

Family Activities for the week of April 5

Holy Week Activities for Families

April 5th - Palm Sunday

Gather the family and watch the Mass online. If your parish is not offering Mass online, you can watch the Mass with Archbishop Rodi live at 8am or watch it later in the day.

<https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Wear red! The liturgical color for Passion/Palm Sunday is red. Have everyone wear red today to help all of us remember what Jesus did for us.

Hang palms on your door. We may not be able to gather and wave palms at Mass today, but we can show the world our faith by hanging palms or other greenery on our front doors.

Coloring page: <https://colorluna.com/jesus-through-jerusalem-gate-in-palm-sunday-coloring-page/>

Even if we can't get palms at our parish, we can craft some with our families. Make these Hosanna branch wavers: <https://mommynippets.com/hosanna-branch-wavers/>

Here's an Easter Story Wreath craft to help your family remember the events of Holy Week and the Easter Season: <http://www.weelittlemiracles.com/2012/04/make-easter-story-wreath-free.html>

Here's a Home Prayer Guide for Holy Week from Liturgical Press:

https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/13543/documents/2020/3/Holy_Week_at_Home.pdf

Monday, April 6th - Monday of Holy Week

As a family, read today's readings together: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040620.cfm>

Watch the Mass online. If your parish is not offering Mass today online, you can watch the Mass with Archbishop Rodi live at 8am or watch it later in the day. <https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Clean the domestic church. According to an ancient tradition, the three days after Palm Sunday are devoted in many countries to a thorough cleaning of the house, the most vigorous of the whole year – so clean out closets, gather clothes and toys for donations, clean out the fridge, tackle the garage – make a fresh start! Prepare your home for the most holy days of the year!

Do some deep cleaning in your heart too! Set aside time this week to make a thorough Examination of Conscience - <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience.cfm>. If your parish is offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, build that into your week as well. If you are unable to go to Confession, make a sincere

Act of Contrition <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/act-of-contrition-338> and resolve to go to confession as soon as you can.

Tuesday, April 7th - Tuesday of Holy Week

As a family, read today's readings together: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040720.cfm>

Gather the family and watch the Chrism Mass from the Cathedral at 11am today:

<https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass. Each year, at the Chrism Mass, Archbishop Rodi blesses three oils — the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and holy chrism — which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the archdiocese for the year. Normally, our priests come together at this Mass and listen to a beautiful homily by the Archbishop meant just for them. This year our priests will be joining virtually as we will.

Watch our vocations video entitled "Called: To Be a Priest in the Archdiocese of Mobile":

<http://mobilevocations.com/>

Talk to your family about the fact that our we aren't just a part of our parish, nor just a part of our Archdiocese, but rather we are a part of the world-wide Catholic Church, under the Pope. Learn more about the Vatican with these links:

Take a virtual museum tour:

<http://m.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani-mobile/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

Fun facts:

<https://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-the-vatican-city/>

How to Draw the Vatican Flag:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/vatican-flag-drawing/>

Free Pope Francis printable craft:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/pope-francis-craft/>

Wednesday, April 8th - Spy Wednesday

Wednesday of Holy Week is traditionally called "Spy Wednesday" because Judas bargained with the High Priest to turn betray Jesus for thirty silver pieces (Matt 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:1-6).

As a family, read today's readings together: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040820.cfm>

Watch the Mass online. If your parish is not offering Mass today online, you can watch the Mass with Archbishop Rodi live at 8am or watch it later in the day. <https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Share with your children the story of Jonah (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/jonah/1> or read the story from a children's Bible or watch an online video for younger children) and compare this story to the Passion,

Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Make this craft project together:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=298> Remember to move Jonah on Friday and again on Sunday!

Thursday, April 9th - Holy Thursday

Gather the family and watch the Holy Thursday Mass online. If your parish is not offering Mass online, you can watch the Mass with Archbishop Rodi live at 5pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Before you watch the Mass, talk about the “special” things that happen at this Mass

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/holy-week/holy-thursday/the-significance-of-holy-thursday>. Explain that at the conclusion of the Mass on Holy Thursday, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in solemn procession to the Altar of Reposition, where it will remain until Good Friday. It has long been a tradition on this solemn night that Catholics would spend time in adoration.

Here is the live feed from Tyburn Convent in London where there is at least one nun kneeling in silent adoration before the Holy Eucharist. These nuns pray for all of us. Join the nuns in prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/WclRtNhMFpc?rel=0&showinfo=0&fs=1>

Here’s “How to Draw a Monstrance” for older children to adults: <https://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-draw-a-monstrance/>

Before dinner this evening, read together John 13:1-20 and then wash each other’s feet. Here are suggestions for a family foot washing at home: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/plan-family-foot-washing-for-holy/>

Make tonight’s dinner special. Have an indoor picnic on the floor of the living room. Turn off all screens! Have fresh bread. Be more thoughtful with your prayers of blessing of the food. Steer the conversations towards our faith and what we are called to do in our everyday lives.

Coloring page: <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/the-last-supper-by-leonardo-da-vinci?version=print>

Friday, April 10th - Good Friday

As a family, watch the Good Friday service from the Cathedral at 3pm today:

<https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

As a family, say the Divine Mercy Chaplet: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

Help your family better imagine what the Last Supper was like with this Last Supper skit script:

<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/last-supper-skit-script/>

Pray the Stations of the Cross together. Here is a free Stations of the Cross printable booklet: <http://www.catholicplayground.com/stations-of-the-cross-booklet/> Additional Stations of the Cross prayers can be found here on the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/stations-of-the-cross/index.cfm>

Burnt Match Cross craft: <https://kindercraze.com/matchstick-cross-project/>

Recreate Calvary Hill with this printable: <http://www.drawn2bcreative.com/40-days-of-free-lenten-printables-calvary-hill/>

Learn about the tradition of Hot Cross Buns and then make them: <https://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com/search?q=hot+cross+buns> Share these buns with your neighbors by placing them on their front porch with a note.

Saturday, April 11th - Holy Saturday

As a family, watch the Easter Vigil from the Cathedral at 8pm today: <https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Talk about the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/mystery.php?id=2> and color this sheet: <https://www.catholicinspired.site/uploads/1/1/0/0/110088477/sorrowful-coloring-page.pdf>

Then, pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/how-to-pray-the-rosary.cfm> (don't worry if this doesn't go perfectly – God loves your attempt and He understands that little ones don't always cooperate! Your children will learn so much though – they will learn especially what is important to Dad and Mom!)

Tonight before the kids go to bed, start the process to make Resurrection Cookies: <https://www.dvo.com/newsletter/weekly/2015/3-27-452/side5e.html>

Sunday, April 12th - Easter Sunday – Alleluia! He is risen!

As a family, watch the Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral at 8am today: <https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicweek/> You do not need a Facebook account to watch the Mass.

Celebrate new life today! Enjoy your family!

Before your Easter Egg Hunt, remind everyone of the symbolism of the Easter Egg: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=576>

Help young ones explore the holiday with this Signs of New Life Sensory Bin for preschool and primary children: <https://go.sadlier.com/religion/signs-of-new-life-sensory-bin>

Pray together this Easter Prayer: <https://go.sadlier.com/religion/easter-a-blossoming-celebration-prayer-service-and-activity>

Here's a countdown calendar for the Easter Season: <https://www.catholicicing.com/printable-easter-countdown-calendar/>