

Holy Week Intergenerational Program

“Word, Ritual, and Symbol”

Learning Objectives

“Word, Ritual and Symbol” guides learners of all ages to...

- develop a deeper understanding of the theology, symbols, and rituals of the Easter Triduum (*know-what*)
- recognize the importance of the Easter Triduum for living as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of the Catholic community (*know-why*)
- utilize their understanding of Holy Week to participate more actively and more meaningfully in the parish’s celebration of Holy Week (*know-how*)

Catechism Connection

281,1217,1254,1168-1170, 2719

Background Readings

Catholic Updates

Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. Catholic Update C0492.

How to Read the Passion Narratives. Raymond Brown. Catholic Update CU 0484.

How to Read the Resurrection Narratives. Raymond Brown. Catholic Update C0394.

We Believe in the Resurrection. Thomas Groome. Catholic Update C0305.

The Passion of Christ. Ronald Witherup. Scripture from Scratch N0201.

What Should We Believe About Jesus’ Resurrection. James Heft. Catholic Update C0490.

Last Supper: A Picture Worth a Thousand Words. Barbara Reid, O.P. Scripture from Scratch N0302.

Resurrection Stories: Catching the Light of God’s Love. Hilarion Kistner, O.F.M. Scripture from Scratch N0394.

Books

Birmingham, Mary. *Word and Worship Workbook.* (Three Volumes: Year A, B, C). New York: Paulist Press, 1998, 1999, 2000.

Brown, Raymond. *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week.* Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1986.

Brown, Raymond. *A Risen Christ in Eastertime.* Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

Catechism of the Catholic Church. New York: Image/Doubleday Books, 1994.

Harrington, Daniel J. *Who is Jesus? Why Is He Important? – An Invitation to the New Testament.* Franklin, WI: Sheed and Ward, 1999.

Huck, Gabe. *The Three Days: Parish Prayer in the Paschal Triduum*. (Revised edition)
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.
Mueller, Steve. *The Seeker's Guide to Jesus in the Gospels*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2001.
Senior, Donald. *Jesus: A Gospel Portrait*. New York: Paulist Press, 1992.
Zannoni, Arthur. *Jesus of the Gospels*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1996.
Zanzig, Thomas. *Jesus the Christ – A New Testament Portrait*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's
Press, 2000.

Potential Uses

- Preparation for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Triduum)

Session Resources

Before the Session

Environment

Symbols for the Holy Week table:

- the Lectionary or Bible
- red tablecloth (or one with red in the pattern or drape a piece of red cloth on a white tablecloth)
- a thick white candle and matches
- a clear glass bowl with water (or a clear glass pitcher) with a white hand towel
- a small clear bowl with olive oil
- a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
- a clear glass with wine
- a cross (not a crucifix)
- palms
- thorns

Home Kit

People of Faith—Generations Learning Together Magazines (Harcourt Religion)

Volume 3: Professing our Faith, Issue 3: Jesus Christ: Death and Resurrection

Volume 2: Following Jesus, Issue 3: Death of the Messiah

Home Activities at Generations of Faith Online

Celebrating Holy Week at Home

Catholic Update (St. Anthony Messenger Press)

Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M.

Catholic Update C0492.

How to Read the Passion Narratives. Raymond Brown. Catholic Update CU 0484.

How to Read the Resurrection Narratives. Raymond Brown. Catholic Update C0394.

We Believe in the Resurrection. Thomas Groome. Catholic Update C0305.

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Resurrection Stories: Catching the Light of God's Love. Hilarion Kistner, O.F.M. Scripture from Scratch N0394.

Creative Communications

Creative Communications for the Parish produces inexpensive Holy Week booklets for families, teens and adults, as well as devotions, Stations of the Cross prayer and reflection booklets, prayer cards and booklets, posters, and placemats.

Fill Our Hearts with Love – Morning Prayer for Holy Week

Twenty-Third Publications

Twenty-Third Publications produces inexpensive Lenten booklets of prayers, activities, and lectionary reflections for families and individuals.

Liturgy Training Publications

Liturgy Training Publications produces a variety of Lent and Holy Week resources for parish and home. See especially:

What Am I Doing for the Triduum This Year?

Prayer Resource

Haas, David. *Increase Our Faith – Parish Prayer Services for Whole Community Catechesis*. (Three Volumes: Year A, B, C) Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2004, 2005, 2006.

Haas, David. *A Time to Pray with the New Testament*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2005. (See the prayer celebrations: “Gospel of Mark: Take Up Your Cross” and “Lent: Turn to the Living God.”)

For additional prayer services consult:

Costello, Gwen. *Junior High Prayer Services by Themes and Seasons*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2000.

Galipeau, Jerry. *Prayer Services for Parish Life*. Schiller Park, IL: World Library Publications, 2004.

Haas, David. *Praying with the Word – Lent, Holy Week, and Easter*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1997.

McCann, Deborah. *Let Us Gather – Prayer Services for Catholic Schools and Assemblies*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002.

Morley, Jack, editor. *Bread of Tomorrow – Prayers for the Church Year*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992.

