

THE

Holy Week

STORY



The Greatest Story of Tragedy and Sorrow of Jesus' Suffering and Death

Name: _____

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Religious Education

SUNDAY

Palm Sunday

Jesus grew up in **Jerusalem** with his mother, Mary, and his father, Joseph. When Jesus was older (we say he must have been around the **age of 30**), he left his home. This was because he was not welcomed in his hometown as a prophet. A lot of people from Jerusalem did not accept God's word that he was trying to share with them.

He spent about **three years** preaching God's word and traveling with his Apostles. A lot of people from other places accepted his teachings. They loved hearing him share the Good News.

They loved hearing his **parables**. Parables are stories that are meant to teach you a lesson. And Jesus loved teaching in parables.

So when Jesus was around 33 years old, he returned to Jerusalem. This is what we celebrate on **Palm Sunday**. When Jesus entered into Jerusalem, he was welcomed by crowds worshiping him and laying down palm leaves before him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week, with the greatest tragedy and sorrow of the year.

But his return to Jerusalem is only one side of the story. Many of the Jews were filled with hate for him. They wanted to see him stoned. They called him a **blasphemer**. A blasphemer is someone who sins against God's name. They called him this because Jesus told them he was the **Son of God**. They did not believe him.



THURSDAY

Holy Thursday

On **Holy Thursday**, we remember the celebration of the **Last Supper of Jesus Christ**. This is where Jesus established the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. Jesus celebrated the dinner as a feast of Passover, just like the traditions of all Jews. But this one was different!

The Last Supper was the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples (followers) in Jerusalem. During the meal, Jesus predicts that one of his followers would betray him.



He then began the **washing of the feet** of his disciples.

He was showing them that they are to serve others just as he has served them.

At the meal, Jesus **broke the bread** and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it. **This is my body, which will be given up for you.**" He is converting the bread into his body!

Then, he lifted a **chalice of wine** (or a cup of wine) and said, "Take this all of you and drink from it. **This is my blood**, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. **Do this in memory of me.**" Here, he is converting the wine into his blood!

All of this is happening at every celebration of the Mass all around the world! Think about how powerful it is to say that you are one person of 1.2 billion Catholics in the world! Remember this when you are thinking about skipping Mass on Sunday. The Holy Eucharist is what truly makes us Catholic. To listen to the readings, to pray and sing as a family, and to see the priest represent Jesus Christ on the night he died, giving us his body and blood so that we can live forever!



FRIDAY

Good Friday

During the Last Supper, Jesus knew that his apostle **Judas would betray him**. Did you know Judas traded in Jesus for **thirty pieces of silver**? That is how much the high priests gave him so that he would give away Jesus' location.



disciples, soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

The soldiers took Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate saw nothing guilty about Jesus and did not want to punish him. But the crowd was furious! They wanted

Jesus to be punished for saying he was the Son of God and King of the Jews. To keep the crowd happy, Pontius Pilate gave them a decision. He let them choose to either release Jesus or release a prisoner named Barabbas. Guess who the crowd chose? They chose

Barabbas to go free!

So, Pontius ordered Jesus to be crucified (which means nailed to a cross to die).

This was his punishment. But it was also his mission

to die for our sins. Jesus was sent by God so that we could one day live in heaven with him.

After the Last Supper, Jesus went to the **Garden of Gethsemane** on the **Mount of Olives**. He went there to pray and took with him Simon Peter, James, and John. Jesus told them to pray on their own as well. After praying for about an hour, he came back to check on them. Can you believe they had all fell asleep?



He separated from them again to pray before his death. When he checked on them again, they had fallen asleep again. After a third time of praying and waking up his

Good Friday (continued)



Before his **crucifixion**, he was made fun of, whipped, and stripped of his clothes. They even put a crown of thorns on his head. They also made him carry his cross to the place of his execution known as **Calvary**.

He walked a long way to get there. Jesus fell three times and the Roman guards selected **Simon, a Cyrene**, to help Jesus. After Jesus arrived at Calvary, he was nailed to the cross and crucified between two thieves. The sign above his head had the letters **INRI**, which stands for "**Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.**"

Mary, his mother, was there. In fact, she was there the whole time. She stood there, with Mary Magdalene and John as they watched the Son of God suffer.

Think of a time when you have been sick, or hurt. Who was there to help cure you? Who was there to pray for you? Your mother loves you and cares for you. Mary prayed as she watched her son suffer.

During his last hours on the cross, darkness fell over the whole land. His last words were, "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" He then gave his last breath and died. Afterwards, an earthquake shook the ground.

A man by the name of **Joseph** went to the governor and asked for Jesus' body. He took the body and wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his **new tomb**, which had been carved out of rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance as he left.

SATURDAY

Holy Saturday



Holy Saturday is also known as the **Easter Vigil**. On Holy Saturday, we honor the day that Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb.

But how could Jesus leave a tomb that was being watched by guards? Easy! Just remember that Jesus is God. And God makes everything possible.

Mary Magdalene came by to check out the tomb but instead, found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Jesus' body was not there! And she went to tell the other disciples what had happened.

Once Peter found out, he also ran to the tomb. But he found nothing but burial cloths.

They had remembered that Jesus had said he would rise on the third day.

Jesus was trying to tell him that he would die, but only to rise again! How is this possible? Again, Jesus is God. And God makes everything possible.

We may not understand **how** God can do all this, but we will one day when we meet Him in heaven.

"Christ became obedient, to the point of death, even death on a Cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name." – Philippians 2:8-9