



# LENT *Faith Conversations*

## Holy Week, April 10-16

**Sunday Readings:** Luke 19:28-40 (before procession); Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 – 23:56

## ADULT REFLECTION

***Sunday Readings Summary:*** Most notable in our readings this week is the lengthy account of Jesus' suffering and death.

We know the story. We see the crucifix. We've often heard phrases like, "Jesus died for us." This is the week to pause and let all of this sink in, until it becomes personal. To listen as if we're hearing it for the first time. To see with our imagination, all the actions, words, gestures, and happenings surrounding the death of Jesus. . . the One who surrenders to death so to defeat it.

***For Reflection:*** Perhaps you want to re-read this Gospel passage outside of Mass, on your own, when you can sit in silence somewhere. Let the Word of God itself speak to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. *What do you hear? What is your connection to Jesus? How do you feel? What action is God calling you to?*

## FAMILY CONVERSATION & PRAYER STARTERS

These days are at the very heart of our faith. It is the week we celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead. These truths are so important, we call this "Holy Week."

At the start of Palm Sunday Mass, we hear of people greeting Jesus with palm branches and praise. Later, we read the whole story of how Jesus died. It starts with Jesus giving us himself in the Eucharist (which we celebrate on Holy Thursday). Then we hear about Jesus' suffering and death on the cross (Good Friday). Finally we hear of Jesus' body being laid in a tomb (kept in mind Holy Saturday). The final part of the story is revealed on Easter when God definitively defeats sin and death!

Why do you think it was so important to Jesus to leave us himself in the Eucharist before he died?

It's been said that even if you were the only person who needed saving, Jesus would have died just for you. God loves you. Personally. Completely. Made clear in the person of Jesus. How does that make you feel? Does it call you to action in your life?

Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail. How can we pray for each other this week? What can we do as a family this Holy Week to walk closely with Jesus, remembering his love for us?

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus! *Thank you* for your tender, personal, transforming love for each one of us. *Thank you* for your cross. Holy Spirit, help us quiet our hearts this Holy Week so that we can truly hear you. Move us to respond to your love with love. Amen.

## FASTING

Along with fasting on Good Friday (fasting guidelines on pg 3 of [Living Lent](#)), what routine can we fast from this Holy Week to *make space for extra* reflection, spiritual reading, and prayer? (Shopping, entertainment, a workout. . .) This can help build our relationship with Jesus in this holiest of weeks.

## ALMSGIVING (SHARING WITH THOSE IN NEED)

At the Last Supper, Jesus emphasized that a true leader is like him, "one who serves." What is one service or chore we can do for each other with greater love this week? What is one specific service we can do for someone outside our family?



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