Piercy, Robert W., and Vivian E. Williams. *When Children Gather – 20 Prayer Services for the Liturgical Year*. Chicago: GIA Publications, 1998.

Rupp, Joyce. *Inviting God In – Scriptural Reflections through the Year*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2001.

Rupp, Joyce. *Out of the Ordinary – Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2000.

Singer, Charles. *Prayers for Feasts*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2002.

Materials for the Session

Gathering

- Name tags
- Community building activities

All Ages Opening Learning Experience

- Opening Prayer Service
- Bible

In-Depth Learning Experience

- Bible and/or Lectionary
- sheets of newsprint, marking pens for each person, masking tape
- white paper and pens/pencils
- for the children's drama activity you will need *Acting Out the Gospels* by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND (Twenty-Third Publications, 1999)
- handouts: *The Holy Week Liturgies: Word, Rituals, and Symbols*
- copies of the **Catholic Update** for adults and adolescents: *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies* by Thomas Richstatter (C0492) (Order from St. Anthony Messenger Press at 800-336-1770)
- Holy Week symbols for the prayer table (in Age Group Format you need for table for each age group):
 - red tablecloth
 - a thick white candle and matches
 - a clear glass bowl with water (or a clear glass pitcher) with a white hand towel
 - a small clear bowl with olive oil
 - a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
 - a clear glass with wine
 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
 - thorns
- Holy Week symbols for each table group for the Guided Tour activity:
 - a thick white candle and matches
 - a clear glass bowl with water (or a clear glass pitcher) with a white hand towel
 - a small clear bowl with olive oil
 - a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
 - a clear glass with wine
 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
 - thorns

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application

Closing

- Closing Prayer Service

Session at a Glance

Part One: Gathering (5 minutes)

Part Two: All Ages Learning Experience (20 minutes)

Part Three: In-Depth Learning Experience (90 minutes)

- **Age Group Format**

Or

- **Learning Activity Center Format**

Learning Plan

Exploring Holy Week

Part Four: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application
(20-25 minutes)

Part 5. Closing Prayer Service (5 minutes)

Part 1

Gathering (5-10 minutes)

1. Registration and Hospitality

- Welcome people and ask them to sign in for the program.
- Ask people to make a nametag.
- Distribute the Home Kit for the session, including any handouts participants will need for the session. (You can also distribute handouts for the In-Depth Learning program at the beginning of the activity.)
- Invite people to share a meal; depending on time of day, the program may end with a meal instead.

Welcome

Welcome the participants to the program and introduce the theme of the session.

2. Group Formation

In the Age Group Format, organize groups of families with children, adolescents, and adults. For the Learning Activity Center Format, organize groups by age or in intergenerational groupings.

3. Opening Prayer Service

Lead the participants in an opening prayer service on the theme: Word, Ritual, and Symbols of Holy Week. Use the Prayers from the Sacramentary for the Holy Week liturgies and the music that will be used during Holy Week.

Part Two

All Ages Learning Experience (15-20 minutes)

The All Ages Learning Experience introduces the participants to the theme of the program. There are a variety of ways to conduct the opening experience. For a presentation to the large group you can use drama, media, storytelling, or other interactive approach that works well with a large group.

For this Holy Week program you might consider an extended prayer service incorporating Lectionary readings and the symbols of Holy Week.

Part 3

In-Depth Learning Experiences (90 minutes)

Age Group Format

This format provides for three separate parallel learning programs. Though age groups are separated, each one is focusing on the same topic.

You might choose this format if you have:

- an adequate number of meeting spaces for the various groups to gather
- an adequate number of competent facilitators and catechists to work with each group
- a topic that is best explored through age-specific learning

Facilitation Tips for This Format

- Organize participants into three or more parallel learning groups: families with children (grades 1-5), adolescents (grades 6-12), and adults.
- If there are a large number of adolescents, divide them into two groups: middle school and high school.

Organize separate groups for young adults, adults, and older adults. Or you can give the adults their own choice for forming small groups.

- Direct the adolescents and adults into small groups. Give them all the handouts and learning materials needed for the learning experiences
- Guide the families with children into table groups of two or more families. Give each table all the handouts and learning materials necessary for the learning experiences.
- A facilitator must guide all of the families through each learning experience, while catechists move from table to table assisting.

Age Group Format Outline

The In-Depth Learning Plan can be utilized for break-out groups of families with children, adolescents, and adults.

Families with Children

Learning Plan Outline

Exploring Holy Week

Adolescents, Young Adults and Adults

Learning Plan Outline

Exploring Holy Week

Learning Activity Centers

The Learning Activity Center Format provides structured learning activities at a variety of stations or centers in a common area. Learning activity centers are self-contained learning experiences, focusing on a specific topic or theme. They include brief presentations by the facilitators, interactive and experiential activities, group discussion and sharing. Each center can utilize a different learning method, such as drama or role play, creative arts, prayer, ritual, film, games, demonstrations, exhibits, and music.

One of the best ways to envision a Learning Activity Center Format is to imagine visiting a children's museum or one of the Epcot pavilions at Walt Disney World in Orlando. You will find a variety of interactive, experiential exhibits, media presentations, and staff-facilitated learning activities.

