

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week: Very little school work, except reading, Mass on Thursday, Friday and then our girls sing in our church choir on Easter morning.

Easter: We like to make soft pretzels every Friday during Lent. As for traditions, we have a home altar that is decorated with purple cloth, and each day of Holy Week we change the "props." Bowl, towel, construction paper chalice and Host for Holy Thursday, crown of thorns and nails for Good Friday, these are kept on until Saturday evening. Then after the children go to bed, I replace it with a gold or yellow cloth and a statue of our Lord coming out of the tomb and a crystal cross. All the previous decorations are put away.

Angela in Jackson, WI

Holy Week: Cleaning in preparation for Easter, doing less school and more spiritual reading, going to

Mass several times.

Easter: Turning off all electricity from noon to 3 on Good Friday.

Dawn in Brunswick, OH

Holy Week: We try to attend the Christ mass held by the bishop and archdiocesan priests at the Cathedral-usually on Tuesday of Holy Week here in Atlanta; we attend Mass on Holy Thursday, services on Good Friday and Holy Saturday morning, and the Easter Vigil.

Easter: we like to make homemade bread for Easter, we enjoy coloring the hardboiled eggs and sharing baskets of goodies with family members.

Lisa in Atlanta, GA

Holy Week: We boil school down to just religion and math (my kids read for fun, so I don't worry about reading), We go to Mass on Thursday and Friday, for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. Saturday, we clean the house until it is spotless. Also, on Saturday, we go the Blessing of the Food...this is a family favorite...we are all in anticipation of the feast on Sunday and the excitement of the Resurrection of Our Lord! We watch videos about the Passion of Christ, and read books to the little ones explaining Easter.

Easter: If you don't have a Blessing of the Food at your parish, ask your parish priest to start one. It is a beautiful ceremony. You take a sampling of each thing you are going to serve for the Easter

meal (some families bring all the food!). Most families use beautiful baskets that they have decorated. (My husband's family is Polish, and they have many traditions with the baskets and special white clothes to cover the food. The clothes are embroidered with symbols of Easter and Christ). The priest says a blessing and blesses the food with holy water. It is a favorite tradition that really sets the tone for the end of Lent and the beginning of Easter!

Sarah in Streetsboro, OH

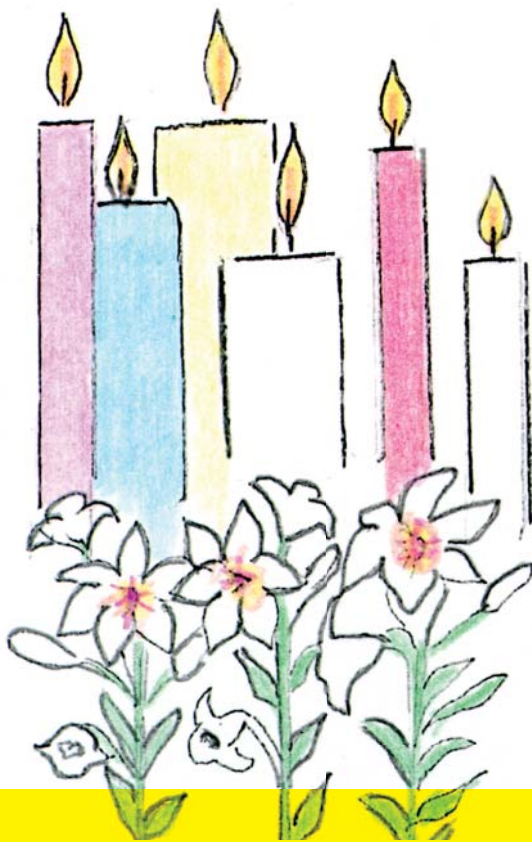
Holy Week: We attend as many services that our church offers as well as doing our felt storyboard of the Passion. Our Catholic Families group offers children's stations of the cross which we always participate in...I try and say a rosary with the kids at 3 pm on Good Friday. This year I want to try and do hot cross buns. Saturday night I decorate for Easter and then we attend Morning Mass and the kids receive their baskets after mass.

Easter: I always make a butter mold shaped like a lamb as is traditional in my husband's family.

