



## Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

### Engage: Page 167

- ▶ Together prepare a prayer table in your home by gathering and arranging photos of loved ones, gifts or mementos, or objects from nature. Add a candle and say prayers of thanksgiving for the people and things that bring you joy.
- ▶ Read aloud and discuss the text in the box on page 167. Then read aloud the page. Find and read aloud the definitions of the terms *Stations of the Cross*, *Easter Vigil*, and *Triduum* in the Glossary. **Ask:** *What does the prefix tri- mean in Triduum? (three) Why does this make sense? (The Triduum is the three days of remembrance before Easter—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.)* Refer your child to pages 284–285 and pray the Stations of the Cross together.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer on the page together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 168–169

- ▶ Ask your child to name an exciting movie that he or she could watch over and over. **Ask:** *If you know how the movie ends, why do you watch it again and again? (Possible answers: It's a great story. The characters are compelling. I see or hear something new every time I watch it.)* **Say:** *We know the outcome of Jesus' story, which is precisely why we love to tell it over and over again.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Journey Through Holy Week on page 168. Take turns reading aloud all sections on this page. Draw a time line that shows the order of events for Holy Week. **Say:** *By traveling through this week with Jesus every year, we remind ourselves about our journey toward God.* Reread aloud John 13:15. Review the meaning of *Paschal Mystery* in the Glossary. **Ask:** *What does Jesus want his disciples to do? (Serve others.)* Explain that the veneration of the Cross is not adoration of the object but what it represents—Christ's sacrifice for our Salvation.
- ▶ Read aloud the sections From Darkness to Light and The Liturgy of the Word on page 169. Discuss the *Exsultet* and invite your child to read aloud the definition in the Glossary. **Ask:** *What is significant about the readings at the Easter Vigil? (They trace our Salvation story.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the last two sections on the page. **Ask:** *Why are the words "This is the Lamb of God" meaningful at the Liturgy of the Eucharist? (Jesus, innocent and without sin, died on the Cross for our Salvation, rose, and is present in the Eucharist.)* Invite your child to share his or her recollections of Easter Vigil Masses your family has attended.
- ▶ Read aloud the Our Catholic Character feature. Explain that tolerance and respect for others lead to peace. Challenge your child to reject hatred and choose to forgive and love, as Jesus did in Luke 23:34: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 170–171

- ▶ Ask your child to imagine a story where the hero moves from success to success and nothing gets in his way. **Ask:** *Can you identify easily with this hero?* Explain that without difficulties to overcome, the story may not be realistic or easy to relate to. One reason for this is that suffering is part of being human.



- ▶ Read aloud the article title Promise of the Resurrection. Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 170. **Say:** *As Christians we do not believe that God causes suffering, but we do believe that God is present with us in our suffering.* Point out someone you love who is suffering and how you helped relieve his or her pain.
- ▶ Read aloud the sections To Love Like Jesus and What Follows Death? Discuss free will and love as a choice. **Say:** *It is easy to think about right now, but we are really preparing for the reality of the four last things.* Remind your child that Jesus invites us to live a happy life that reflects his teachings.
- ▶ Together read the Our Catholic Character feature. Read aloud the definition of *indulgence* in the Glossary. Explain that while we are forgiven, the effects of sin still remain. This is called temporal punishment.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the sections on page 171. Explain that the four last things should not frighten us or make us gloomy. Discuss *Purgatory* as a possible outcome of God's judgment and then read the definition in the Glossary. Point out that the Church asks us to focus on the things that really matter in this life so that we may obtain the eternal life that Jesus won for us on the Cross. **Say:** *Consistently choosing love will lead us to the ultimate joy of Heaven.* Emphasize that no person can know who will be saved and who won't. Discuss the images that Scripture uses to describe Heaven. Invite your child to think of additional images.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Read aloud Wisdom 1:13 and 2:24 in the Bible to help explain that God did not make death, nor does he delight in it.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 172–173

- ▶ Read aloud the title Enter the Kingdom on page 172 and the paragraphs in the left column. If possible, play a recording of the *Exsultet* quietly.
- ▶ Invite your child to take the Leader part in the People of Faith prayer while both of you respond to each All part. Encourage your child to pause briefly after each Leader part to allow time for meditation. At the conclusion, pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 173. Discuss how your child learned to swim or ride a bike. **Say:** *We don't become Christians magically. We learn how to live as Christians in the same way that we learn how to swim or ride a bike—through the teaching and examples of others.* Read aloud the introductory text and the title of the article. Invite your child to discuss a commitment he or she made and later questioned. **Say:** *Times of second-guessing are important. They ask us to think carefully about a choice we've made.* **Ask:** *What did the author realize as she debated her decision?* (By taking the issue seriously, she was demonstrating her own readiness to be a godmother.)
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the Commitment to Christ activity. Together brainstorm and write ideas.
- ▶ Tell your child how your godparents have enriched your life. Then invite your child to tell you how godparents enrich his or her life. Encourage your child to thank God for the blessing of godparents and other people who guide him or her in Christian living.



### Respond: Page 174

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions in What's What? Then ask him or her to complete the crossword puzzle independently.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Before your child completes the activity, remind him or her that being attentive and considerate of people's feelings helps us recognize pain that others may carry and avoid inflicting further pain.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).