Learning Activity Centers can be used with all age groups. They can be developed for an intergenerational audience or for particular age groups, such as families with children or adolescents or adults. Learning Activity Centers can also be utilized in the families with children learning program within the Age Group Format.

Scheduling and Learning Plan Outline

You can use the *Activities Center Format* by developing intergenerational activity centers for each of the five symbol/ritual activities developed in the lesson plans for families with children, teens, and adults. It would be best to organize the participants into groups so they can easily move from one activity center to the next (see organizing ideas below).

Learning Plan Outline for using Activity Centers

1. Introduction to the Triduum
2. Word, Rituals, and Symbols of Holy Week Activity Centers
 - Activity 1: Guided Tour (See Activity One in both learning plans)
 - Activity 2: Holy Week Poster (See Activity Two in families with children learning plan)
 - Activity 3: Dramatize the Scripture Readings of Holy Week (See Activity Three in families with children learning plan and Activity Two in adolescent/adult learning plan)
 - Activity 4: Video Presentation on Holy Week (See Activity Four in families with children learning plan)
 - Activity 5: Jesus of Nazareth Video Presentaton (See Activity Three in adolescent/adult learning plan)

Here is a sample schedule with four rounds of learning centers, allocating 20 minutes per activity center:

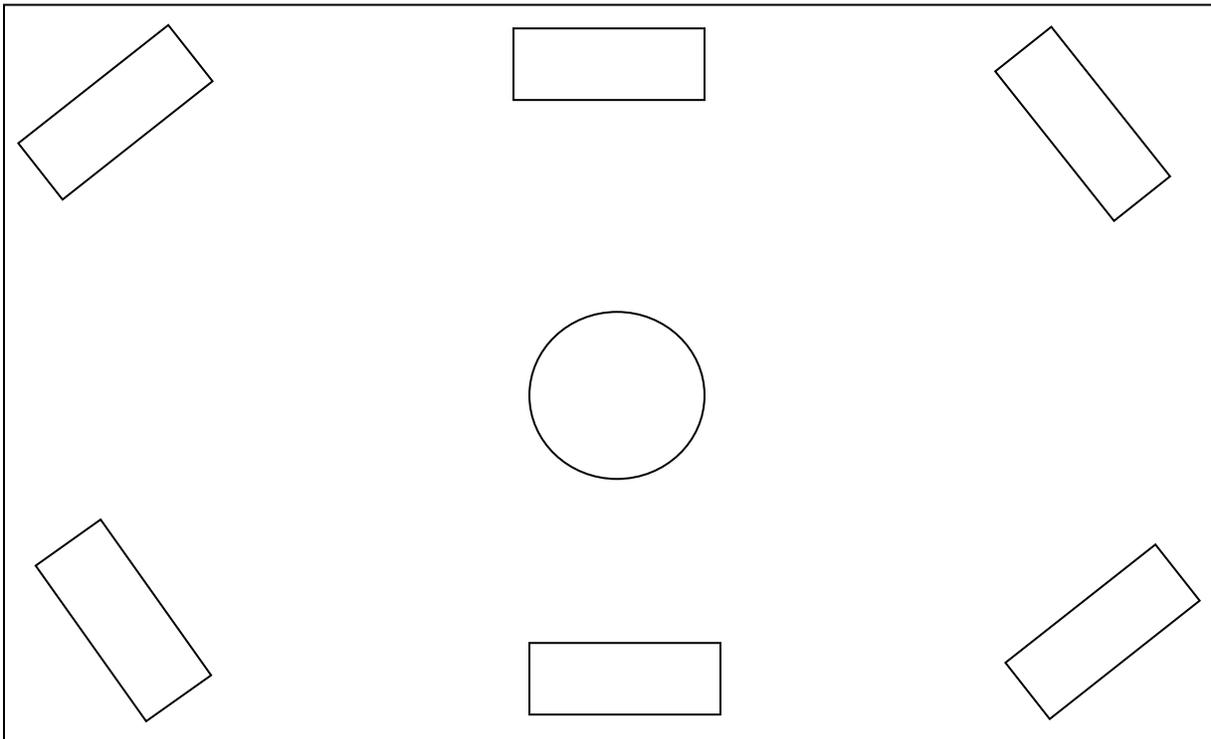
- 6:00 Hospitality and Dinner
- 6:30 Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
- Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
- Introduction to Holy Week (whole group)

- 6:55 Round 1: Learning Activity Centers
- 7:15 Break (move to next center)
- 7:20 Round 2: Learning Activity Centers
- 7:40 Break (move to next center)
- 7:45 Round 3: Learning Activity Centers
- 8:05 Break (move to next center)
- 8:25 Round 4: Learning Activity Centers
- 8:30 Summary Presentation: The Meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism
- 8:35 Part 4: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application
- Part 5: Closing Prayer

Organizing the Activity Centers

There are two ways to set up activity centers: one large room, or multiple break-out rooms.

If you arrange all of the learning centers in one large meeting gym or parish hall, set-up the centers around the outside of the room (see example). The center space can become a storytelling center with a carpet or chairs for children to sit. The example below shows six different learning centers plus the storytelling center. You may still need separate rooms if you have a learning center that focuses on prayer (worship space) or shows a film (meeting room).



