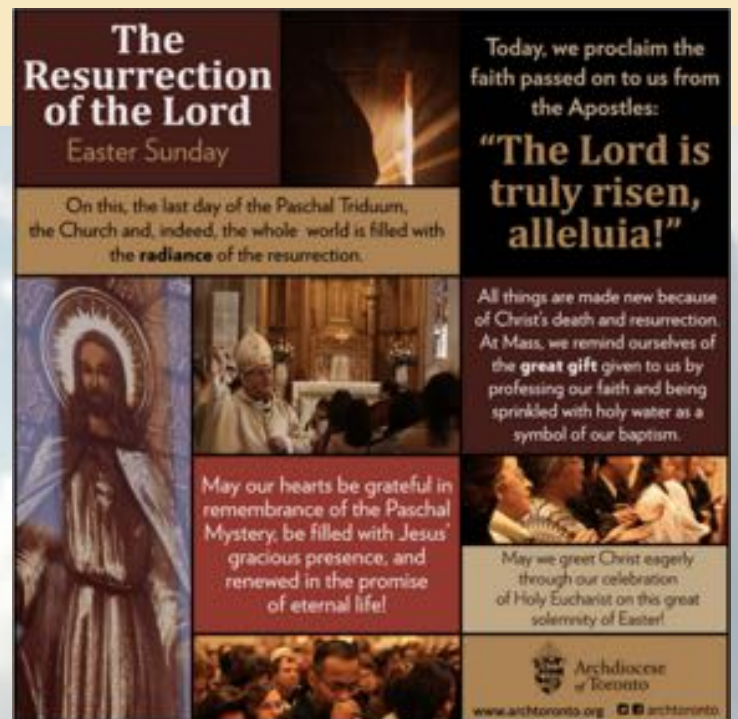
On this day, we reflect on the passion of Jesus Christ who became our paschal sacrifice through his suffering and death on the cross. The celebration traditionally occurs at 3:00 p.m.

We are obliged to fast and abstain from eating meat. We are also invited to keep the **PASCHAL FAST**: A quiet period of prayer, reflection and fasting during the Paschal Triduum, especially during Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

"Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind."
CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY SACROSANCTUM CONCILII OECUMENICUM PRIMUM PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON DECEMBER 4, 1963

Almighty and eternal God, you have restored us to life by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue this healing work within us. May we who participate in this mystery never cease to serve you.

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The Resurrection of the Lord
Easter Sunday

Today, we proclaim the faith passed on to us from the Apostles: **"The Lord is truly risen, alleluia!"**

On this, the last day of the Paschal Triduum, the Church and, indeed, the whole world is filled with the radiance of the resurrection.

All things are made new because of Christ's death and resurrection. At Mass, we remind ourselves of the **great gift** given to us by professing our faith and being sprinkled with holy water as a symbol of our baptism.

May our hearts be grateful in remembrance of the Paschal Mystery, be filled with Jesus' gracious presence, and renewed in the promise of eternal life!

May we greet Christ eagerly through our celebration of Holy Eucharist on this great solemnity of Easter!

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PRAYING AS A FAMILY

Holy Week is a wonderful opportunity for families to pray together and reflect in preparation for the Triduum. You can create sacred space in your home and use the following links and [intercessions](#) to pray each day.



Palm Sunday

[Holy Week Prayers: Palm Sunday](#)

[Palm Sunday Gospel Reading](#)

[Reflection: God's Story: Palm Sunday](#)

[Song: *Here I Am To Worship*](#)

Monday, March 28

[Holy Week Prayers: Monday](#)

[Monday of Holy Week Gospel Reading](#)

[Song: *The Lamb of God* by Matt Maher](#)

Tuesday, March 29

[Holy Week Prayers: Tuesday](#)

[Tuesday of Holy Week Gospel Reading](#)

[Song: *Take Up Your Cross* by Jaime Cortez](#)

Wednesday, March 30

[Holy Week Prayers: Wednesday](#)

[Wednesday of Holy Week Gospel Reading](#)

[Song: *A Living Prayer* by Alison Krauss](#)

Holy Thursday

[Holy Week Prayers: Thursday](#)

[Holy Thursday Gospel Reading](#)

[Song: *As I Have Done for You* by Dan Schutte](#)

Good Friday

[Holy Week Prayers: Good Friday](#)

[Stations of the Cross](#)

[Good Friday Gospel Reading](#)

[Song: *Song of the Cross* by Susan Hookong-Taylor and Ana Da Costa](#)

Holy Saturday

[Holy Week Prayers: Holy Saturday](#)

[Holy Saturday Scripture Reading](#)

[Song: *Above All* by Michael W. Smith](#)

Easter Sunday

[Holy Week Prayers: Easter Sunday](#)

[Easter Sunday Gospel Reading](#)

[Reflection: God's Story - Easter \(children\)](#)

[Reflection: Easter Sunday Devotional - Lifeteen](#)

[Song: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*](#)

[Song: *Lord I Lift Your Name on High* \(arr. Donnie McClurkin\)](#)

Easter Monday

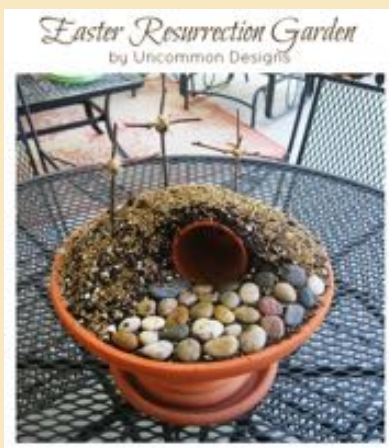
[Litany of Saints](#)

[Easter Monday Gospel Reading](#)

[Reflections for the Triduum](#)

[Song: *I Know My Redeemer Lives* - Nicole C. Mullen](#)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



See [Open-Egged Questions](#) for Teens

See [20 Fun Easter Jokes](#) for Kids

Videos

[Busted Halo: Holy Week in 3 Minutes](#)

[The Role of Hope in Holy Week](#)

[The Easter Story for Kids](#)

[Crossroads Kids Club Easter Videos](#)

[Saddleback Kids Easter Playlist](#)

[Easter Around the World for Kids](#)

[Easter Traditions: Catholic Central](#)

Music

[Be Exalted: Watoto Children's Choir](#)

[Song Prayers for Lent and Holy Week 2021](#)

[Easter Gospel Songs](#)

[Easter Songs for Kids](#)

[Contemporary Easter Worship Songs](#)

[Choir Music for Holy Week & Easter](#)

[Resurrection Medley](#)



WORTH EXPLORING



Christian Meditation – The Prayer of 3 “S’s”



LOYOLA
PRESS.

ONLINE / LIVESTREAM MASSES

Catholic TV

Daily at 12:30 pm EST

St. Michael's Cathedral

Daily at 7:30 am EST
Sunday at 10 am

Salt and Light TV

Daily at 6:30 am, 11:00 am, 3:00 pm & 10:30 pm (all times EST)

Radio Maria

Monday and Thursday at 12:30 pm EST

Daily TV Mass

(Loretto Abbey Chapel)

Archdiocese of Toronto: Day of Confession:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/confession>

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit us at: [Nurturing Our Catholic Community](#),

Contact us at: ncc.team@tcdsb.org



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