Evie in Orange Park, FL

Holy Week: We attend Holy Thursday & Good Friday services. We join our parish in an outdoor Stations of the Cross. We attend Easter Vigil.

Easter: We have an Easter egg hunt for all the children in our extended family BUT FIRST, all the children sit around the table, each with a part of the "Resurrection Eggs" set &



Alleluia!

Alleluia!

together we retell the story of our Lord's Passion, death, & Resurrection. Some of the children in our family would otherwise associate Easter with the Easter bunny only.

Tricia in Merrimack, NH

Holy Week: We celebrate Holy Week by participating as best as we can in the Church's Liturgy. My husband takes Good Friday off from work and we attend Church that day, and try to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the Mercy Hour. We try for more discussion of the Gospel readings and do our best to enter into them as fully as possible.

Easter: - Dyeing Easter Eggs with the Grandparents (usually putting Christian symbols on them, such as chi ro, crosses, the Tomb, angels)
- Easter Egg hunt put on by the City
- Easter Dresses (my mom did this to me growing up - finding those flowy, flowery gowns with big old hats)
- Special Easter Dinner

Kim in Helena, MT

Holy Week: We go to every possible event at church! It gets really busy, but I feel that Easter Sunday is so much more meaningful after fully participating in all the events of Holy Week.

Easter: On Holy Saturday, we have a blessing of Easter Foods at our Polish parish. A representative selection of foods that we will serve for our Easter meal is placed in a basket, and they are blessed at church by our priest. We also decorate pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs, also done in Poland) for the

basket. Many of the foods are chosen for their symbolic meaning, and the butter lamb is also an important item! Preparing the pysanky, foods, and basket to bring them into church is the highlight of our Holy Week!

Heather in Cummington, MA

Holy Week: We start with a celebratory atmosphere on Palm Sunday, have a Seder on Holy Thursday, do Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, clean, bake, and otherwise prepare on Holy Saturday, and then have a joyous Easter Sunday.

Easter: I try to bake a lamb cake for Easter Sunday dessert.

Anne in Durham, NC

Holy Week: By going to the Holy Week services at our church. I would really like to give up TV & computer for all of Holy Week sometime...

Easter: nothing unique really...coloring eggs, Easter egg hunt, Easter baskets. I usually put religious gifts in the baskets. We don't do a lot of candy because they get so much from their grandparents. I often do a saint book or one of the "Girl" books that CHC offers or something like that.

Minette in Wynot, NE

Holy Week: We spend Holy Week with our in-laws every year. My Father-In-Law is a Deacon of the Catholic Church and his duties keep him so busy that we spend our time with him and my Mother-In-Law at their Church. It is fun for the kids to see their "Papa" participating in

the Mass. My Father-In-Law finds it a challenge to not wink at them during Mass :) .

Easter: We go to a traditional Easter Egg Hunt at my In-Laws Church where the children find eggs that are scattered throughout the lawn. What I like about their egg hunt is that some of the eggs have crosses painted on them and those eggs are empty to remind the kids that Christ's tomb was empty on Easter Sunday and that he is risen! Granted, my older children appreciate these eggs more so than the younger kids do.

Veronica in King George, VA

Holy Week: Mass, Stations, Soup (fast) , prayers

Easter: Each year a new small Saint statue arrives in each child's basket with a book about them and picture holy card. This saint is then "adopted" as their Holy friend for the year.

Kristi in Lansing, KS



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Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week: We travel daily over an hour to a parish that is very ethnic (high Italian population) because I want to instill in my boys a wonder and awe for the richness of how Holy Week celebrations can be - with processions and incense, drapes and candles, chants and ceremonies, food and festas, that aren't necessarily as enthusiastically celebrated in many of the westernized churches.

Easter: Our Easter morning breakfast is planned to be quick/easy and simple so that I can be included in the celebrations, too. So we have strawberries and cream, hot buttery croissants with more jam and cream, and a non-Christmas version of egg-nog. We all sit down at the table at the same time, and it's not till after prayers and the meal that we let them loose on the Easter eggs.