Keep in mind the following when organizing in one room:

- Make sure there is adequate space between learning centers so that people are not interrupted by the activity at other centers.

- Set-up each learning activity center with tables and chairs (or carpeted floor space) for participants to listen, discuss, and create. Children and teens can use the floor, but adults will need chairs.
- Assign each learning center a number and post the number on the wall and floor at each center.

If you arrange learning centers in multiple rooms such as meeting rooms, classrooms, parish hall, gym, worship space, assign one learning center to each space. This format resembles a conference where people move from room to room for each session. Place the learning center name outside each room and develop a list of centers with locations, and a map if necessary, so that people can easily find the correct room.

Organizing Groups

Once you have determined how many learning centers you will offer, you can organize participants accordingly. If you offer four learning centers, you can organize the participants into four groups of equal size and assign each group a specific sequence that they will move through the learning centers. Assign a number to each learning center and an alphabet letter to each group, then describe how they will move through the centers: Group A: 1-2-3-4; Group B: 2-3-4-1, Group C: 3-4-1-2, and Group D: 4-1-2-3. If you offer three learning centers, there would be three groups rotating among the three learning centers. Keep families together in one group.

If you offer more than three or four learning centers, allow people to choose the learning centers they are going to experience. Remind them that if a particular center is crowded, they can move to another center and then return to their first choice in another round. Families with children should stay together because the activities require parents to work with their children.

Staffing

Each center is facilitated by a team of facilitators/catechists who guide the participants through the activity plan. The teaching team facilitates the overall learning plan for the center: making presentations, guiding learning activities, organizing discussions, and so on. The number of team members needed depends on the complexity of the activities and the number of participants at a learning center. Teams should have at least two or three people, but some centers will require five or six people. Older adolescents can also serve as members of the teaching team, and are especially valuable in facilitating creative activities and dramatic presentations.

To present the focus of each learning activity center, ask the teaching teams to present a very brief overview of what they will be doing in each center. Give each participant the list of learning activity centers with short descriptions, a schedule and the locations of the centers.

Exploring Holy Week

Age Group: Families with Children

Learning Activity Centers: All Ages

Preparation

- Bible
- sheets of newsprint, marking pens for each person, masking tape
- white paper and pens/pencils
- for the children's drama activity you will need *Acting Out the Gospels* by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND (Twenty-Third Publications, 1999)
- handout: *The Holy Week Liturgies: Word, Rituals, and Symbols*
- copies of the **Catholic Update** for parents: *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies* by Thomas Richstatter (C0492) (Order from St. Anthony Messenger Press at 800-336-1770)
- Holy Week symbols for the prayer table (in Age Group Format you need for table for each age group):
 - the Lectionary or Bible (New American Bible, hardcover)
 - red tablecloth (or one with red in the pattern or drape a piece of red cloth on a white tablecloth)
 - a thick white candle and matches
 - a clear glass bowl with water (or a clear glass pitcher) with a white hand towel
 - a small clear bowl with olive oil
 - a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
 - a clear glass with wine
 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
 - thorns
- Holy Week symbols for each table group for the Guided Tour activity:
 - a thick white candle and matches
 - a clear glass bowl with water (or a clear glass pitcher) with a white hand towel
 - a small clear bowl with olive oil
 - a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
 - a clear glass with wine
 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
 - thorns

Activity Plan

1. Begin this activity by explaining the importance of Holy Week. Use the following information and *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to help you prepare your introduction.

[spoken text] *The Easter Triduum is the "mother of all feasts." All other feasts of the year hinge on this great feast. While each Sunday stands on its own as an observance of the paschal mystery, the*

entire liturgical year is in forward motion toward the fundamental commemoration of our Christian faith: the redemptive action of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

(Mary Birmingham, *Word and Worship Workbook*, page 204)

The Triduum is a single celebration of the paschal mystery presented, over three days, under different aspects. Christian remembering is more than retracing the Lord's steps during his last days in Jerusalem. At the Holy Thursday Eucharist, the church is already drawn into the whole event of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Good Friday celebration of the Lord's passion is austere but never sad, for the risen Lord already reigns triumphant. On Holy Saturday the church waits for the celebration of Christ's resurrection and its own at the Easter Vigil, when the Spirit hovers over the waters of the font and the community of faith drinks deeply again of the mystery of Jesus' passage from death to life.

(Roman Missal)

Individuals and communities who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle – Lent, Triduum, and Easter's Fifty Days – discover, not that they have taken hold the pasch, but that the pasch has seized them and changed them forever! This is especially true of the Triduum which, standing at the heart of the paschal cycle, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian and to be church. Year after year, those who keep the Triduum hunger in fasting and rejoice in feasting, sharing in death and resurrected life, contemplate cross-into-glory, tell and hear the great stories of salvation, emerge fresh-robed from the waters of victory and taste of the wedding banquet of heaven and earth. In these most human and yet most divine of actions, the old passes into the radically new.

