

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Easter 2021 - Triduum

Source: (Our Sunday Visitor)

Grades 7 & 8

Doctrinal Content

Each part of the liturgy of the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil—points us to a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Last Supper. Eucharist is the sacred meal where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and we become the Body of Christ for the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit. On Good Friday, we participate in the profoundly moving ritual of remembering the redeeming sacrifice of Christ. Jesus' Death on the Cross was a sacrifice for our sins. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). We memorialize Christ's sacrifice, made present and real again at each Mass. We join his sacrifice by offering all of who we are at the Eucharistic table: our joys and our struggles, our "agonies in the garden," our moments of "dying," and our "resurrection" moments. And on Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ who has conquered sin and death, whose dying and rising have reconciled us to God. At each Eucharist, we celebrate the real, substantial presence of the Risen Christ.

Invite - Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer. Proclaim the verse from Psalm 31:17 together. Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord Jesus, we are not worthy of your sacrifice.

"Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your mercy." **Psalm 31:17**

All: We thank you for your kindness, Lord. Amen.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and hear about Jesus' example of service to others.

Guide the young people through the process of the Scripture reflection below.

Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.

Proclaim the Scripture.

Maintain several moments of silence.

Display and Read the following.

Read: John 13:1; 12-15

Scripture

"Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. ... So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me "teacher" and "master," and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.'" **John 13:1; 12-15**

Ask: What did you hear God say to you in the Sacred Scripture reading? Engage the young people to respond.

Say: The Triduum invites us into the sacred journey of Christ's dying and rising.

Ask: What else have you ever thought about God's Word and what it means to you today? Engage the young people to respond to the questions below.

Have you ever thought...

- Why did Jesus want his Apostles to understand that, if they love him, they must serve each other?
- Why does it seem that some people are more loving than others?

Faith Story

Say: Jesus by washing of the feet of other told us by His actions, "I am at your service." Let us listen to Pope Francis' homily and see how Jesus was at the service of others.

Jesus at the Service of Others

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS

*Prison for Minors "Casal del Marmo", Rome
Holy Thursday, 28 March 2013*

This is moving. Jesus, washing the feet of his disciples. Peter didn't understand it at all, he refused. But Jesus explained it for him. Jesus - God - did this! He himself explains to his disciples: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (Jn 13:12-15).

It is the Lord's example: he is the most important, and he washes feet, because with us what is highest must be at the service of others. This is a symbol, it is a sign, right? Washing feet means: "I am at your service". And with us too, don't we have to wash each other's feet day after day? But what does this mean? That all of us must help one another. Sometimes I am angry with someone or other ... but... let it go, let it go, and if he or she asks you a favour, do it.

Help one another: this is what Jesus teaches us and this what I am doing, and doing with all my heart, because it is my duty. As a priest and a bishop, I must be at your service. But it is a duty which comes from my heart: I love it. I love this and I love to do it because that is what the Lord has taught me to do. But you too, help one another: help one another always. One another. In this way, by helping one another, we will do some good.

Now we will perform this ceremony of washing feet, and let us think, let each one of us think: "Am I really willing, willing to serve, to help others?". Let us think about this, just this. And let us think that this sign is a caress of Jesus, which Jesus gives, because this is the real reason why Jesus came: to serve, to help us.

Ask: How was Jesus at the service of others? How can you be at the service of others?

Discover

Display and Read.

"Our Day of Remembrance"

Et

Our Days of Remembrance

The Triduum, the solemn time from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday evening, links us with Jesus' Jewish heritage and his sacrifice for our salvation. When we participate in the liturgy during the Triduum, we celebrate the whole of salvation history.

On Holy Thursday, we gather for the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at the same time of day that Jesus and his followers gathered. They were celebrating the Jewish remembrance of Passover, when God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. The readings of the day from the Lectionary for Mass begin with the story of the Passover Meal, and then recount the celebration of the Passover Meal by Jesus and his Apostles. You will remember that during that Last Supper, Jesus blesses, breaks, and shares the bread that becomes his very Body and the cup of wine that becomes his Blood.

The next day, Good Friday, we enter a church that is undecorated. Mass is not celebrated that day. We are there to watch and wait. We honor the Cross that was the instrument of our salvation. We hear the Passion again, walking with Jesus through his betrayal, scourging, and journey to Calvary. We are with the women and John as they see Jesus suffer and die on the Cross. We feel the finality of the rock being rolled across the tomb's opening. What saves us from desolation is knowing the rest of the story, which we will celebrate during the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Church's liturgical year. It is our



Palestinian Christians carry a large wooden cross on Good Friday along the Via Dolorosa, the route tradition says Jesus took to his Crucifixion.

confirmation that Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death and brought us the hope of eternal life, and our confirmation of Christ as the Son of God.

We begin in silence and darkness, listening again to the story of our salvation in Old Testament readings. The Gospel reading is short, but powerful. With the women at the tomb, we learn that Jesus has risen to new life and is with us again. The cantor sings the Exsultet, celebrating this event. As the evening unfolds, we welcome new members into the Church and renew our own commitment by repeating our Baptismal vows. We recognize the great love that Jesus has for us, and we want to return it.

- Why is the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus so central to the life of all Catholics?
- What part of the Triduum do you most identify with? And why?