Marina in Kapunda, South Australia

Holy Week: We go to church at least Thursday and Friday, and usually go to the Easter Vigil Mass. We try to watch Jesus of Nazareth, an hour or two at a time. We usually don't color eggs until Holy Sat.

Easter: Nothing very original; the kids' baskets are hidden the night before, we do an outdoor egg hunt Easter afternoon, we don't have a traditional dinner but we do usually have a big (egg) breakfast, and play "kingers" with the colored eggs.

Sharon in Shelby Township, MI

Holy Week: We do different projects each day to remember what the day is and to remember what is coming. We really enjoyed making a Holy Week / Easter lapbook a few years ago.

Easter: We make the Holy Saturday Cookies each year, but they do not always turn out exactly right, but they still taste good.

Julie in Manassas, VA

Holy Week: We are starting new traditions this year that will probably include additional fasting, additional reading especially about the Passion, extra prayers and focusing school work more on the events of Holy Week rather than the 3 R's.

Easter: For Easter we usually make roll out sugar cookies in the form of lambs, crosses and other religious symbols of the season. We also have our Paschal candle and flowers and we will be adding more traditions this year as we are new to celebrating fully the liturgical year. We are logging away our information finds and record of our

celebrations online at www.san-cutssimplicitus.com

CeAnne in Aumsville, Oregon

Holy Week: We do various arts and crafts that are related to Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday. On Holy Thursday we attend Mass, and on Good Friday we go to confession and then to the service our parish has at 3PM.

Easter: We do an Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. Some of the eggs contain items that will foster our children's faith, such as rosaries or patron saint medals.

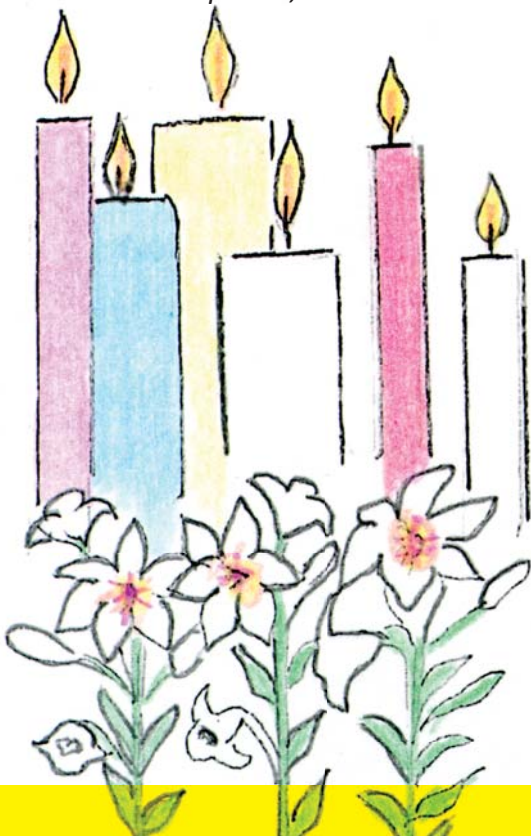
Karen in Williamstown, NJ

Holy Week: We usually take the week off from lessons. I usually try to have crafts & worksheets/ coloring sheets for them to do to keep them busy. On Good Friday we usually get out our stations of the cross eggs & look at those for a while then from noon until 3pm it is quiet time. They are only allowed to look at books of saints or something else of that nature. We go to mass as a family for all of the Holy Week services (our older 2 children as well as my husband usually help assist with masses).

Easter: I cannot really think of anything that we do that would classify as tradition. Maybe that should be one of my goals for this Lenten/ Easter Season is to come up with a new family tradition/recipe for the Easter Season.

Jodi in Stewartville, Mo

Holy Week: We attend church services through the Triduum. Quiet



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is expected on Good Friday~esp. between noon and 3 pm. Watch "Jesus of Nazareth" as a family beginning on Palm Sunday. Hurry up to get the last thorns out of the crown so Jesus can have a pain free Resurrection!

Easter: Traditions for Easter~always start the morning off with Dad shouting "Christ is Risen!" We all respond, "Indeed He is Risen!" (Three times in a row!) This is repeated throughout all of Easter Sunday whenever Dad gets the urge! (Saw this done on Easter Sunday Mass in Pasco, WA in 1992~have never forgotten it and have done this ever since! LOVE LOVE LOVE!

