



LENT

Faith Conversations

Week of March 29-April 4

SUNDAY READINGS: *Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66*

ADULT REFLECTION

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!

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.

Reflection Questions:

- *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 STARTERS

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. How does that make you feel? Does it call you to action in your life?

A part of Jesus' suffering was feeling left alone. How can we be present to each other this week—accompanying each other? What can we do as a family this Holy Week to walk closely with Jesus — accompanying him?



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, what routine can we fast from this Holy Week to make space for extra reflection, spiritual reading, and prayer? This can help to deepen our relationship with Jesus in this holiest of weeks.



ALMSGIVING

Pontius Pilate tried to remain uninvolved and make Jesus' plight someone else's responsibility. What is that one service that's been on your heart but that you've put off because you want to remain uninvolved and safe?



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