Holy Week Resources for Families

Our Parish-School did an amazing job making a video of the stations of the cross.

   Stations of the Cross: K-5 slideshow: Click here.

Watch Holy Week video for children (8 min)--explains all of Holy Week with captivating music and animation

Gratitude (for discussion or drawing/journaling):
   ○ I am grateful to Jesus for ______.
   ○ I can show my gratitude by ________.

Talk with children about where they’ve seen God at work since they’ve been at home. (examples: health care workers, first responders, etc.)
   • Have children draw pictures of where they’ve seen God at work since they’ve been at home. Compile a family book and share with loved ones!

Holy Week Activities Pack—Download this pack including a scrambled words challenge, a crossword puzzle, a visual story strip, and a family handout on reading the Passion.

Stations of the Cross Booklet—Download and create mini-booklets to help in learning about and praying the Stations of the Cross.

Check out Catholic Icing for great ideas for crafts/activities for Holy Week and beyond

More digital resources---great for discussions even beyond Holy Week!

Overview of Holy Week for kids: By Kate Klein
Holy Week is the last week of the 40 days of Lent. It is the week right before Easter Sunday. It starts with Palm Sunday and ends with Holy Saturday. Many Christians celebrate Holy Week to commemorate the final days of Jesus. Holy Week has not always been celebrated. It was first observed about 600 to 1,000 years after the death of Jesus.

**Palm Sunday**

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on his donkey, there were many followers who wanted to see him. People crowded around him and called his name. Many called out “King” or “Savior.” Worshipers knelt down and waved palm fronds as Jesus passed by. Children and grownups wanted to hear him speak to them. They wanted to touch him. Sick people wanted their Savior to make them well.

**Holy Thursday**

The Last Supper was on this day. Jesus sat down to eat with 12 other people. Those people were the disciples. His friend Judas was there that night. Jesus shared his bread and wine with everyone. He told the disciples that it was more important to serve someone else than to be served. He lovingly washed the feet of his disciples. After the meal was over, Jesus wanted to be alone to pray. Guards appeared a short time later and he was arrested.

**Good Friday**

Jesus was forced to make a huge cross and drag it up a hill all by himself. He had a crown on his head made of a branch of thorns. He was nailed to the cross by his hands and feet. One of the ways Good Friday is celebrated is by fasting, which means not eating at all. It is a day to mourn the death of Jesus, but also to celebrate that he gave his life for everyone.

**Holy Saturday**

After Jesus died, he was put in a tomb. The tomb was like a cave. The guards rolled a big rock in front of the opening to make sure that no one could get in or out. They knew that Jesus was dead, but they still wanted to close off the opening just to make sure he didn’t get out. Some of the ways to commemorate this day are meditating, praying, and lighting candles.
In planning for Easter, encourage parents to use the Jelly Bean Prayer. You’ve probably seen the rainbow jelly bean craft used to illustrate the Story of Jesus’ death and resurrection for kids.

This is one way to explain Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection in a simple way to children. Use this prayer/poem at home or attach and distribute with Easter baskets to share the story of God’s love with others through a gift packet of jelly beans:

**The Jelly Bean Poem**

Red
is for the blood He gave
Green
is for the grass He made
Yellow
is for the sun so bright
Orange
is for the edge of night
Black
is for the many sins made
White
is for the grace He gave
Purple
is for the hour of sorrow
Pink
is for the new tomorrow

A bag full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,
is a prayer, a promise,
is an Easter treat