

Holy and Great Week

Holy Week is the final week of preparation for the most important day of the Christian year, which is Pascha. We remember what Jesus did to prepare for His Resurrection. We witness Him talking about His betrayal at the Last Supper with His disciples, His torture, His crucifixion, and His burial. We suffer at the moment of His death when the sky blackens, the veil of the Temple is torn, and the earth shakes. Jesus tried to teach us to love one another with humility. We honor Him throughout Holy Week during all the Services as we prepare for His Resurrection. This is the week that reminds us that the essence of our faith lies in Jesus giving His life to save us and to grant us life everlasting.

Holy Monday

The parable of the barren fig tree teaches us that some people do not have real faith, are empty and need help.



Holy Tuesday

The parable of the ten maidens tells us about 5 maidens who followed Jesus and 5 who did not.



Holy Thursday

Jesus celebrates the Mystical Supper with His disciples and gives us the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He then goes to the Garden at Gethsemane to pray and prepare for His crucifixion. We listen to the story of Jesus' last hours. Our Priest carries Jesus' cross out of the altar, and we pray in sadness.

Holy Friday

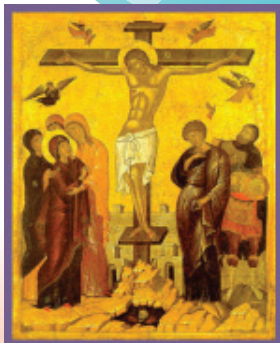
The Priest removes the body of Christ from the cross and brings out the Epitaphios which symbolizes Christ's tomb. We all sing the Lamentations which are about Jesus' sad journey. Then, we walk around our church in a funeral procession.

Holy Wednesday

Jesus' feet are washed with myrrh. We receive the Sacrament of Holy Unction from our Priest.

Holy Saturday

Jesus was laid to rest and we are filled with sadness. However, our moods slowly begin to change because we know what lies ahead; the Resurrection.



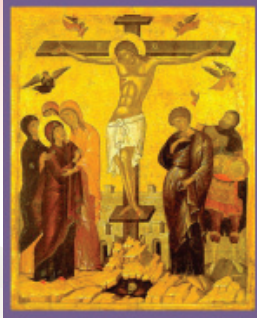
Jesus' crucifixion

Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"...And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:34-46

When the Centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they feared greatly saying, "Truly this was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54

Name: _____ Date: _____

Color the flowers
on Jesus'
tomb.



PRAYER

I see Your Bridal Chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment, that I may enter therein; O Giver of Light, make radiant the vesture of my soul, and save me. Holy Monday & Holy Tuesday Evening – (Exaposteilarion)



PRAYER

The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb. Great Friday Vespers – (The Apokathelosis)



PRAYER

*Today is hung upon the Cross, He Who suspended the Earth amid the waters. A crown of thorns crowns Him, Who is the King of Angels. He, Who wrapped the Heavens in clouds, is clothed with the purple of mockery. He, Who freed Adam in the Jordan, received buffetings. He was transfixed with nails, Who is the Bridegroom of the Church. He was pierced with a lance, Who is the Son of the Virgin. We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us also your Resurrection.
- Holy Thursday Evening -*

Holy and Great Week

{Teacher's Edition}

Lesson Objective:

To have children understand the meaning of the services during Holy Week. (Please note that due to our anticipation of the following day's services, we traditionally celebrate them the evening prior.)

Introduction:

Holy Week is the final week of preparation for the most important day of the Christian year, which is Pascha. We remember what Jesus did to prepare for His Resurrection. We witness Him talking about His betrayal at the Last Supper with His disciples, His torture, His crucifixion, and His burial. We suffer at the moment of His death when the sky blackens, the veil of the Temple is torn, and the earth shakes. Jesus tried to teach us to love one another with humility. We honor Him throughout Holy Week during all the Services as we prepare for His Resurrection. This is the week that reminds us that the essence of our faith lies in Jesus giving His life to save us and to grant us life everlasting.

Bible Reading:

Jesus' crucifixion

Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"...And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:34-46

When the Centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they feared greatly saying, "Truly this was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54

Highlights:

Holy Monday – The parable of the barren fig tree teaches us that some people do not have real faith, are empty and need help.

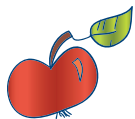
Holy Tuesday – The parable of the ten maidens tells us about 5 maidens who followed Jesus and 5 who did not. **Tell the children that a special song is sung, the Hymn of Cassiani.**

Holy Wednesday – Jesus' feet are washed with myrrh. We receive the Sacrament of Holy Unction from our Priest.

Holy Thursday – Jesus celebrates the Mystical Supper with His disciples and gives us the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He then goes to the Garden at Gethsemane to pray and prepare for His crucifixion. We listen to the story of Jesus' last hours. Our Priest carries Jesus' cross out of the altar, and we pray in sadness.

Holy Friday – The Priest removes the body of Christ from the cross and brings out the Epitaphios which symbolizes Christ's tomb. We all sing the Lamentations which are about Jesus' sad journey. Then, we walk around our church in a funeral procession.

Holy Saturday – Jesus was laid to rest and we are filled with sadness. However, our moods slowly begin to change because we know what lies ahead; the Resurrection.



Activity:

Have children color the flowers on Jesus' tomb.

Prayer:

- I see Your Bridal Chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment, that I may enter therein; O Giver of Light, make radiant the vesture of my soul, and save me. – Holy Monday & Holy Tuesday Evening (The Exapostelaron) –
- The noble Joseph taking down from the Cross Your spotless Body, enwrapped It in clean linen with aromas, and laid It for burial in a new Tomb. - Great Friday Vespers (The Apokathelosis) –
- Today is hung upon the Cross, He Who suspended the Earth amid the waters. A crown of thorns crowns Him, Who is the King of Angels. He, Who wrapped the Heavens in clouds, is clothed with the purple of mockery. He, Who freed Adam in the Jordan, received buffetings. He was transfixed with nails, Who is the Bridegroom of the Church. He was pierced with a lance, Who is the Son of the Virgin. We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us also your Resurrection. - Holy Thursday Evening -