



## St. Ignatius of Loyola Church Pre-K-5 Family-Based Program

### March 28th - Palm Sunday

**Reflection Point:** In Jesus' death and Resurrection on the cross, we are shown the power of God's forgiveness and love for us in Jesus' sacrifice.

**Reading:** Mark 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat.

Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'"

So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it.

Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it.

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it.

And he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

"Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!"

**OR:** Watch video of Mark 15:1-39:

[https://youtu.be/A\\_zO7yxBGVQ?t=39](https://youtu.be/A_zO7yxBGVQ?t=39)

#### **Mark 11:1-10 Questions**

##### **Reflecting Together:**

1. What did Jesus send his disciples to get for him?
2. When the disciples said it was for Jesus, the people allowed them to borrow it because they thought Jesus was going to be their new king. What did the people shout as Jesus rode the colt?

##### **Going Deeper:**

1. Who do we believe Jesus came to save?
2. During Holy Week, we hear about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his Resurrection. What is one area of your life where you might need forgiveness, and how can you work on that this week?

#### **Mark 15:1-39 Questions**

##### **Reflecting Together:**

1. When Jesus is being questioned, what do the people call him?
2. Who does Jesus cry out to when he is on the cross? Do you think he felt alone?

##### **Going Deeper:**

1. In dying alone on the cross, Jesus identifies himself with all those who are forgotten and alone in our world. Jesus wants us to bring his good news to those who feel alone. Do you know anyone who might be lonely?
2. On Easter Sunday, God raised Jesus from the dead and reminds us that we are not alone and forgotten. What is one thing you could do to remind someone else that you care for them?

## *Finding God in Our Week*

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerfully reflecting on the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as a reminder of the salvation that Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

## *At Home*

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Mark's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

### *Suggested Reading:*

- Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 (Gospel at the Procession with Palms)
- Monday: Mark 14:1-11
- Tuesday: Mark 14:12-26
- Wednesday: Mark 14:27-52
- Thursday: Mark 14:53-72
- Friday: Mark 15:1-41
- Saturday: Mark 15:42-47

## *An Example of Lived Faith: Saint Mary Magdalene*



In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear that Mary Magdalene was present at Jesus' crucifixion with a group of women watching from a distance. She is one of Christ's disciples, and is the sister of Martha and Lazarus. In Luke's Gospel, it mentions her presence only at the tomb on Easter. According to John's Gospel, Mary was specially privileged to see and speak to the risen Lord on Easter morning. She thought he was the gardener until he said her name.

So Mary Magdalene was near Jesus in his darkest hour and again in his most glorious hour. Moreover, she was an outstanding disciple of Jesus. Because Mary Magdalene was the one who brought the news of Jesus' resurrection to the apostles, she is called the Apostle to the Apostles. For centuries St. Mary Magdalene has been considered a model of complete generosity and of sincere sorrow for sin. Even though she may have been scared at Jesus' crucifixion, she still remained faithful to Jesus. May her courageous and dedicated example inspire us this Holy Week to humbly and faithfully follow Jesus!