Charlene in Kennewick, WA

Holy Week: We like to participate in the liturgical services as much as possible. I love the East Triduum as well as Stations of the Cross.

Easter: We like to decorate Easter eggs and have a nice family dinner. Not that Christ has risen we decorate our Crown of Thorns with ribbons to be a Crown of Victory. Something new this year we are planning to give our children caterpillars at the end of Lent and have them observe them through the change to butterflies and use that to connect all of the Easter images of spring, bunnies, chicks to Christ's Resurrection and our personal renewal through the Sacraments.

Andrea in Fort Collins, CO

Holy Week: Mass on Thursday and Good Friday

Easter: Resurrection rolls were a big hit with my kids last year. We

dipped marshmallows in cinnamon sugar and melted butter and wrapped them in Pillsbury crescent rolls and baked them. My girls were really excited when we pulled them out of the oven and they were empty!

Erika in Clarkrange, TN

Holy Week: Each day is centered around the Passion and death of our Lord, with hands-on activities that help the kids really "experience" this week.

Easter: We do love "hiding" the Alleluia on Ash Wednesday (my kids colored large bubble letters of the word, we cut them out and laminated them). They always have fun trying to find all of the letters on Easter Sunday while singing/ shouting Alleluia!

Megan in Pearland, TX

Holy Week: We try to avoid videos, extra snacks, etc. and try to attend the Triduum events at our church.

Easter: When 'living it up' during Easter (and Christmas), I remind the kids why we're doing so: we're celebrating Jesus! The fancy dishes, pretty napkins, candles on the table, perhaps an unexpected family outing to the park or lake or for ice cream!... these all go a long way to make a little ones eyes pop, and drive home the idea that something is worth celebrating here!

Polly in Grand Rapids, MI

Holy Week: We are all involved in a Passion Play in our local shrine which takes place on Good Friday. Some of the children are involved

with the music for the Good Friday liturgy and the week is spent doing the Divine Office morning prayers which set the scene for the day so to speak. We try to do extra things for this special week to reflect the character of the week and in preparation for the great feast of Easter. We also usually make our Easter buns and goodies for Easter Sunday at some stage in this week.

Easter: Just a roast lamb shared with friends. Our tradition seems to be another family gets together with us and we are all involved with the Passion Play. We make a lamb shaped cake for Easter Sunday.

Helen in Wingello NSW Australia

Holy Week: By going to our parish's Triduum liturgies and explaining them to our children.

Easter: We plant wheatgrass on Palm Sunday. By Easter it is has sprouted and is a nice decoration, as well as a reminder of the Resurrection.

Anne Marie in Saint Paul, MN



Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week: We take that week to renew our focus on lent. Depending on the year (babies, sick kids, etc...) we try to participate in special events at our church- stations of the cross, Holy Thursday mass, Friday services and the Easter vigil. Most years we can't do everything, but it is wonderful to have all these opportunities available.

Easter: My children's favorite thing to do on Easter morning is to go to dawn mass. Even when my husband and I have not been able to make it that early, our older children go. Our traditions are just to spend the the with family.

Laura in Campbell, CA

Holy Week: We attend Holy Week masses together as a family and read scripture daily to get a better understanding of exactly why it is SO important. We tend to make things very minimal for this week



and do not schedule any extra activities that may deter from our focus.

Easter: I am part Swedish and we make a traditional Swedish Easter bread that I always shared with my father as a child. My three boys love to cook and bake and we always enjoy doing this together. In our home, it is not about the Easter bunny it is about rejoicing that our Lord has risen!

Ann-Marie in Rome, NY

Holy Week: attended services

Easter: wrap a marshmallow inside a biscuit... cook and it disappears! just like Jesus from the tomb

Jeannette in Washington, LA

Holy Week: It is tradition to attend church services beginning on Thursday and ending on Easter. As a family we always attend the big "Passion Play" here in downtown San Antonio and attend the "Passion Play" at our parish church of St. James the Apostle. Children are the actors of "Passion Play" at church and it is a powerful reenactment.

