

# Nurturing our Families of Faith



**Holy Week and Easter Edition**  
**April 4, 2020**

Welcome to "Nurturing our Families of Faith." This is a newsletter to support the faith journey of students, staff, and their families across The Toronto Catholic District School Board during these final days of Lent and Easter season, and amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

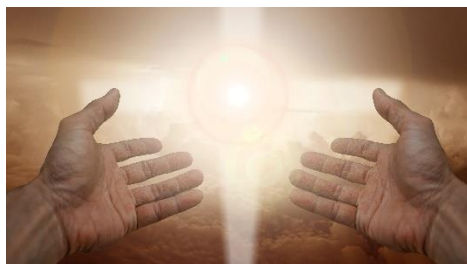
We are grateful for the chance to share this journey with you, and we hope this newsletter will be helpful to you as you live out your faith in these challenging times.



## Celebrating and Praying During Holy Week

This Sunday (Palm Sunday), most of the Christian world enters into the most sacred and spiritually important seven days of the entire year: Holy Week. Beginning with our celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we prayerfully follow Jesus through his Last Supper on Holy Thursday, his arrest and crucifixion on Good Friday ... and then we burst into Easter Sunday with joy and new energy, as we celebrate his Resurrection from the dead, and the promise of new and eternal life that he offers to all of us. These days are at the very heart of what we believe as Christians, and what we celebrate in the Sacraments.

This year, the restrictions on social gatherings because of COVID-19 mean that our churches are closed, and there are no public liturgies for us to take part in. But these days are so important to us that we need to celebrate them, even if (for this year) we do it in simpler (but still meaningful) ways in our homes, with our family members. For each of the days of Holy Week, we would like to suggest a simple format for family prayer that you might like to celebrate in your own families. Perhaps you could create a sacred space in your home, with a purple cloth (the colour of Lent), a Bible, some religious images and a cross. It can be the focal point of your praying together, especially during these very special days.



# A Suggested Prayer Format

## ✠ Sign of the Cross

### 1) Brief Introduction:

“This is the holiest week of the year for us, a week when we think about how much God loves us, and wants us to love him in return. As we listen to the Gospel today, we ask Jesus to help us live each day as his friends and followers” (... or use your own words!)

### 2) Readings of the Day:

Read an excerpt from the Scriptures of the day, as indicated in the chart on page 3.

### 3) Reflection:

Links in the chart on page 3 include follow-up reflection/activities for the family.

### 4) Prayer Intentions:

[Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions](#)

### 5) Our Father

### 6) Closing Prayer

[Concluding Prayer for Holy Week](#)

## ✠ Sign of the Cross



## Holy Week Resources

[Holy Week in Three Minutes](#) - a useful summary for young people to talk about Holy Week

[Live Stream Daily Mass during Holy Week or watch online](#) - see page 5 for more mass times/opportunities for mass online



# Holy Week

## Daily Prayers and Reflection

Palm Sunday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Palm Sunday</a>	<a href="#">Palm Sunday Gospel Reading</a>  <a href="#">Reflection: God's Story: Palm Sunday</a>	<a href="#">Song: Here I Am To Worship</a>
Monday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Monday</a>	<a href="#">Monday of Holy Week Gospel Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: The Lamb of God by Matt Maher</a>
Tuesday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Tuesday</a>	<a href="#">Tuesday of Holy Week Gospel Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: Take Up Your Cross by Jaime Cortez</a>
Wednesday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Wednesday</a>	<a href="#">Wednesday of Holy Week Gospel Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: A Living Prayer by Alison Krauss</a>
Holy Thursday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Thursday</a>	<a href="#">Holy Thursday Gospel Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: As I Have Done for You by Dan Schutte</a>
Good Friday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Good Friday</a>  <a href="#">Stations of the Cross</a>	<a href="#">Good Friday Gospel Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: Song of the Cross by Susan Hookong-Taylor and Ana Da Costa</a>
Holy Saturday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Holy Saturday</a>	<a href="#">Holy Saturday Scripture Reading</a>	<a href="#">Song: Above All by Michael W. Smith</a>
Easter Sunday	<a href="#">Holy Week Prayers: Easter Sunday</a>	<a href="#">Easter Sunday Gospel Reading</a>  <a href="#">Reflection: God's Story - Easter (children)</a>  <a href="#">Reflection: Easter Sunday Devotional - Lifeteen</a>	<a href="#">Song: Jesus Christ is Risen Today</a>  <a href="#">Lord I Lift Your Name on High (arr. Donnie McClurkin)</a>
Easter Monday	<a href="#">Litany of Saints</a>	<a href="#">Easter Monday Gospel Reading</a>  <a href="#">Reflections for the Triduum</a>	<a href="#">The Passion Song by Sean Carter</a>

## Activities/Prayers

*(For more information, click the Live Icons Below)*



[www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home](http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home)

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The 'This Week at Home' feature in Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ provides access to liturgical-year activities, songs, videos, and prayers to help celebrate faith as a family. For Holy Week, we have provided instructions on how to login and find the materials:

[Instructions to Access the 'This Week at Home' and Holy Week Resources](#)



<https://www.devp.org/en>

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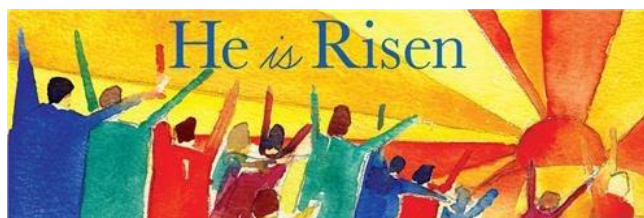
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<https://www.loyolapress.com/>

## Online Masses Live Stream - Mass Resource List

<b>Catholic TV</b>	<a href="http://www.catholicv.org/shows/papal-programming">http://www.catholicv.org/shows/papal-programming</a>	Daily at 12:30pm EST
<b>St. Michael's Cathedral</b>	<a href="https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/">https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/</a>	Daily at 7:30am EST
<b>Salt and Light TV</b>	<a href="https://saltandlighttv.org/mass/">https://saltandlighttv.org/mass/</a>	Daily at 6:30 am EST, 11:00 am EST, 3:00 pm EST and 10:30 pm EST
<b>Daily TV Mass (Loretto Abbey Chapel)</b>	<a href="https://dailytvmass.com/">https://dailytvmass.com/</a>	
<b>Radio Maria</b>	<a href="https://www.radiomaria.ca/events/mass-2/">https://www.radiomaria.ca/events/mass-2/</a>	Monday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

**Wishing everyone a Blessed Holy Week  
and a Happy Easter!**



A special thanks to **The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board** for their collaboration and shared resources.



For additional information and resources, please contact us and/or visit us at:

[Nurturing Our Catholic Community, TCDSB](#)