(Jean Halmo, *A Triduum Sourcebook I*, page vii)

2. The focus of the activities suggested below is taking a "tour" of the liturgies of Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. The following activities are designed to engage the participants in the liturgies so as to prepare them for meaningful participation during Holy Week.

Select one or more of the following creative activities to help the participants prepare for Holy Week. Feel free to combine activities into your own learning activity.

► **Activity One: A Guided Tour of Holy Week**

Use the following process with each Holy Week Liturgy: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Use the handout, *Holy Week Liturgies*, as a guide to the readings and symbols of Holy Week. Use a Holy Week missalette for the outlines of the Holy Week liturgies. (If possible, try to meet in the church so that you can take advantage of the church environment.)

Prepare the following symbols to use: palm branch, loaf of bread, empty bowl and pitcher of water and towel, cross, and a large candle. If you have set up a Holy Week table, you can use these items from the table.

Complete the following process four times – one for each Holy Week liturgy.

Step One: Read the Gospel and review the main points of the ritual for the liturgy. Involve the participants in reading the Gospel. (For Palm Sunday focus on the Gospel reading for the procession.)

Step Two: Use the information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to share with the participants a commentary on the liturgy.

Step Three: Show the participants the symbol(s) for this liturgy and explain its significance using the handout, *The Holy Week Liturgies*.

- Palm Sunday: Pass the palm branch around the group. Ask them what they think the symbol of palms means. Then explain the significance of the symbol.
- Holy Thursday: Wash the participant's hands and dry them with the towel. Pass a small piece of bread to each child. Ask them what they think these symbols of water and bread mean. Then explain the significance of the symbol.
- Good Friday: Pass the cross from person to person, in silence. Ask them to offer a short prayer to Jesus while the cross is being passed around the group. Ask them what they think the symbol of the cross means. Then explain the significance of the symbol.
- Easter Sunday: Darken the room and light the candle. Walk around the room, shining the light on each participant. Ask them what they think the symbol of light means. Then explain the significance of the symbol.

After the four presentations, invite the participants to share their feelings and thoughts about the Holy Week symbols.

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture readings and look for the symbols when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

► **Activity Two: Holy Week Poster**

Give the participants the opportunity to make reminders of the Holy Week liturgies by drawing pictures of the important symbols of Holy Week on a Holy Week Poster. Provide a piece of poster paper (or poster board) on which the participants can chart the events of Holy Week with simple symbols.

Materials needed: poster paper or poster board, art supplies such as colored construction paper, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, transparent tape, magazine pictures, etc.

Write the following list of symbols on newsprint or poster board for all to see. Using a children's Bible or the Lectionary for Children read the story that corresponds to each story (or ask one of the participants to read). Use the handout, *The Holy Week Liturgies*, for the exact Scripture reference. Give the participants the Bible reference to include on their poster. Then remind them to read the passage during Holy Week. You could also ask them to read the Gospel passage that contains their symbol and write a short quote from the Gospel on their symbol.

- A palm to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. (Palm Sunday)
- A bag of coins to remind us that Jesus was betrayed by one of his friends. (The Passion on Good Friday)
- A bowl of water and towel to remind us that Jesus taught us to love one another by washing his disciples' feet. (Holy Thursday)
- Wine and bread to remind us of Jesus' last meal with the disciples. (Holy Thursday)
- A rooster to remind us that all the disciples finally left Jesus before the rooster crowed three times. (The Passion on Good Friday)
- A cross to remind us of Jesus' suffering. (The Passion on Good Friday)
- The tomb with the stone rolled in front of the opening to remind us that Jesus died. (Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday)
- A butterfly to remind us that Jesus was raised from the dead and lives forever. (Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday)

Invite each person to share his or her poster with the group.

After the presentations, invite the participants to share their feelings and thoughts about the Holy Week posters.

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture readings and look for the symbols when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

► **Activity Three: Dramatize the Scripture Readings of Holy Week**

Use the book, *Acting Out the Gospels*, by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND (Twenty-Third Publications, 1999) to involve participants in dramatizing the Scripture readings of Holy Week. Each play is full scripted and includes instructions, background information, questions for the participants, and a closing prayer. Depending on the size of the group and the number of leaders, participants can work in teams to prepare and present several plays that dramatize the Holy Week readings. Be sure to make the connections for the participants between the play and the liturgy of Holy Week, encouraging them to participate with their families in the Holy Week liturgies.

Acting Out the Gospels includes the following plays for Holy Week:

- Entry into Jerusalem (page 84)
- The Last Supper (page 89)
- The Agony in the Garden (page 92)
- The Trial before Pilot (page 95)
- The Resurrection (page 99)
- The Appearance to the Women (page 102)

Present the dramatizations one-by-one beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with Easter Sunday. After each presentation, invite the "audience" to share their feelings and thoughts about that particular play.

After all of the presentations, ask the participants to share their feelings and thoughts about the Holy Week plays.

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture readings and look for the symbols when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

► **Activity Four: Video Presentation on Holy Week (Families with Children Only)**

Use the video to present the meaning of Holy Week. After the video discuss the key points with the participants.

