

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

Engage: Page 167

- ▶ With your child, use hand wipes and take turns washing each other's hands. **Say:** *Washing another person's hands is an act of humility for both people.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title Celebrating Holy Week and Easter and the text in the blue box. Discuss the questions. Then read aloud the page. **Say:** *The Triduum is comprised of the three most important days in the liturgical year. On these three days, we recall Jesus' Passion and Death. We remember Jesus' act of humble service during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday when the priest washes the feet of members from the parish.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 168–169

- ▶ Using the Internet, together find an image that makes use of chiaroscuro, the dramatic use of contrast between light and dark, such as Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. **Ask:** *Why is this image so impressive?* **Say:** *Jesus' Crucifixion was a profound experience of darkness. Yet God was able to turn this darkness to light through the Resurrection.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title A Message of Hope, the first paragraph, and the section Saint Vincent de Paul. **Ask:** *What gifts did God give Vincent to help him respond to people's suffering?* (organizational skills, a companion to help him in ministry) Point out that the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity continue the works that Vincent and Louise began.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation. Then turn to page 266 in the back of the book to read aloud and summarize each Gift of the Holy Spirit. Invite your child to share how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can help him or her share the hope of the Resurrection with others.
- ▶ Read aloud The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. **Ask:** *How did Frederic Ozanam believe members of society should operate?* (by putting the values of mercy and love into action by performing acts of charity)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Points the Way on page 169. Emphasize that each person we encounter, regardless of his or her circumstance, is a reflection of Christ's presence among us.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Ask:** *What can you do to continue the work begun by Vincent and Louise?*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 170–171

- ▶ Together recall a time when you were waiting for someone or something and the person or thing did not come. **Say:** *Ultimately, things turned out OK because we are here today. God wants us to remember that everything will be OK in ways that we can't yet imagine.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the article title Choosing Hope Over Despair. Read aloud Matthew 26:14–16, 47–56, and 27:3–9. Then read aloud the rest of page 170. Point out that Judas's guilt and sorrow over his actions were so extreme that he did not believe

he would ever be able to recover or be forgiven. **Say:** *God's love is so profound that he is capable of forgiving any sin imaginable.*

- ▶ Read aloud Our Catholic Character. Emphasize that we are called to focus on the hope of the Resurrection rather than the despair of Jesus' Crucifixion and Death.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 26:69–75. Then invite your child to read aloud the section Peter. Point out that even though Peter had sinned by denying that he was one of Jesus' closest followers, Jesus forgave him and asked him to be the Church's first leader.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions to the A Beacon of Hope activity. Give your child time to complete the activity and share the response with you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Past Meets Present. **Ask:** *Why, according to tradition, was Peter crucified upside down? (He did not consider himself worthy to be crucified in the same way Jesus was.)* If possible, together find an online map of Vatican City and point out the location of the basilica.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 172–173

- ▶ Read aloud the title Easter Proclamation and the paragraphs in the left column. Explain that the *Exsultet* is a prayer of praise in which we give thanks for the many ways that God has shone a light of hope amid the darkness of human suffering. If possible, play a recording of the *Exsultet*.
- ▶ Pray aloud each paragraph from the *Exsultet*, pausing after each one to give your child time to reflect on the meaning of the words. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph in Where Do I Fit In? on page 172. **Say:** *Sometimes we can't solve problems instantly. We have to wait.*
- ▶ Together read aloud Finding Jesus Where I Least Expected. **Ask:** *Where did the author find Jesus? (Possible answers: in Kelly's healing, in Kelly's faith, in Kelly's story)* **Say:** *When we are inspired to stay faithful by stories like these, we have Jesus to thank. He is in our suffering, in our healing, in the support we give one another, and in the stories we tell one another.*
- ▶ Have your child complete Surprise! independently and share the reflection with you.

Respond: Page 174

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions. Remind him or her to use the page references to answer the questions independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Allow time for your child to complete the activity. **Say:** *We can always rely on the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to share the light of Christ's hope with others.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.