Easter: In San Antonio, it's a full fledge Texas Bar-B-Que! We celebrate the Easter season by having a bar-b-que outside. We set up picnic tables outside (family style), we have a piñata filled with candy. We have an Easter egg hunt and we turn the radio up just a bit more than usual. We also have the traditional confetti eggs that the children play with as well as some adults. It is very important that we have family around and each fam-

ily member brings a covered side dish and helps with preparing our meal.

Adela in San Antonio, TX

Holy Week: We pray the Stations together, attend Mass and attend the Triduum services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and of course Easter Sunday. We try to refrain from any high-celebratory activities except when my son's birthday falls at that time. We also watch the Passion movie.

Easter: Easter Cake

One lemon cake mix

One box lemon pudding mix (not instant)

Coconut flakes

Green food coloring

Jelly beans (small bird eggs)

Make cake according to directions in round pans, cool, split layers.

Make pudding according to directions according to directions and cool with plastic wrap laid across top when it gets cool enough to not melt the plastic (this prevents a skin from forming while cooling).

Spread lemon filling on bottom layer, then place top of that cake layer on next and spread filling.

Continue until all layers are spread and stacked. Dye some coconut with green food coloring for "grass nest". Just before serving make nest on top of cake and fill with jelly beans.

Karen in St. Louis, MO

Holy Week: We have been drawn to celebrate Holy Week by recreating a scene of Christ's last days on Earth. The children try to collect

Alleluia!

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the largest stone they can find outside for the tomb and with our plastic set of miniatures they “play and pray”.

Easter: Our neighbors (non practicing Christians) once surprised us on our way to Easter mass. On our lawn they had placed dyed eggs with each of our Children’s names. We have repeated their kindness by adding symbols of Christianity on the eggs and surprise neighborhood families by hiding them in their lawns early in the morning.

Holly in Miami, FL

Holy Week: Since we don’t have school that week, we do lots of fun crafts that we don’t usually have time for - all centering around Holy Week and Easter.

Easter: We have started the tradition of inviting our shut-in elderly neighbors over to eat Easter Dinner with us. The kids practice their best manners and are always excited to have guests.

Brianne in La Grange, TX

Holy Week: The core of our Holy Week is the liturgy. We find ourselves at church daily to participate fully in public worship or to spend time in the Eucharistic chapel. Other than that, the details vary by year. In our large family, it seems that someone is often sick (strep seems to be popular during Lent!) and we add enrichment activities as we are able.

Easter: Our primary Easter tradition is to attend the Easter Vigil. It is very long but it is important for us that the kids participate in this amaz-

ing liturgy. We want them to see the new converts received into the Church and remember dad holding them up to see the paschal fire. A sign of maturity is getting to hold your own candle. We dress in our very finest and make sure we congratulate all of the new Catholics at their reception after Mass. We stay until the very end and help clean up if we can. The kids all agree that anything after that liturgy is just icing on the cake. They come home singing and hungry and it is usually well after midnight before we sleep. We go all out with feasting. This is the greatest feast and no detail should be spared! We always come up with a special goody or favor to wrap up and set at each person’s place at grandma’s house. All the families bring some of their colored eggs to share at the table.

We do not do the Easter Bunny but do give small gifts, usually religiously themed. Books are popular but we have given fun, non-religious gifts when we’ve found something special. There is no tradition for this. Sometimes we’ve given a lot, sometimes just a little. All to give glory to God! We do not give candy since Grandma and Grandpa give a ton!

Melody in North Royalton, OH

Holy Week: We take the week off of school for the most part, spring clean as best we can and get ready for the Triduum.

