

Lesson for Sunday, March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday)

Dear K-1 Promise Students and Families,

Blessings to each of you. I am praying that you are well and having a good week. Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. Palm Sunday begins the celebration of the most important week in the Church year—Holy Week. Do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- We are working this week on the March 28th Pflaum Gospel weekly lesson.
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at holyfamilyrockland.org. Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Next, choose your child's grade level, **Grade K-1 Promise**. Everything you need for the week is found there: (Remember, I will always give you lots of options – you do what you can get to each week, based on your family's schedule and your child's abilities.)
 1. Links to the Parent Teaching Guide pages to help you help your children each week.
 2. A digital copy of their lesson (they have the hard copy that you picked up for them)
 3. A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
 4. Prayers: For this last week of Lent please continue to focus on the Lenten plan that you made with your child at the beginning of Lent. Each night when you say your prayers together spend time reviewing the day – what did you do well – what can you do better tomorrow. Say the Act of Contrition. Discuss your Lenten plan: did you **FAST** from what you said you would, did you make time for more **PRAYER**, did you **GIVE** of yourself generously to others?

This Sunday's Gospels: Mark 11:1–10 and Mark 14:1—15:47 Passion/Palm Sunday begins the celebration of the most important week in the Church year—Holy Week. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The first Gospel and procession on Palm Sunday recall how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna". The Mass that follows includes the Gospel of the Passion (Christ's Suffering, Death and Resurrection).

This Sunday also begins Holy Week, as we follow the last days of Jesus' life on earth. The mysteries of Holy Week are focused on the Sacred Triduum (3 days of prayer). On Holy Thursday, we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his Apostles and his arrest by the Roman soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday, we remember his Death on the Cross. On Holy Saturday, we remember his body in the tomb. We celebrate the joy of his Resurrection next week on Easter Sunday.

Promise (Grades K–1) Lesson Summary: (The complete lesson can be found on your child's webpage under Parent Guide.) This week you and your child will make a Holy Week booklet to help them visualize and remember the events in Jesus' life that are celebrated this week. Talk with your child about each page in the booklet. If you feel comfortable to attend Mass in person, please sign up to bring your family to one or more of the liturgies of Holy Week so that he or she can begin to experience the sights and sounds of these very important celebrations. If you cannot attend in person, please make sure to watch them on our website at holyfamilyrockland.org.

Pray Together: One of the elements of the Good Friday liturgy is an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church, the adoration of the cross. Every Catholic home should prominently display a cross or a crucifix. If you do not have one, this would be a good week to purchase one or make a simple one from materials you have at home or print out and color the cross from the children's lesson this week. On Friday, gather around the crucifix. Pray together the prayer from the liturgy. *Leader: "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation*

of the world.” All respond: “Come let us adore.” If possible, pass the crucifix from one family member to the next. Each family member can then gently kiss the crucifix. When all have adored the cross, repeat the prayer. Conclude by making a reverent Sign of the Cross.

Lastly, and most important: Please make a point of signing up to attend 4:00 PM Saturday Mass or 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in person (if your family is comfortable with that) or watching Mass together as a family this week (preferably on Sunday). The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. We always want our children to make the connection, like the great Road to Emmaus story in the Bible (Luke 24: 13-35), that we learn the scripture readings and then we celebrate Eucharist in the Mass – even if it is Spiritual Communion during this time of the pandemic.

We miss you! We love you! Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to administer vaccines and aid those affected by the Coronavirus. **God bless you!**

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Liz Davis