

Dear Faith Shapers,

Lent is drawing to a close, spring is finally starting to appear and Holy Week and Easter are almost here. It is a busy time, but oh what a great month! In this month's newsletter insert is included activities to help you celebrate Holy week and Easter together as a household.

When the generations come together to make Jesus the center of our celebrations, we can learn from one another; we let our children see us practicing our faith and we can create lasting traditions for years to come. It's so important that we talk with each other about the foundations for living a life of faith. It helps us to reclaim the ancient tradition of telling and retelling of the messages of hope that have been handed down from generation to generation.

May you find time to walk with Jesus alongside one another, rejoicing in the good news that He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

Kristin Johnson  
Deacon

## Walking with Jesus: Holy Week Ideas

*Palm Sunday— Jesus enters Jerusalem*

Read about it in Matthew 21:1-11

Activity to spark discussion—waving a palm branch

Question for discussion: What would it have felt like to be a part of the crowd that welcomed Jesus?

*Maundy Thursday— Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples*

Read about it in Matthew 26:17-30

Activity to spark discussion—hand or foot washing

Questions for discussion: Was it easier to wash someone else's hands/feet or to have them be washed?

Why? What are some things we can do today for others that would be similar to washing someone's hands/feet in Jesus' day?

*Good Friday— Jesus is Crucified*

Read about it in Matthew 27:27-66

Objects to spark discussion: hammer, nails, block of wood

Activity to spark discussion: hammer a nail into the wood

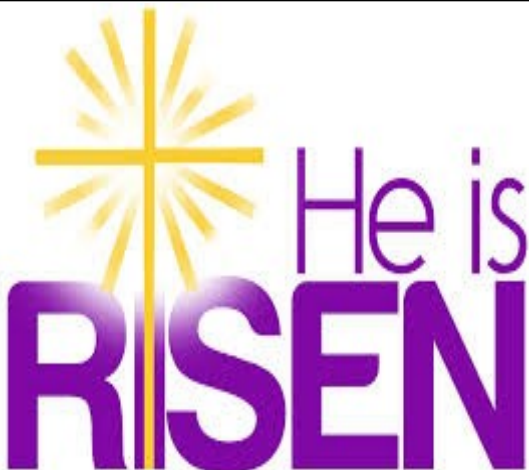
Questions for discussion: What is sin? What are ways we sin? Why did Jesus die on the cross?

What does Jesus' dying on the cross mean for us today?

*Holy Saturday— Jesus lies in the tomb*

Read about Jesus' burial in Matthew 27:57-61.

The scripture says nothing about Jesus lying in the tomb, but talk about what the disciples, Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene and the other followers must have been thinking or feeling.



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# Resurrection Eggs



## *How to make Resurrection Eggs:*

1. Use the following 12 Bible verses or images from the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.
  - Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:1-11)
  - Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. (John 12:2-8)
  - The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-19)
  - Judas betrays Jesus (Matthew 27:3)
  - Jesus carries his cross to the site of the crucifixion. (John 19:17)
  - Jesus crowned king of the Jews. (John 19:2-4, Mark 15:17)
  - Soldiers divide up his clothes. (John 19:23)
  - Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 19:18,37 & John 20:25-29)
  - They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar. (John 19:28-30)
  - Jesus' body is prepared for burial. (John 19:40)
  - They covered Jesus' tomb with a great stone. (Matthew 27:59-60)
  - The tomb was empty. He has risen. (Matthew 28:6)
2. Gather or buy an equal number of plastic refillable Easter eggs.
3. For each verse or theme, choose an object that will fit into the Easter egg.
  - **A donkey** – Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:1-11)
  - **A tiny perfume bottle** – Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. (John 12:2-8)
  - **Bread or a dinner table set for a meal** – The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-19)
  - **3 pieces of silver money** – Judas betrays Jesus (Matthew 27:3)
  - **A cross** – Jesus carries his cross to the site of the crucifixion. (John 19:17)
  - **Thorns** – Jesus crowned king of the Jews. (John 19:2-4, Mark 15:17)
  - **Dice** – Soldiers divide up his clothes. (John 19:23)
  - **Nail** – Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 19:18,37 & John 20:25-29)
  - **Sponge** – They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink. (John 19:28-30)
  - **Spices** {whole cloves?} – Jesus' body is prepared for burial. (John 19:40)
  - **A stone** – They covered Jesus' tomb with a great stone. (Matthew 27:59-60)
  - **{Egg should be empty.}** The tomb was empty. He has risen. (Matthew 28:6)
4. Number the eggs so they don't get mixed up.
5. Place the eggs into an empty egg carton.
6. Decorate the carton.

Ideally, you'll want to count backwards 12 days from Easter, and plan ahead so that you can open one egg each day. You can talk about the image or the verses or the story. Then end with a prayer.