The Beginner's Bible Series: The Story of Easter – Christ's Passion and Resurrection

Animated videos will help you share the most important lessons from the greatest story every told. Wonderful new series featuring vivid animation and memorable songs.

30 minutes Ages 4 to 10 \$12.99 Oblate Media

Following Jesus Through the Church Year: Holy Week Crossing and Resurrection Road

Gwen Costello

Detective Krispin takes elementary students on a journey through the Bible lands in search of Jesus. Along the way biblical characters help him in his search. Key events in Jesus' life are revealed in the Scripture readings of the liturgical year. A unique blend of Bible history, the liturgical year, and the life and mission of Jesus that is certain to delight students.

10 minutes each Grades 3-6 \$19.95 each Twenty-Third Publications

Jesus: A Kingdom Without Frontiers: (1) Entry into Jerusalem, (2) Last Supper, (3) Agony in the Garden, (4) Trial of Jesus, (5) Jesus Dies on the Cross, and (6) Resurrection of Jesus

Here is the life of Jesus brought to your children as never before! This extraordinary European production combined the talents of animators, theologians and scholars to create this comprehensive Bible series. Each episode concludes with a three-minute summary of the program, placing it in the proper historical and scriptural context for young seekers.

30 minutes Ages 7 to 12 \$12.99 each Oblate Media

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture reading and look for the symbols when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

Exploring Holy Week

Age Group: Adolescents, Young Adults, and Adults

Preparation

- Bible
- sheets of newsprint, marking pens for each person, masking tape
- white paper and pens/pencils
- handouts:
 - *The Holy Week Liturgies: Word, Rituals, and Symbols*
 - *Remembering Holy Week*
- copies of the **Catholic Update** for adults and adolescents: *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies* by Thomas Richstatter (C0492) (Order from St. Anthony Messenger Press at 800-336-1770)
- Holy Week symbols for the prayer table (in Age Group Format you need for table for each age group):
 - the Lectionary or Bible (New American Bible, hardcover)
 - red tablecloth (or one with red in the pattern or drape a piece of red cloth on a white tablecloth)
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 - a loaf of bread (unsliced) on a plate
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 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
 - thorns
- Holy Week symbols for each table group for the Guided Tour activity:
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 - a clear glass with wine
 - a cross (not a crucifix)
 - palms
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Activity Plan

1. [spoken text] Begin this activity by explaining the importance of Holy Week. Use the following information and *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Holy Week Liturgies* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to help you prepare your introduction. Provide a very brief and simple introduction for children.

[spoken text] *The Easter Triduum is the "mother of all feasts." All other feasts of the year hinge on this great feast. While each Sunday stands on its own as an observance of the paschal mystery, the*

entire liturgical year is in forward motion toward the fundamental commemoration of our Christian faith: the redemptive action of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.
(Mary Birmingham, *Word and Worship Workbook*, page 204)

The Triduum is a single celebration of the paschal mystery presented, over three days, under different aspects. Christian remembering is more than retracing the Lord's steps during his last days in Jerusalem. At the Holy Thursday Eucharist, the church is already drawn into the whole event of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Good Friday celebration of the Lord's passion is austere but never sad, for the risen Lord already reigns triumphant. On Holy Saturday the church waits for the celebration of Christ's resurrection and its own at the Easter Vigil, when the Spirit hovers over the waters of the font and the community of faith drinks deeply again of the mystery of Jesus' passage from death to life.
(*Roman Missal*)

Individuals and communities who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle – Lent, Triduum, and Easter's Fifty Days – discover, not that they have taken hold the pasch, but that the pasch has seized them and changed them forever! This is especially true of the Triduum which, standing at the heart of the paschal cycle, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian and to be church. Year after year, those who keep the Triduum hunger in fasting and rejoice in feasting, sharing in death and resurrected life, contemplate cross-into-glory, tell and hear the great stories of salvation, emerge fresh-robed from the waters of victory and taste of the wedding banquet of heaven and earth. In these most human and yet most divine of actions, the old passes into the radically new.
(Jean Halmo, *A Triduum Sourcebook I*, page vii)

2. The focus of the activities suggested below is taking a “tour” of the liturgies of Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. The following activities are designed to engage the participants in the liturgies so as to prepare them for meaningful participation during Holy Week.

a. Remembering Activity

Begin with a remembering activity. Ask the participants to remember their participation in the Holy Week liturgies (in the past or in recent experience) and to complete the handout, *Remembering Holy Week*.

Then in small groups of six to eight people, ask them to share their reflections with each other. You may want to conclude this activity by inviting participants to share brief reflections with the large group.

b. Exploring the Liturgies of Holy Week

There are several activities for exploring the liturgies of Holy Week. Select the activity that best suits the needs of your group. Be sure that each participant has a copy of the missalette for Holy Week.

► Activity One: A Guided Tour of Holy Week

Use the following process with each Holy Week liturgy. Complete the process for one liturgy before moving to the next liturgy. Use the handout, *Holy Week Liturgies*, as background information. (You can distribute this handout to the participants at the end

of the activity as a summary.) [For teaching adolescents: supplement *Our Holiest Week* with *Remembering: The Liturgies of Lent and Easter* by Kathleen Paiva (Y0493).]

