

Do you love a good mystery?

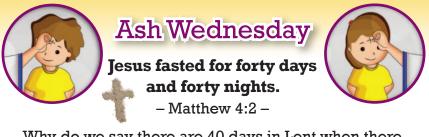
Maybe you like to read mystery books. Maybe you like to play hide and seek or go on treasure hunts. Maybe you like to solve puzzles.

We love mysteries, too—and so does the Church. One of the Church's greatest mysteries is the mystery of Easter. The Church uses the word *mystery* to mean stories and truths so big we can't understand them without help. And God helps us! The Church invites us to enter right into the great mysteries of our faith. Nothing is hidden from us, but we have to say "yes" to the invitation to come and explore.

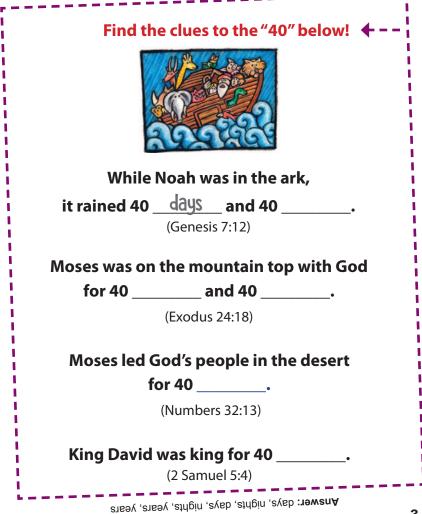
This Lent, we'll explore the mysteries of the Church's stories and traditions. We'll look more closely at the mysteries of the rosary: the stories of Jesus' life that help us understand the mystery of Easter. We will look especially at the mysteries that are found in the Gospel stories that we will hear at Sunday Mass during Lent and during Holy Week. All of our puzzles, prayers and stories will get us ready for the greatest mystery of all: the mystery of Easter.

So put on your "thinking cap" and let's get started!

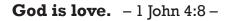




Why do we say there are 40 days in Lent when there are 46 more days until Easter? That's because we don't count Sundays! 40 is a number that comes up over and over again in the Bible.



Thursday after Ash Wednesday



What does your family do to show their love for one another?

What does your family do in Lent?_____

---- Activity

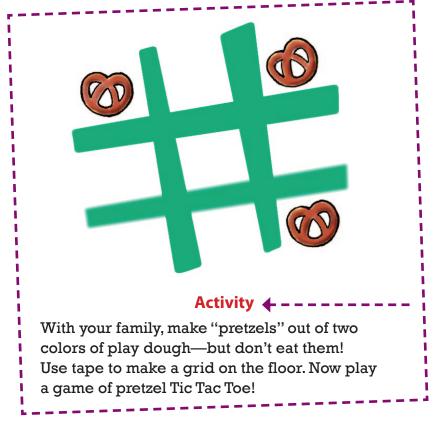
There's a four-letter word that describes what Lent is all about. Can you write the word in the four hearts below?

Friday after Ash Wednesday

When you fast, do not look gloomy. – Matthew 6:16 –

Pretzels began as a bread for Lent! Years ago, Christians wouldn't eat butter on their bread in Lent. They shaped dough into pretzel-shapes to make them more fun to eat. The crossed dough was meant to look like arms crossed in prayer.





Saturday after Ash Wednesday



You will bear a son. - Luke 1:31 -

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave us Jesus. She taught him how to love God's People. Sometimes we sing songs or say some special prayers to honor our Mother Mary.

---- Activity

One special prayer is the rosary. To say the rosary, we use a prayer called the Hail Mary, too. Fill in the blanks with the right words. If you need help solving this mystery, ask someone to help you!

Hail, full of	, the
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is with you. Blessed are _____ among women,

and ______ is the fruit of your womb, ______.

Holy Mary, Mother of _____, pray

for ______ sinners now and at the ______

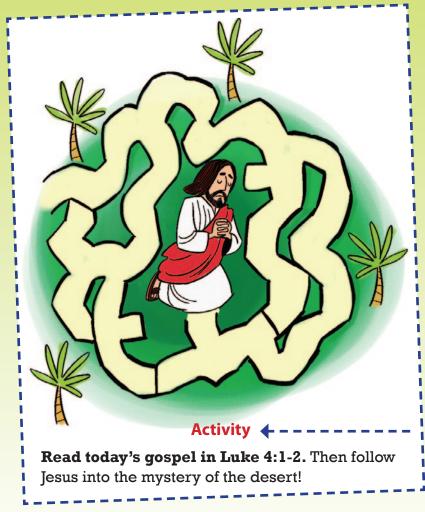
of our death.

