

Nurturing our Families of Faith



Holy Week and Easter Edition

April 4, 2020

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.

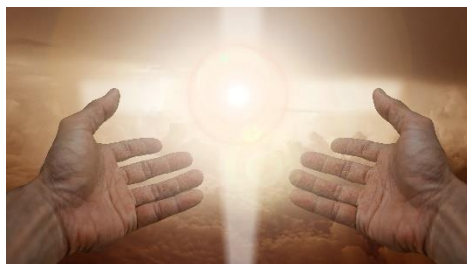
We are grateful for the chance to share this journey with you, and we hope this newsletter will be helpful to you as you live out your faith in these challenging times.



Celebrating and Praying During 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 mean that our churches are closed, and there are no public liturgies for us to take part in. 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.



A Suggested Prayer Format

✠ Sign of the Cross

1) Brief Introduction:

“This is the holiest week of the year for us, a week when we think about how much God loves us, and wants us to love him in return. As we listen to the Gospel today, we ask Jesus to help us live each day as his friends and followers” (... or use your own words!)

2) Readings of the Day:

Read an excerpt from the Scriptures of the day, as indicated in the chart on page 3.

3) Reflection:

Links in the chart on page 3 include follow-up reflection/activities for the family.

4) Prayer Intentions:

[Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions](#)

5) Our Father

6) Closing Prayer

[Concluding Prayer for Holy Week](#)

✠ Sign of the Cross



Holy Week Resources

[Holy Week in Three Minutes](#) - a useful summary for young people to talk about Holy Week

[Live Stream Daily Mass during Holy Week or watch online](#) - see page 5 for more mass times/opportunities for mass online



Holy Week

Daily Prayers and Reflection

Palm Sunday	Holy Week Prayers: Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday Gospel Reading Reflection: God's Story: Palm Sunday	Song: Here I Am To Worship
Monday	Holy Week Prayers: Monday	Monday of Holy Week Gospel Reading	Song: The Lamb of God by Matt Maher
Tuesday	Holy Week Prayers: Tuesday	Tuesday of Holy Week Gospel Reading	Song: Take Up Your Cross by Jaime Cortez
Wednesday	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 Lord I Lift Your Name on High (arr. Donnie McClurkin)
Easter Monday	Litany of Saints	Easter Monday Gospel Reading Reflections for the Triduum	The Passion Song by Sean Carter

Activities/Prayers

(For more information, click the Live Icons Below)



www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home

username: GIFGIC_student99

password: Student99

The 'This Week at Home' feature in Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ provides access to liturgical-year activities, songs, videos, and prayers to help celebrate faith as a family. For Holy Week, we have provided instructions on how to login and find the materials:

[Instructions to Access the 'This Week at Home' and Holy Week Resources](#)



<https://www.devp.org/en>

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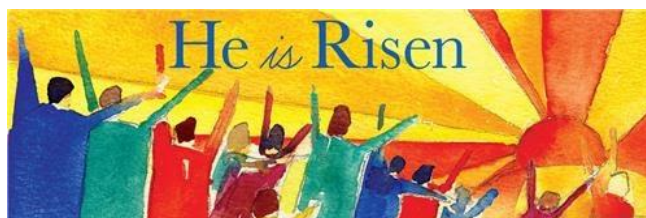
<https://www.loyolapress.com/>

Online Masses

Live Stream - Mass Resource List

Catholic TV	http://www.catholicv.org/shows/papal-programming	Daily at 12:30pm EST
St. Michael's Cathedral	https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/	Daily at 7:30am EST
Salt and Light TV	https://saltandlighttv.org/mass/	Daily at 6:30 am EST, 11:00 am EST, 3:00 pm EST and 10:30 pm EST
Daily TV Mass (Loretto Abbey Chapel)	https://dailytvmass.com/	
Radio Maria	https://www.radiomaria.ca/events/mass-2/	Monday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

**Wishing everyone a Blessed Holy Week
and a Happy Easter!**



A special thanks to **The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board** for their collaboration and shared resources.



For additional information and resources, please contact us and/or visit us at:

[Nurturing Our Catholic Community, TCDSB](#)