Step One: Using the missalette, read the Old Testament and Gospel reading and review the outline of the ritual for the liturgy. Involve the participants in reading the Scriptures.

- For Palm Sunday focus on the Gospel reading for the procession.
- For the Easter Vigil select one or two Old Testament readings, review the others, and read the Epistle and Gospel readings.)

Step Two: Use the information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to present commentary on the liturgy (or ask people to read the commentary).

Step Three: Ask the participants to identify the symbol(s) that emerge out of the readings and ritual actions and how the symbol(s) are used? Ask for responses and write them on a newsprint sheet. (This activity can be done in small groups with reporting to the large group.)

Step Four: Ask the participants to identify the significance of the liturgy (word, ritual, symbols) for us as Catholics today. Ask for responses and write them on a newsprint sheet. (This activity can be done in small groups with reporting to the large group.)

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture reading and look for the symbols and ritual actions when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

► **Activity Two: Re-enactment/Dramatization of the Holy Week Liturgies**

Re-enacting or dramatizing the liturgies of Holy Week helps to bring them alive for the participants and prepares them for active participation in Holy Week. Use the following process to guide the participants. Use the handout, *Holy Week Liturgies*, as background information. (You can distribute this handout to the participants at the end of the activity as a summary.) [For teaching adolescents: supplement *Our Holiest Week* with *Remembering: The Liturgies of Lent and Easter* by Kathleen Paiva (Y0493).]

Organize the participants into four teams. Assign each team one of the liturgies of Holy Week: Palm Sunday (Processional), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. Distribute copies of the Lent and Holy Week missalettes to all of the participants. Guide the teams through the following process.

Step One: Using the missalette, ask a member of each group to read the Scripture readings for their assigned liturgy to the group and, together, to review the outline of the ritual.

Step Two: Ask each person to read the commentary on their liturgy in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update).

Step Three: As a team, discuss the meaning of the liturgy (word, ritual, symbols). “What is the importance and meaning of this liturgy for us as Catholics?” “How can we apply its meaning to our lives as Catholics?”

Step Four: As a team, brainstorm ways you can re-enact or dramatize this liturgy (through word, ritual, symbols) so that all of us can experience a “taste” of this

liturgy. This dramatization should highlight a significant aspect of the liturgy to heighten people's awareness of the importance of this liturgy for our lives as Catholics. Examples of dramatizing a liturgy include

- re-enacting the ritual in an abbreviated form (e.g., washing feet for Holy Thursday)
- creating frozen statues (people frozen like mannequins into specific positions that depict a scene from the story with a reader proclaiming the story, such as the passion on Good Friday)
- interactive skits (skits that involve the "audience" in some way, such as passing a cross and offering a prayer for Good Friday or renewing Baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil)

Step Five: Determine which method you will use for creating your drama, choose your props and location, and practice your dramatic presentation.

Step Six: Present the dramatizations one-by-one beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with the Easter Vigil. After each presentation, invite the "audience" to share their feelings and thoughts about that particular Holy Week liturgy. Ask the participants to identify the significance of the liturgy (word, ritual, symbols) for us as Catholics today.

After all of the presentations, ask the participants to share their reflections and insights on Holy Week with the group (learnings, feelings, discoveries, surprises, etc.).

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture reading and look for the symbols and ritual actions when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

► **Activity Three: Holy Week in Film – Video Presentation of Jesus of Nazareth**

Use video cassette three of *Jesus of Nazareth* to present Jesus' entry into Jerusalem; the Last Supper; the trial, passion, and crucifixion of Jesus; and the resurrection. This segment of *Jesus of Nazareth* is a very somber and sobering portrayal of Holy Week. It is very easy to correlate the Holy Week readings to the action on the film.

Explain to the participants that they are going to see a vivid depiction of the last days of Jesus his trial, passion and crucifixion. This will be followed by the resurrection of Jesus and post-resurrection experiences of the disciples.

After each segment, invite the participants to share their feelings and thoughts about what they saw and the particular Holy Week liturgy. Ask the participants to identify the significance of the liturgy (word, ritual, symbols) for us as Catholics today.

- ▷ Begin the presentation with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the third video tape. After this scene stop the video and, using the missalette, read the Gospel reading for Palm Sunday (processional reading) and review the outline of the ritual for the liturgy. Use the information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to present commentary on the liturgy (or ask people to read the commentary).
- ▷ Resume the video presentation through the Last Supper. After the Last Supper scene stop the video and, using the missalette, read the Old Testament and Gospel reading for Holy Thursday and review the outline of the ritual for the liturgy. Use the

information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to present commentary on the liturgy (or ask people to read the commentary).

- ▷ Resume the video presentation through the death of Jesus on the cross and his burial. After this scene stop the video and, using the missalette, read the Passion according to the Gospel of John and review the outline of the ritual for the liturgy. Use the information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to present commentary on the liturgy (or ask people to read the commentary).
- ▷ Resume the video presentation through the end of Jesus of Nazareth. Stop the video and, using the missalette, read the Epistle and Gospel readings for the Easter Vigil and review the outline of the ritual for the liturgy. Use the information in *Our Holiest Week* by Thomas Richstatter (Catholic Update) to present commentary on the liturgy (or ask people to read the commentary).