Answer: Mary, grace. Lord. you, blessed, Jesus, God, us, hour

The 1st Sunday of Lent

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. – Luke 4:1 –

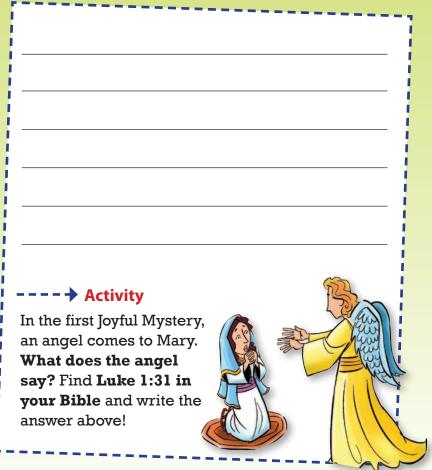
Jesus loved mysteries, too. He went to the desert to seek God. What did God plan for him? How would he serve God with his life? Jesus entered into the mystery of the desert to find out.



Monday, the 1st week of Lent

The angel Gabriel was sent from God. - Luke 1:26 -

The mysteries of the rosary are stories that help us follow Jesus. Five joyful mysteries tell us about his birth and childhood. Five luminous mysteries tell us about his life and work. Five sorrowful mysteries tell us about his death. Five glorious mysteries tell us about his new life with God—forever!



Tuesday, the 1st week of Lent

Mary set out and traveled. - Luke 1:39 -

We call this second Joyful Mystery the Visitation, because Mary is making a visit! Can you help Mary get to her cousin Elizabeth's house? See the activity below.

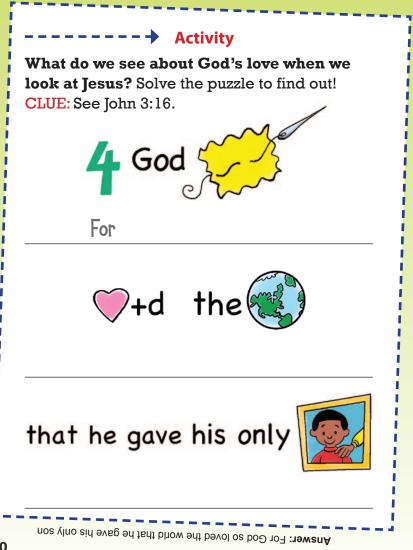


Activity 🗲
Just circle every other letter —and find a clue! You'll find out what Elizabeth said to Mary. Another clue: see Luke 1:42 .
M x ojsZtr
Мо
balwepsxsnegdh
awriev
yhotum.
Answer: Most blessed are you.

Wednesday, the 1st week of Lent

The time came for her to have her child. – Luke 2:6 –

Whenever a baby is born, we see the mystery of God's love. The third Joyful Mystery tells us how Jesus, God's own Son, was born.



Thursday, the 1st week of Lent

They took him up to Jerusalem.

– Luke 2:22 –

In the fourth Joyful Mystery, Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Two elders see him. Elder Anna tells everyone that Jesus is the king God has promised. Elder Simeon takes baby Jesus in his arms and says...what?

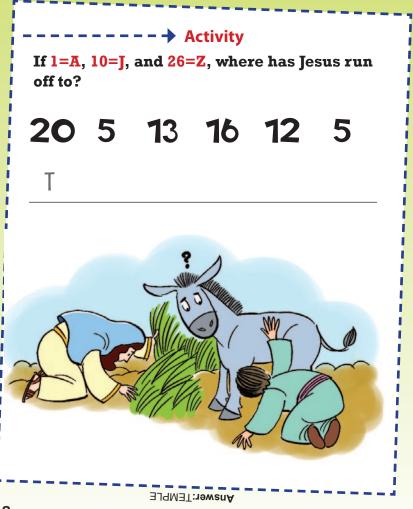


Friday, the 1st week of Lent

After three days they found him.

