FaithatHome

Tools for Your Household's Continued Growth in Faith

Look to Holy Week and Easter

By the time we gather again for Encounter, we will have celebrated Easter! Now is the time to plan for how your household will enter into Holy Week (March 24-30) and how you will celebrate for the 50 days of Easter. Long after the stores have cleared out the Easter candy and decorations, our Church's celebration will continue… until Pentecost on May 19. Read on for suggestions to keep the seasons!

C

CHILDREN

Discover ideas for keeping Holy Week in a household with children.

T

TEENS

Discover what we do during "Holy Week in Three Minutes!"

A

ADULTS

The Diocese of DSM offers a brief liturgical calendar here.

A Prayer for Holy Week

Prepare for Mass by discussing the readings together!

March 9 is the feast day of St. Frances of Rome, a married lay woman who lived a life of holy generosity.

FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

This year, at Encounter, we have been exploring the Mass. With your child, watch this short video, which explains the Mass using Legos, to spark more conversation about what we see and do at Mass!

Use this engaging resource to generate ideas for keeping Holy Week in your household. The Stations of the Cross shared at the end is accessible for all ages and helps us connect our lives to Christ and his suffering, death, and resurrection.

In addition to its wonderful suite of Lent and Holy Week resources, the Diocese of Des Moines also offers tools for celebrating the Easter season.

"Behold, I make all things new!" (Revelation 21:5)

St. Catherine of Siena has a new website, which means "Faith at Home" has a new home! Find the newsletter for each month of Encounter here. Scroll down to Mark your Calendars to find the newsletter

FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH TEENS

This short video about Holy Thursday also mentions many aspects of the other days of Holy Week. While the narration is not the most dynamic, the visual images of Pope Francis celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper are moving.

Be ready! There is more than one way to fashion your Palm Sunday palm into a cross, but it needs to be done soon after Mass while the palm is still green and relatively fresh. See how to make a palm cross with a square center, or learn how to fold a palm cross with an "x" shaped center, plus a pro tip for drying it properly.

ADULT GROWTH IN FAITH

No matter our stage in life (single, married, student, parenting, empty-nester, retiree, etc.) we attend to our growth in faith and live more deeply into our baptismal call.

As we continue to ponder the mystery and beauty of the Mass during our Encounter gatherings this year, here is a reflection from St. John Paul II for us to consider.

At recent Encounter gatherings, as we have explored the Liturgy of the Word, we have been invited to ponder Scripture in new ways. This article from Joyce Rupp offers food for thought about Scripture and our Lenten observance.

Many of us know Catholic Relief Services through their Lenten Rice Bowl campaign. Their website is a rich source of information about their work, about our sisters and brothers around the world, and for our own spiritual growth. Pray along with their video version of the Stations of the Cross to enrich your Lenten prayer.

This resource was created, not to replace the liturgies of Holy Week, but to provide an alternative when in-person participation is not possible. For those who attend the parish services, the questions at the end of each section offer a great way to break open the experience.

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