



# Ideas for your family to grow in the faith this season!

#### **Palm Sunday**

#### Holy week beings on Palm Sunday (April 10, 2022). We remember Jesus' joyous reception into the city of Jerusalem.

- 9 Things You Need to Know About Palm Sunday: ncregister.com/blog/9-things-you-need-to-know-about-palm-passion-sunday-q4j3z8q3
- Blessed Palms in the Home: www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1035
- 64 Things to Do with Your Palms: https://www.pinterest.com/debbies0324/palm-sunday-crafts-with-palms/
- Palm Sunday "Sundaes" Kick the week of by celebrating with delicious ice cream sundaes.
   Ingredients: green Ice Cream or Sherbet (or add green food coloring), Mint leaves, Cherries.
   Symbolism: The mint leaves and green ice cream are for the green palms waived by the people on the first Palm Sunday in the Bible, and the red cherry is the liturgical color of this day!

#### **Holy Thursday**

## We celebrate the institution of the Eucharist as the true body and blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the sacrament of the priesthood (holy orders).

- Traditions of Holy Thursday: www.catholicculture.org/commentary/traditions-holy-thursday/
- 10 Things You Need to Know about Holy Thursday: www.ncregister.com/blog/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-holy-thursday-17qwtz13
- Washing of the Feet Reenact Jesus' model of servitude by washing each other's feet. Parents wash the feet of your children, then children show your parents respect by doing the same for them.
- Make and Break Bread Try making some unleavened bread (or a yeast bread), recipes available on our Facebook page. Break bread together as Jesus taught us (refer to today's Gospel passage).
- Movie Break– As a family, watch the movie Prince of Egypt or The Passion (older kids) together.

#### **Good Friday**

#### We commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

- 9 Things You Need to Know About Good Friday: www.ncregister.com/blog/9-things-you-need-to-know-about-good-friday-i88cjqna
- Family Stations of the Cross: https://domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/20020301/FRIDGE/stations.htm
- Veneration of the Cross Take down your Crucifix (or cross) and take turns focusing on the cross and remembering what Christ did for us. Take a few moments to thank Him for his ultimate sacrifice.
- A Time of Silence Observe a period of silence and stillness during the 3 hours Our Lord hung on the cross (traditionally observed from noon to 3:00pm). The silence can last as long as is fitting for your family.
- Nailing Jesus to the Cross Give your children a hammer and nail and let them pound the nail into a piece of wood to illustrate the brutality of Jesus' Passion.

#### **Holy Saturday**

Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore.

- 12 Things You Need to Know about Holy Saturday: www.ncregister.com/blog/12-things-you-need-to-know-about-holy-saturday
- Holy Saturday Prayer: www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=1396
- Paschal Candle Make your own Paschal Candle. Take a white candle (real or fake)
  and decorate it with a cross, Alpha & Omega symbols, and the numbers for the year
  (see picture). Light you candle as you read today's Gospel reading.



#### **Easter Sunday**

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic church because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead, and it goes to show that He conquered sin and death.

- Easter Season Resources: www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/easter-season-resources.html
- Creative Ways to Celebrate Easter: www.catholicicing.com/religious-easter-ideas-for-kids/
- Easter Activities for Kids: www.thereligionteacher.com/easter-activities/
- Celebrating Easter in the Catholic Church: www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/easter
- Celebrate Easter's 50 Days with Your Family: https://wau.org/resources/article/re6\_family\_50\_days\_easter/
- 8 Things You Need to Know About Easter Sunday: www.ncregister.com/blog/8-things-you-need-to-know-about-easter-sunday
- The Empty Tomb Make a batch of resurrection rolls to go with your Easter Dinner. www.the-girl-who-ate-everything.com/empty-tomb-rolls/
- Resurrection Eggs Have a special Easter Egg Hunt. Fill eggs with the following items (or pictures of these items): 12 plastic eggs, a small leaf, 3 quarters, a thimble, a tiny piece of paper rolled, piece of leather or thick fabric, tiny crown made of grass or flower stem, 2 nails, a dice, toothpick, piece of cheesecloth or thin fabric, rock, number stickers. See our Facebook page for a discussion points to talk about the meaning of each item as you open them after the hunt.

#### **Divine Mercy Sunday**

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified."

- Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday as a Family: www.catholicfamilycelebrations.com/divine-mercy-sunday.html
- Celebrating God's Merciful Love with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy: www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/easter/divine-mercy-sunday/
- Living Out Divine Mercy: https://catholicexchange.com/live-divine-mercy/

### St. Mark the Evangelist

Learn more about our patron saint this year. Who is Saint Mark and why is he important in our faith.

