

Joyful Catholic Families  
**Lesson #8 – Palm Weaving, Holy Week**

**Read “Jesus Rides a Donkey”**

(Go to the [Lambsongs website](#) for the printable story.)

What was different about Mass today? (We had palm branches.)

Why did we have palm branches?

I have a story to read to you to help us understand why we had palm branches.

End the story with: “Each year on Palm Sunday, we remember the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.”

**Discuss Palms and How to Treat Palms:**

During the time Jesus was alive, people waved branches as a way of honoring someone or as a way of celebrating.

- Children would pick up branches and wave them to honor someone.
- When they did it for Jesus, it meant that Jesus was a King and a powerful ruler.
- The palms we received at Mass today (or on Palm Sunday) remind us of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and that He is our King.

Remember: Father blessed the palms today at Mass.

- That means we don’t play with the palms.
- We don’t let them fall on the floor.
- If they do fall on the floor, we quickly pick them up.

**Palm Weaving -- Folded Aura:**

(Go to [this post](#) for more information and pictures on making folded auras.)

On every Palm Sunday, we can make a palm weaving with the palms we received.

- There are lots of different kinds of palm weavings. (If you have palm weavings, show some of them.)
- Today we are going to learn how to make the folded aura. (show a folded aura)

Give each of the children two strips of paper of different colors (i.e. red and green).

- They can use any colors to make the folded aura but it will be easier to teach if they all have the two same colors to begin with.
- Staple the two strips of paper in the shape of an “L”.
- Lay it on the table with the green paper on the bottom.
- Fold the horizontal piece (green) over the vertical piece (red).
- Fold the red over the green.
- Fold the green over the red.
- Continue folding until at the end of the papers.
- Staple the ends.

Children choose two more strips of paper and make another folded aura.

- Continue making folded auras for as long as you want.

If it is Palm Sunday, they can also make a folded aura from their palms.

## **Share This Information with Parents:**

When you make a folded aura using palms, you need to hang it upside down until it is dry. Otherwise, it will curl up.

Since palms are blessed, we cannot throw them out in the trash or garbage.

You can:

- bring them to church the next year to be burned for Ash Wednesday,
- burn them
- bury them

When you are weaving palms:

- Palm weaving needs to be done right away, before the palms dry out.
- If you can't do it right away, put the palms in a Ziploc bag with a moist cloth. They can be kept in the refrigerator for months but be sure to check that there is not too much moisture so they don't mold.
- You can also freeze the palms. If wrapped well in plastic, they will last years in the freezer.
- The leaves can be split in two to make more pieces to weave. For example, we often receive a palm with two leaves. You can do a weaving that requires 4 leaves by splitting the two leaves in half.
- For some weavings you need to use scissors and cut the palms to the desired size.
- Sometimes it is easier to remove the hard edge from the palm before weaving it.
- Palm weavings can be placed on picture frames, shelves, vases, walls. They may be kept for years.

## **Holy Week Activity Booklet:**

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF and more information.)

- Using the classroom size Holy Week booklet, read the story to the children.
- Give each child a copy of the Holy Week Activity booklet and a set of pictures to glue into the booklet.
- Glue in pictures where they belong.
- Color

## **Finding Holy Week Magnets:**

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF and more information.)

Before class put one set of Holy Week magnets all over a metal chair. Do a chair for each child.

Put a sign on each chair (number, picture, or name of child on the sign) so the children know which chair to run to.

- Put the chairs in a line.
- Children stand in a line opposite the chairs.
- Give each child a gallon Ziploc bag to put their magnets in. Parents can hold the bags for the children so they are not running with the bags.
  
- Ask the children a question.
- After the kids have answered the question, they go find the magnet on their chair that goes with the question and bring it back to their table.
- Repeat until the children have all their magnets in the Ziploc bag.
  
- Questions:
  1. On Palm Sunday, what does Jesus ride on? (donkey)
  2. On Holy Thursday, what does Jesus wash? (disciples' feet)
  3. On Holy Thursday, what meal does Jesus eat with His disciples? (Last Supper)
  4. What does Jesus do in the garden? (pray)
  5. What happens to Jesus in the garden? (He is arrested – and then taken before Pontius Pilate)
  6. What does Jesus carry? (a cross)
  7. The cross is very heavy so what happens to Jesus? (He falls 3 times)
  8. Who helps Jesus carry the cross? (Simon)
  9. What is Jesus nailed to? (a cross)
  10. Who holds Jesus' body after it is taken down from the cross? (Mary)
  11. Where is Jesus' body laid? (in a tomb)
  12. Who guards the tomb? (a soldier)
  13. What did they put in front of the tomb so no one and no animal will take Jesus' body? (a large stone)
  14. What happens to Jesus on Easter morning? (He rises from the dead.)

## **Holy Week Magnets:**

Children and parents put magnets in order using their booklets to help them.

**Stickers:** Give each child a sticker as they leave.

**Supplies:**

Nametags & Permanent markers  
Prayers for prayer rings  
Home lessons  
Snack  
Plates, napkins, water & glasses  
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

“Jesus Rides a Donkey” booklet pages printed on white cardstock

Different palm weavings made out of palms  
Sample folded aura  
Strips of paper to make into folded auras  
Staplers

Holy Week classroom size booklet printed on white cardstock

Holy Week activity booklet for each child

Pictures to glue in activity booklets --

I cut these out before class and put each child's in a sandwich Ziploc baggie.

Stick glue

Crayons

Holy Week magnet set for each child

Gallon Ziploc bags

Sign to put on the chairs (number, picture or child's name)