

## TALKING ABOUT EASTER >>>

Holy Week is the holiest week of the Church Year. It begins on Passion Sunday and continues until Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. The Triduum or “three days” mark the most sacred time of Holy Week. It begins at sundown on Holy Thursday and ends at sundown on Easter Sunday. During these three days, the whole Church fasts and prays with anticipation and hope. On Good Friday, the assembly participates in the Adoration of the Cross. The Church prays special prayers for the salvation of the world at Good Friday services, and the full Passion is read. No hosts are consecrated on Good Friday; the congregation receives hosts that were consecrated at the Holy Thursday evening Mass.

### God’s Word



Read **Luke 23:1–49**, the story of Jesus’ Passion and Death on the Cross.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

### Holy Week

- Usually children this age are interested in the events of Holy Week.
- Most children in second grade have either recently received First Communion or are preparing to do so. Participation in Holy Thursday services would benefit them.
- Ordinarily, children this age find it difficult to understand why Jesus died if he was innocent.



## CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

### Holy Objects

Throughout Holy Week, talk with your child about the meaning of each day. Teach your child reverence for the holy objects associated with each day.

Bring home palm leaves that are distributed during Passion Sunday Mass. Position them in a place of honor behind a crucifix or religious picture.

On Good Friday, allow your child to reverently hold a cross or crucifix.

## FAMILY PRAYER >>>



On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, pray this prayer before your evening meal:

Lord Jesus Christ, who, in fulfilling your Father’s will, became obedient unto death; may our spiritual food be like yours: always to do the Father’s good and gracious will. For you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).