– Luke 2:46 –

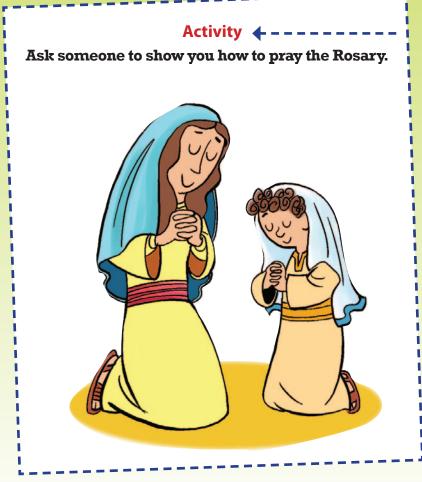
In the last Joyful Mystery, Joseph and Mary have a mystery to solve! Twelve-year-old Jesus has run off on his own and they don't know where to find him. **Find the story in Luke 2:41-50!**



Saturday, the 1st week of Lent

The child grew and became strong. - Luke 2:40 -

Whew! We've found clues about the life of Jesus from the angel's message to Mary to his becoming 12 years old! You can use these Joyful Mysteries to say the rosary with your family. Ask a parent or grandparent to show you how.



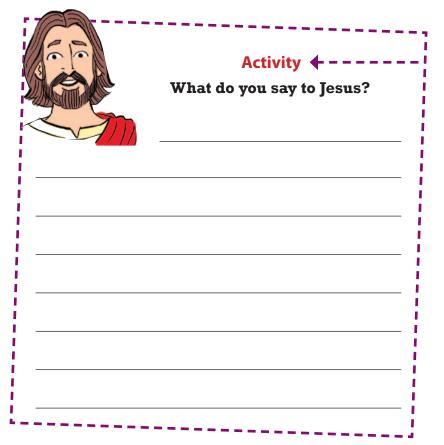
The 2nd Sunday of Lent

They saw his glory.

– Luke 9:32 –

We call today's story the Transfiguration, which means "change"—but an amazing kind of change! On the mountain, the friends of Jesus see him shine with God's glory. They see old heroes of God, Elijah and Moses, talk to Jesus.

Elijah and Moses tell Jesus about God's love long ago. Peter says to Jesus, "It is so good that we are here!"

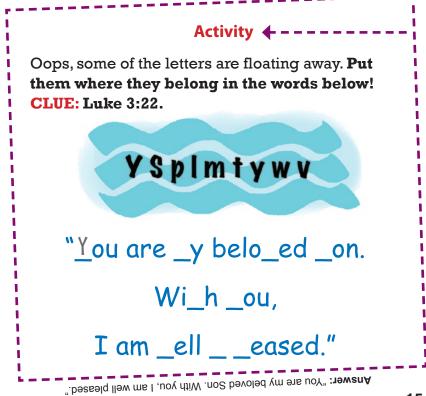


Monday, the 2nd week of Lent

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. - Luke 3:16 -

For hundreds of years, the rosary was said with 15 mysteries: 5 each of Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. Then Pope John Paul II gave us a gift: the Luminous Mysteries! These mysteries tell us about the life and work of Jesus.

The first Luminous Mystery is the first story of Jesus as a grownup! He goes to the river Jordan to be baptized. John the Baptist pours water on his head. Jesus hears God say to him...



Tuesday, the 2nd week of Lent

There was a wedding in Cana. - John 2:1 -

Let's look for Jesus at a party! The second Luminous Mystery is the wedding at Cana. Jesus, his mother Mary, and all his friends are there. Mary tells him, "There is no wine left." Mary tells the servant, "Do whatever Jesus tells you." Jesus changes big jars of water into big jars of wine.



Wednesday, the 2nd week of Lent

The Kingdom of God is among you. - Luke 17:21 -

The third Luminous Mystery follows Jesus as he tells about God's Kingdom. In God's Kingdom, no one will be poor. All will share what they have. We will care for the sick. We will feed the hungry. We will live like Jesus forever.

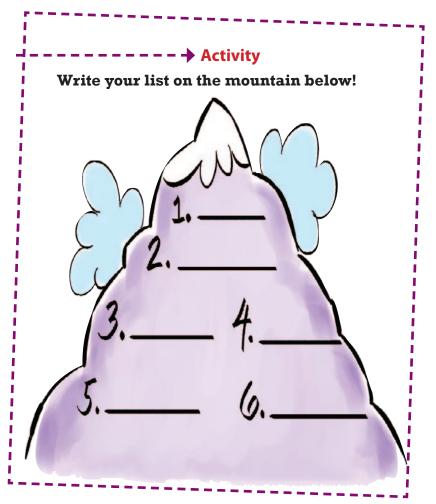
	Activity 🗲	1
al	ho do you know who does one of these things ready? Is it someone in your family? They pro- aim the Kingdom, too!	
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Thursday, the 2nd week of Lent

He took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain.

