

Palm Sunday, March 28th

Hello families! I hope you are all doing well. This week we celebrate Palm Sunday! We hear two very important gospels today. We hear first from St. Mark 11:1-10 and then from St. Mark 15:1-39. You can find these gospel readings in the Catholic Children's Bible on p. 1552 and pp. 1564-1565 and in the Family Connections Bible on p. 1398 and pp. 1406-1408. In our first gospel reading today, we hear about Jesus' joyous arrival to Jerusalem. Out of respect for Jesus, the people lay down palms and cloaks and shout out happily. The second reading is a much less joyous one and is about Jesus being sentenced to death. We are preparing for Jesus' death on Good Friday which is followed by Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday! Read the gospel reading and then continue on to today's other activities!

Video:

Here are two Saddleback Kids videos for each of our gospel readings!

Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-39h0xYqdE>

Jesus is condemned to death (Stop at 4:00 since it isn't Easter yet!)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

Summary:

Today is a big day! We start off by hearing the first gospel reading at the beginning of Mass. Then we process in singing hosanna, just like the people welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem. Hosanna means hooray for salvation, it's coming, it's here, salvation! The people were cheering for Jesus and welcoming him as the world's Savior! They were so humbled by his presence that they laid cloaks and palms down for him to walk on so he wouldn't touch the dirty street. This is why we receive and bless palms on this very special day so we can honor Jesus, just like he was honored long ago.

Our second reading is not as joyous. We hear how Jesus was betrayed and turned over to Pontius Pilate to be judged. Pilate did not want to condemn Jesus, but the people in the crowd yelled so loud for Jesus to be crucified, he gave in. Jesus was then stripped of his clothes, given a crown of thorns, and beaten. They made him carry his cross up to Calvary Hill where he would be crucified. The sky

turned black for three hours until Jesus had died. After he died and the people had seen all that had happened, they believed that he truly was the Son of God.

Though we leave today on a sad note, we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and return next Sunday on Easter. Good Friday is the day that we honor Jesus' sacrifice and remember his death. There are special Masses to attend and lots of people like to participate in the Stations of the Cross. Though this is a very sad day, it is a powerful reminder of just how much God loves us that he was willing to sacrifice his only son. It also reminds us of how much Jesus loves us, that he was willing to die so that we may live. Remember their love this week as we prepare for Easter!

Questions:

1. How do you think Jesus felt when he arrived in Jerusalem?
2. Why do you think the people of Jerusalem were so excited for Jesus' arrival?
3. Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples, how do you think that made him feel? Did he know it had to happen?
4. How can you remember Jesus' sacrifice this week as we prepare for Easter?

Activity:

This week you will be decorating your very own palm for Palm Sunday! Do you remember why we have palms on this special Sunday? There is also a coloring page of Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem, find it below.

Materials

- Palm template (Page 3)
- Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers
- Scissors



Directions

1. If you have not done so already, print off the palm template found on page 3.
2. On your palm, find a place to write "Hosanna!" Do you remember what it means?
3. Color and decorate your palm.
4. Cut the palm out.
5. Find a place to display your palm to celebrate this very important Sunday!

Remember this week the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Remember also that his sacrifice is born of the greatest love. Have a blessed week everyone!