• **JOIN US FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL ST. MARK FESTIVAL ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20 (6:00-7:30PM)**Our KCs will provide burgers and brauts, please bring a side to share, enjoy the youth baking contest, and learn more about St. Mark from our young parishioners! (*Watch for more details!*)

#### **Mother's Day**

We honor our heavenly mother, Mary, the entire month of May, but we also take time to celebrate our mothers

- Mary and the Meaning of Mother's Day: https://denvercatholic.org/mary-meaning-mothers-day/
- Celebrating Mother's Day as a Family: www.dolr.org/article/honoring-mothers-catholic-tradition

#### **Our Lady of Fatima**

She promised that God would grant peace to the entire world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. Learn more about her apparitions and messages.

- Our Lady of Fatima Facts for Kids: www.coraevans.com/blog/article/the-most-amazing-facts-about-our-lady-of-fatima
- Discovering the Message of Fatima: www.vatican.va/roman\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\_con\_cfaith\_doc\_20000626\_message-fatima\_en.html

#### **Ascension of the Lord**

The Ascension is the completion of the Easter mysteries of Jesus' life, passion, death and resurrection, and it is the final step before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

- Reflection on the Ascension: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfqsA5XVs0E
- Family Activities for the Feast of the Ascension: www.thereligionteacher.com/ascension-activities

#### **Pentecost**

The feast of Pentecost affirms who we are as the Church – the People of God called to spread the news far and wide of the mighty words and works of Jesus Christ.

- Pentecost 101: Everything You Need to Know About Pentecost: www.learnreligions.com/pentecost-in-the-catholic-church-3891497
- How to Help Children Recognize the Holy Spirit in Their Lives: www.reallifeathome.com/helping-kids-recognize-holy-spirit/
- Celebrating Pentecost with Catholic Kids: www.catholicicing.com/whos-ready-to-celebrate-pentecost
- Holy Spirit Activity: www.drawn2bcreative.com/fruits-of-the-spirit-printable-activity

## **Cooking with Saints**

Each month we learn about one saint celebrated that month.

### Saint of the Month

SAINT ISIDORE (THE FARMER) - MAY 15

San Isidro Labrador, St. Isidore the Farmer, was born in Spain into a devout and humble family. As a youngster, he served as a laborer for a Madrid-based landowner, where he worked the remainder of his life. What set St. Isidore apart from his fellow laborers was his profound religious beliefs. Every morning, St. Isidore would show up late to work after attending Mass at a nearby church and continued to recite prayers while tilling the fields. According to legend his boss found an angel at the plow until St. Isidore's prayers at Mass were finished.

Many miracles attributed to St. Isidore (400+) indicate how he interacted with angels, often pointing to his charitable character. One example of his notable acts was feeding starving pigeons from his supply of wheat grains. He emptied out half his bag to feed the birds, but God miraculously refilled the bag. St. Isidore is remembered for his devotion to the poor and to animals. He was beatified in 1619 by Pope Paul V & canonized in 1622. St. Isidore is the patron saint of farmers and rural communities.

### Bacon-Wrapped Beef Medallions w/ Portobello Mushroom Gravy

#### Beef Medallions

6 beef medallions, about 8 oz each (cut from tenderloin)
6 slices applewood-smoked bacon
1/4 C Worcestershire sauce
1/4 C olive oil
toothpicks

#### <u>Gravy</u>

1 lb baby portobello mushrooms
2 Tbsp olive oil
1 small onion, pelled and diced
1.5 C beef stock
1/2 C Merlot wine (optional)
1 Tbsp. beef bouillon concentrate
Meat dripping from steak
1 C heavy cream
1-2 Tbsp cornstarch to thicken gravy

- Cut the tenderloin crosswise into 2-inch-thick medallions. Wrap each medallion in bacon, and secure bacon to meat with a toothpick. Combine the olive oil and Worcestershire sauce in a large stainless-steel pan, and place medallions in the marinade. Marinate the meat overnight.
- Preheat the oven to a low broil setting; place the racks midway below the broiler.
- Remove the medallions from the marinade, lay them on a broiler pan, and place in the oven for 5 minutes. Remove, turn the meat over, and broil for 3 more minutes. Check for desired doneness.
- For the Gravy: Thinly slice the portobello mushrooms, and set aside. Heat the oil in a large skillet, and saute the onion over medium heat until translucent. Add the mushrrom, beef stock, Merlot, bouillon, and meat drippings. Continue to cook and stir over medium heat. Blend the cream and the cornstarch together, and stir this mixture into the gravy. Continue cooking and stirring until the desired thickness. Season with salt and pepper to taste.