Ask: What is the Triduum?

Ask: What happened on Holy Thursday?”

Ask: What Jewish tradition was being honored by Jesus and the Apostles on the night before Jesus died?

Ask: What happened on Good Friday?

Ask: Why do we honor the Cross at Good Friday services?

Ask: What is the Easter Vigil?

Ask: Why is the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus so central to the life of all Catholics?

Ask: What part of the Triduum do you most identify with? Why?

Ask: Why would the Easter Vigil readings contain stories from the Old Testament about deliverance? How do the readings at this Mass reflect the story of salvation?

Review

Say: We call the events involved in our redemption—the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus—the Paschal Mystery. The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in her liturgy, most especially the Eucharist.

- The Triduum, which we celebrate during Holy Week from Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil, is the central liturgy of the Church year.
- The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ Passion, Death, and Resurrection have differences, but they all present key fundamental truths of the redemption accomplished by Jesus.
- These accounts were written from the perspective of a post-resurrection faith; the writers knew that Jesus’ death was not the end.

Video Time

Say: Let us watch a short video, “Holy Week in Two Minutes.”

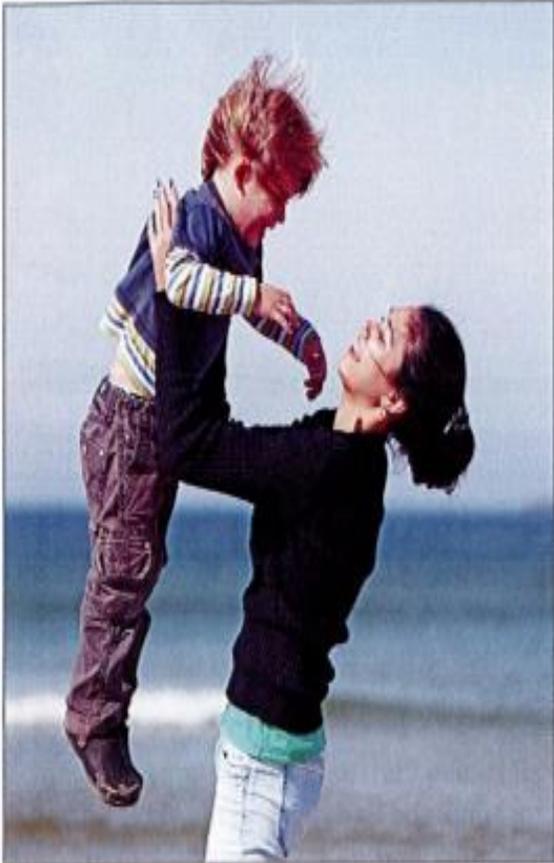
Play the video clip.

YouTube Link: http://youtu.be/HugMM_3FfnI

Discuss: What did you learn from the video? How does Holy Week prepare us for Easter?

Live:

Display and Read the following.



Moved to Charity

Jesus has shown his love for us through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Nothing that anyone can do will ever exceed his gift to us. We want to reciprocate, but what could we possibly do that would even begin to repay him?

Jesus knows that we are unable to equal his gift to us. God wants us to accept his gift of love and love him in return. By doing that, we share his love with the world. We can do that by acting with charity. **Charity** is another name for love. It directs people to love God above everything else and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In loving, we forget our own needs and desires. We want to see that others are taken care of before we are. True charity focuses on meeting the needs of others.

Jesus taught us about love and charity. He asked us to follow the New Commandment and provided a model for our actions, from honoring the sweetness of children to washing the dusty feet of his Apostles. We, too, can perform acts of charity.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The twelve **Fruits of the Holy Spirit** are qualities that can be seen in us when we let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts. This season we are focusing on **charity**.

Ask: What is Charity?

Ask: What does it mean to say, "True charity focuses on the needs of others"?

Ask: What did Jesus do that we can do for others?

Ask: How does having self-control or self-discipline bring you freedom?

Faith Activity

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7 and complete Faith Activity

If I speak in human and angelic tongues* but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated,

it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

DESCRIBE

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7. In each column, write a word that describes what love is and what love is not. Use what your own experience has taught you about love. For instance, you may know that love is loyal because your friend has stuck by you through some hard times.

What Love Is

What Love Is Not

Faith Activity

Love Is...

Love is more than an idea, or a thought, or a desire.

As Jesus demonstrated by his own actions, love is something we do and it always focuses on the other.

Engage the youth to describe what love is by naming behaviors or actions that are loving.

“Love is _____”

Closing Prayer:



Prayer for Holy Week

Pray the Sign of the Cross together.

All: Our blessing-cup is a Communion with the Blood of Christ.

Leader: “How can I repay the LORD for all the great good done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the LORD.”

All: Our blessing-cup is a Communion with the Blood of Christ.

Reader 1: “Dear in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his devoted.

LORD, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your maidservant, you have loosed my bonds.”

All: Our blessing-cup is a Communion with the Blood of Christ.

Reader 3: “I will offer a sacrifice of praise, and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.”

All: Our blessing-cup is a Communion with the Blood of Christ. **Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; Response cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16**

Leader: Let us go forth to act with charity toward all people.

All: Let us act with charity. Amen.

 *Sing or play “Bread for the World”*