Easter: We like to make Easter Egg Bread. Here’s a great recipe for it: <http://allrecipes.com//Recipe/braid->

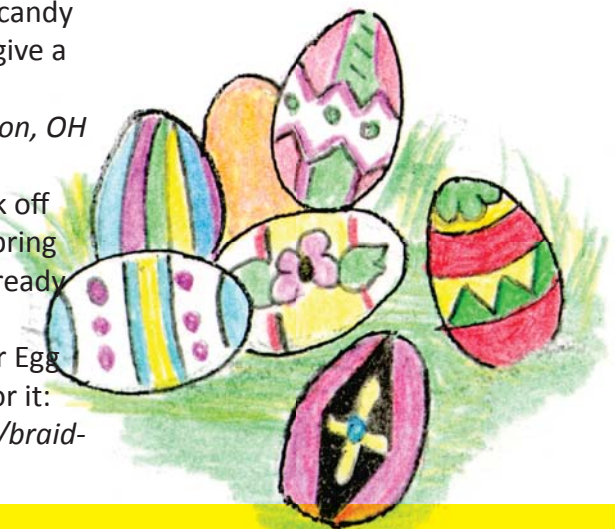
ed-easter-egg-bread/Detail.aspx
We even took orders and sold them once to raise money for a well in Haiti -- but we only did that once! :)
Samantha in Whitmore Lake, MI

Recipe: Resurrection Rolls:
crescent rolls
olive oil- blessed is best! (or melted butter)
cinnamon
marshmallows
The marshmallow represents the body of our Lord, the oil the anointing oils, the cinnamon the spices, and the rolls the tomb.

Coat the marshmallows in the oil and dip in cinnamon, then roll it up in a crescent roll. Close ends to close the tomb. Everyone saw Him go in...

Bake as per package directions and let cool. When you open the tomb, He is resurrected! No more marshmallow!

Holy Week: We like a good procession whenever we have the chance! We also like to cover our statues in purple or lace, and just talk a lot about what would have been happening to Jesus at the appropriate time.



Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Week and Easter

We like to observe strict silence on Good Friday from noon until 3. We live near a "Grotto of the Resurrection Shrine" with a stations of the cross path, so we started walking it at noon and did the stations quietly last year. A protestant girl came with us last year and she seemed to really enjoy trying not to talk and the reverence that isn't a part of her ordinary world. I think we have a tradition!

Janice in Canton, OH

Holy Week: We try to participate in all of our parish Masses/services during Holy Week.

Easter: Stuffed Potatoes go so well with ham for Easter dinner...

5 lg baked potatoes
1 c. each plain yogurt and shredded cheddar cheese
3 T. butter

2 T. each milk and minced onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
paprika, dried parsley

While potatoes are baking, measure remaining ingredients into mixing bowl (except parsley and paprika). Cut hot potatoes in half lengthwise and scoop out pulp into mixing bowl, reserving skins. Mash or beat all ingredients until smooth. Stuff the skins with potato mixture (or discard skins and bake in greased 2-qt. casserole). Garnish with paprika and dried parsley. (May be refrigerated or frozen at this time). Reheat (defrosted) potatoes in 400-degree F oven for 15 minutes.

Julie in Paris, KY

Holy Week: We try to attend all of the Holy Week services.

Easter: On Easter we go to Mass and take Easter family pictures outside in the church's grotto.

Angela in Knightdale, NC

Holy Week: We celebrate Holy Week by trying to attend Mass as often as possible, as well as by retelling the Passion and Easter stories to our children. We try to put it into language they can understand making it have more of an impact so that when they are able to understand it the foundation is already laid. We also bake and prepare for the Easter season by remembering what we have done during Lent.

Easter: For Easter, we spend as much of the day as we can

with family, namely, one of my sister's and her family. We all go to the same parish, so we go to our normal Sunday morning mass, then over to her house for delicious french toast and an epic egg hunt. After a break for naps, we all meet up again for a fabulous dinner. One rule for dinner, especially with picky eaters: there's no crying on Easter! If a kid doesn't like the dinner, they get something they do like to eat. :) Only time that happens is on major holidays.

Bridget in Newark, NJ

Holy Week: We try to be more peaceful, and we discuss Holy Thursday and Good Friday in-depth with the kids.

Easter: We like making resurrection rolls the day before and having them for breakfast on Easter morning. The dough is wrapped around a marshmallow, which melts when baked, so when the roll is bitten into, it is hollow like the empty tomb. Last year i made a coconut cake shaped like a lamb, which might just have to become a tradition!

Erin in Rome, GA



Alleluia!

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