[For teaching adolescents: supplement *Our Holiest Week* with *Remembering: The Liturgies of Lent and Easter* by Kathleen Paiva (Y0493).]

After all of the presentations, ask the participants to share their reflections and insights on Holy Week with the group (learnings, feelings, discoveries, surprises, etc.).

Conclude by reminding the participants to listen for the Scripture reading and look for the symbols and ritual actions when they participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

Friday liturgy. What is the significance of this liturgy (word, ritual, symbols) for us as Catholics today?

3. Encourage the participants to participate in the Holy Week liturgies and to read and reflect on the Scriptures for Holy Week.

Part 4

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application (20 minutes)

Advanced Preparation

- Determine what each group will bring back to the large group or to their small group to share as a result of their learning.
- Determine how each group will share their reports or projects so that they “teach” the other groups about the event and theme.

Home Kit

Develop a Holy Week Home Kit that *extends* and *expands* the learning that has taken place through the intergenerational learning program. It should *engage* families and individuals in living their faith at home through traditions and celebrations, rituals, symbols, prayers, service projects, learning activities, and enrichment activities. Include specific activities on the event that you have selected as a focus for the session. These additional activities can include learning activities about the event, Scripture readings, table rituals, prayers, and so on.

Use a variety of design formats for your activities, such as a prayer card, stand-up card, poster, placemat, newsletter, booklet, magnet, bookmark, and artwork.

Included with this session are the following home activities:

- *Celebrating Holy Week at Home*

1. Whole Group Sharing and Reflection

The whole group sharing experience provides an opportunity for each age group to share something they have learned with the entire group. If the session has been conducted in intergenerational groups ask participants to remain with their group. If the session was conducted in the age group format, ask people to rejoin their intergenerational groups from the All Ages Learning Experience OR ask family members to rejoin their own family and individual adolescent and adult participants to stay with their age groups from the In-Depth Learning Experience.

First, ask the participants to share what they learned in a small group setting or by inviting participants or groups, representing families, teens, and adults, to share projects or reflections with the entire.

[spoken text] Second, present the following information using the words below or your own words:

Think of everything we have done in this session to learn about Holy Week. Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned in this session:

- What is one thing you learned about Holy Week that you did not know before?
- What do you look forward to experiencing during Holy Week this year?
- Why do you think Holy Week is so important for us as Catholics?

Review the Home Kit for the event containing prayers, rituals, service projects, family enrichment, and learning activities. Guide everyone in developing an individual or family action plan for living at home using the Home Kit, and planning for participation in the sacrament.

2. Reflection—Application Strategies

Prepare strategies and activities to guide individuals and families in *reflecting* on the meaning of their learning and their participation in the Church event and in *applying* their learning to daily living as a Catholic. The goal is to help people apply the beliefs and practices to their daily life, and report or “publish” their learning with others in the parish community.

Reflection and application activities and strategies can be included with the Home Kit. You can also include a time for feedback in your next intergenerational learning program

There are a variety of formats for reflection—application activities. Reflection tools include unfinished sentences, reflection questions, learning journals, and a structured reflection activities. Application tools include action plans, practice plans, “to do” lists, and resolutions.

Art and media strategies can also be used to express reflection and application. Consider activities such as a bumper stickers, picture collages, “recipe for living” cards, posters, photos, and projects that create and bring back to Sunday Mass or the next intergenerational learning program.

Example: Reflection on Participating in Holy Week

What did you see at the liturgies of Holy Week?

- Think of the symbols and gestures you saw at the celebrations: palms, bread, water, oil, anointing, and so on.
- What do the symbols and gestures mean to you as you experienced them?

What did you hear at the liturgies of Holy Week?

- Think of the songs you sang. What was their message?
- Think of the Scripture readings. What was their message?
- What is Holy Week teaching you?

How did you pray during Holy Week?

- Think of the prayers and the petitions at the liturgies of Holy Week.
- What are the prayers teaching us?

How did you live Holy Week—at home and in the parish? How did you prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

- Which parish liturgies did you participate in?
- How did you live Holy Week at home—prayer, rituals, service to others, etc.?
- What is one thing you learned about Holy Week this year? How did you grow closer to Jesus Christ during Holy Week?

Part 5

Closing Prayer Service (5 minutes)

Pray together this “Good Friday Prayer” by David Haas.

God, today I celebrate the incredible realization
that you have not abandoned me.

You continually restore my hope
and never tire in your passion for me,
even in the midst
of this most unquestionable horror story:
the agony of blood and nails and thorns,
the loneliness of the cross,
the abandonment by friends and followers.

You ask me to travel to the dark place as well
and feel your searing pain,
feel your loneliness,
feel your grief of disloyalty.

Come to me today
and sign me with your cross.
May I wear the cross proudly
and always live as your servant.
Into your hands, God, I commend me life. Amen.

(From *Praying with the Word – Lent, Holy Week, and Easter* by David Haas. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1997.)