

God Family Friends



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Dear Parents,

The Coronavirus has impacted your family and so many others around the world. In this time of uncertainty and change, there is much hope and possibility.

There are so many things we can no longer do, like: go on vacation, watch or play sports, or even go to Mass on Sunday. It is our desire that you, as parents, make the very most of the challenges we face -- and we have developed a tool to help you do just that!

You have a great opportunity, and your kids have such a great need, to be drawn more deeply into relationship with: God, your family, and with friends. Make time this Sunday to strengthen these foundational relationships.

How to use

Announce to your family that this Sunday will be different. Prayerfully enter into the Green section below and invite Jesus into your hearts and into your home. Use the rest of this resource to spark creative ways to engage your whole family. Turn off the TV and set your phones aside. Take advantage of this time and let the light of Christ transform your family like never before!

"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" - Mk 2:27



Fr. Burke Masters

Just like Israel in the Book of Exodus, we too are "in the desert" now and are awaiting a new "Promised Land." Easter Sunday and the resurrection await us! As so many things that we enjoy have been left behind, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in the desert. I encourage you to use this wonderful resource to draw your family together to worship God and share quality time with one another.



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Dear Parish Family,

The purpose of Lent is to bring about spiritual change and transformation. The lockdown has provided new opportunities on our journey to the heights. Like you, we have also been spending much more time with each other due to the lockdown. This has caused some weird things to happen at OLM. Enter the Transformation Zone here, if you dare:

<https://bit.ly/2V0EHkz>

Thank you for joining us virtually at our live stream feeds; the comments during Mass or any of the live stream feeds have been uplifting! We look forward to spiritually connecting with you in this most holy of weeks. Please see the enclosed Holy Week schedule.

Know we have you in our hearts, in our constant prayers, and daily celebration of the Mass.

Please also keep us in your prayers,
Fr Don and Fr Mark

How can we pray for you today?

Our prayer teams are ready and would be honored to pray with you or for your needs now. Just click on this link to [submit your prayer request](#).

Stay Connected

Look for "[Stay Connected](#)" on the homepage.



LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE OR WWW.OLMERCY.COM

Holy Week Schedule EASTER TRIDUUM			
Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
Morning Prayer 8am Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Morning Prayer 8am Stations with the fathers 12pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm	Morning Prayer 8am Easter Vigil Mass 8pm	Easter Mass 9am

Don't forget to Share your Sunday

Share a picture of your Sunday experience on [Facebook](#), we post all pictures on our [website](#), be on the lookout for yours.

Opportunities for you

Daily Mass & Sunday Mass Live Stream*
Sunday Mass @ 9:00 am / Daily Mass 8:00 am

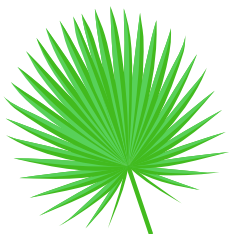
Spiritual Nourishment

Journey to the Heights Lenten Themed Homilies
7 Deadly Sins Taken Down by 7 Lively Virtues
Dealing With Fear
God at Work in the Separation

**All Masses are closed to the public. Go to [Facebook](#) and our [website](#). A recording will be posted after the Live Stream.*

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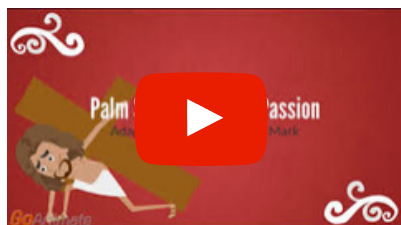
Preparing Your Family



The Church celebrates Palm Sunday this weekend. You would normally receive palms before Mass to hold during the entrance procession. We suggested last Sunday that you make [Handprint Palms](#), and we encourage you to still do that craft with your children - either before Mass or before your family meal.

The Gospel reading for Palm Sunday Mass can seem much longer than usual to your kids. Help them to focus during Mass by watching one of these two videos beforehand (whichever is most age appropriate).

Good for Children

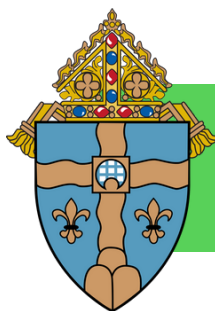
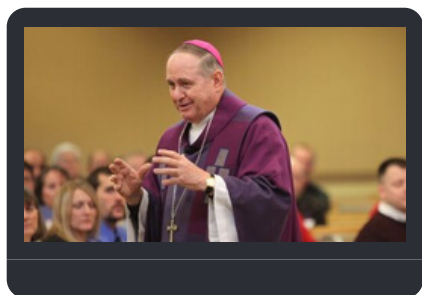


Good for Teens



Choose a Livestream...

Join Bishop Pates for Palm Sunday Mass! You and your family can tune in by clicking the image below.



[Find a
Mass](#)

Know that your priest is offering Mass and praying for your family today. See if your parish is live-streaming Mass by clicking on the "Find a Mass" link above or by searching your parish's website.

Sunday at 10:00 AM

God Family Friends

Reading at the Procession - Mt 21:1-11

[Get Full Readings](#)



When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once. "This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: *Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.*

"The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this? "And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Spiritual Communion:

(After the celebrant receives communion, mute your livestream and lead your family in making a spiritual communion)

Parent

Repeat after me: **My Jesus...**
I believe that You are truly present...
in the Holy Eucharist.
I love You above all things...
and I want to be with you.
Since I am unable to receive you at Mass...
please Jesus, come into my heart.
Be with me now...
and never let me be separated from you. Amen.

God Family Friends

Free Family Fun

Give each person 5 index cards or pieces of paper to each person.

On 'GO' each person will write down as many things as they can think of in 1:00 minute that fall into the prompt word category.

Prompt words are:

- **Joy** - What are things that bring you joy?
- **Celebration** - List types of celebrations.
- **Future** - What do you want to do in the future?
- **Easter Celebration** - List great ways that we can celebrate Easter.
- **Today** - List things you want to do today

How to Score

Put all the cards from each category into their own pile. Redistribute the cards making sure that everyone has a card from each category that is not their own. Compare all the cards one category at a time.

CHALLENGE #1

Find the card that has the most answers in each category. Whoever had the most wins the category!

CHALLENGE #2

Go through each category again, but cross off duplicate answers as people read their cards. Now, count the answers remaining. Whoever has the most answers that no one else wrote wins the category.

CHALLENGE #3

As a family, vote on which answer was the most creative... Which was the most thought-provoking?

Game Tip →

A parent or older sibling may have to write down answers for younger kids to keep up - or play without keeping time.

Will you
give
prizes?



Good for the Whole Family!



Index Cards



Stopwatch



oyf@dioceseofjoliet.org

Email us photos of
the winner*

*By emailing your photos you consent to and give permission to use these images in parish and Diocesan communications / publications.

Take it to the NEXT LEVEL!

As a family, share why each person thinks celebrations are important. Why celebrating Easter is most important?

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Family Meal

Since you were unable to physically re-enact Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem at Mass today, do it as a family before dinner!

Find a statue or picture of Jesus that someone can carry in procession to the dinner table. Instruct your family to lay down their palm branches as Jesus approaches and shout loudly and joyfully, "Hosanna in the Highest!" Place Jesus at the center of the dinner table.

Hosanna

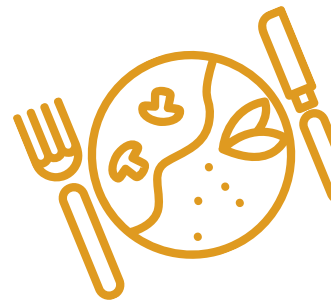
A Hebrew shout of joy and triumph, taken from Psalm 118:26.

[\(Read Ps 118:19-27\)](#)

Dinner Conversation Tonight

Use some of these questions for discussion during your family meal. Ask for each person to share an answer before moving to the next family member.

- Imagine that Jesus is the Grand Marshall of a parade, and our family has been given the job of arranging all the details for his visit and his parade.
 - How do you think we should prepare?
 - Where should we have Jesus stay?
 - What should we get him to eat?
 - Where should the parade to be held?
 - Who would we call to Jesus' parade?
 - What media coverage would we arrange?
- Our planning is almost complete! Let's check-in with Jesus...
 - Do our plans reflect Jesus' style?
 - Would He prefer something different? If so, why?
- If you were Jesus, would you choose to ride a stallion or a donkey in the parade? Why?
 - Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey?
- Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly and was eventually rejected. How can we prepare to have Jesus enter and remain in our hearts?
- What can we do as a family to honor Jesus as our King this week?
 - (Choose one and do it!)



God Family Friends

Your Grocery List...

Parents, remember to leave meat out of your meal plans for Good Friday! And start to think about buying for your family Easter traditions. Now is the perfect time to search for some fun Christ-centered baking ideas that can involve the whole family like making: [a lamb cake](#), [resurrection cookies](#), and [more!](#)

Time for Spring Cleaning!

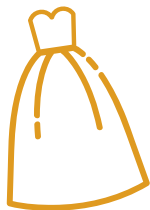
The first three days of Holy Week (April 6-8 this year) are traditionally days of "Spring Cleaning" as Catholic families prepare their hearts and homes for the Easter Triduum.

Your family won't be hosting the typical Easter gathering with family and friends this year, but we encourage you to vigorously clean your home - or part of your home - as though you were expecting the most important of guests.

Who's coming?

Invite your children to imagine that they are hosting an important group of friends, or their favorite athlete or movie star - what needs to be done to clean and get ready before they arrive?

This Easter, like never before, families across the world are hosting Jesus in their very own homes... GOD will be coming!



Make some room!

As you purge your closets and dust the rugs - mop the floors and clean out the couches - ask your family to silently think about what needs to be cleaned out of their life to make room for God. By clearing out the junk (TV, video games, laziness, etc.), we create space for God to occupy.

Be like Jesus

Ask your children how they have been doing with their Lenten sacrifices...

Jesus silently carried the cross for us. He didn't complain when it was difficult. He took on MY burden! As Lent draws to a close, this is a perfect opportunity for your family to be like Jesus to one another.

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Your Neighbor in Need

Jesus teaches, in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), that we should treat others with mercy and compassion - even those we don't know. In a time of uncertainty and fear for so many, how can your family show mercy and compassion to a neighbor in need?

- You could connect with your parish leadership to see what needs they are aware of in the local community.
- You could easily hold onto what was purged from your house during spring cleaning and donate it when the pandemic has passed.

Making a Tough Call

Which of your friendships or family relationships are strained because of arguments or past hurts? How might you be called to extend mercy and compassion through a phone call or by writing a letter? Jesus reconciled mankind to God - can you seek to reconcile your relationship with that person?

Pray

We invite you to pray now more than ever for your parish family, the Church, and the whole world. God can bring much good out of bad situations.

Your family may have more time now than it ever has. Use your time well and ask the Holy Spirit for whom your family should be praying. Pray intentionally for them each day, and let them know you are holding them in prayer.



Virtual Fun with Friends!

Scavenger Hunt:

Parents, make a list of household items to find. First person to find an item wins 1 point!



"I SPY"

Flip your camera as you play showing where you are looking. Pick a color and have them guess.

Game Day

Grab your favorite board game use [this virtual dice app](#) to play.

Dance Party or Karaoke

Have some fun and figure out the best way to do it virtually!