– Luke 9:28 –

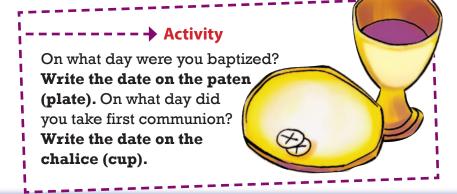
We've already seen the fourth Luminous Mystery last Sunday: the Transfiguration. Jesus takes his friends up on a mountain to pray. Where else can people pray?



Friday, the 2nd week of Lent

Take this and share it among yourselves. - Luke 22:17 -

The fifth Luminous Mystery is Jesus making something new. He breaks the bread and shares it. He drinks the wine and shares it. He tells those who follow him, "Do this in remembrance of me." It is the first Eucharist or Mass.



Saturday, the 2nd week of Lent

The light shines in the darkness.

– John 1:5 –

Halfway through the mysteries of the rosary! We've found clues to Jesus' adult life, from the day he was baptized until his last meal.

You can use the five Luminous Mysteries to say the rosary with your family.

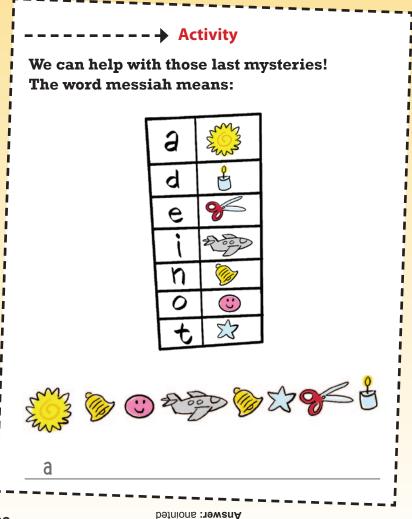


Have your family light a candle to remember the light of Jesus Christ!

The 3rd Sunday of Lent

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. – John 4:7 –

The story of the woman at the well has many mysteries. Why did she go alone to the well? Did she have friends? Was she lonely? What does the word *messiah* mean? Why does she call Jesus that?

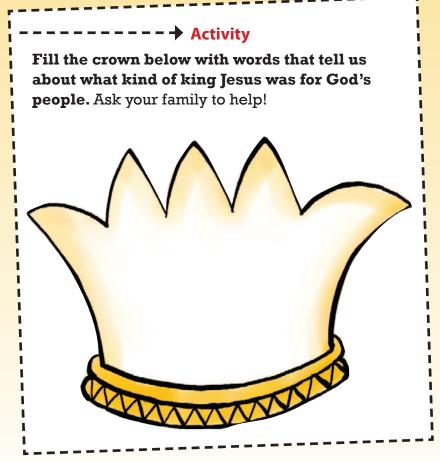


Monday, the 3rd week of Lent

Could he possibly be the Messiah? – John 4:29 –

The word *messiah* is a BIG clue to the mystery of Easter! When we know what that word means, we'll know more about who Jesus is and what Jesus does.

One clue: all the kings of Israel were called messiah. Jesus is the good king that God promised long ago to God's people.



Tuesday, the 3rd week of Lent

The Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed.

– John 4:25 –

Why does the word *messiah*, which means "anointed," also mean "king"? Because long ago, kings in Israel were anointed. That means a priest took oil and poured it on their head or rubbed it on their foreheads.

We don't know of anyone pouring oil on Jesus' head, but John the Baptist tells us that Jesus was anointed in a much more powerful way!



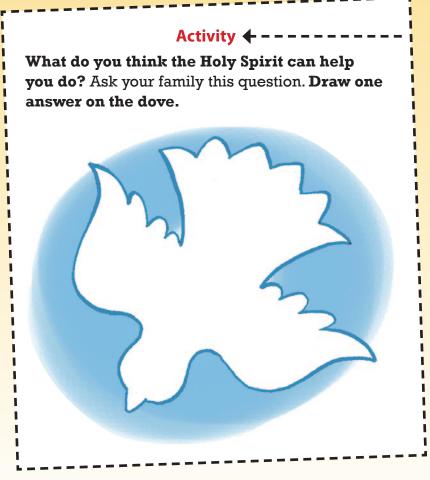
Wednesday, the 3rd week of Lent

The spirit of the Lord is upon me.

- Luke 4:18 -

God gives the Holy Spirit to Jesus to give him power as the messiah. Jesus tells God's People what the Holy Spirit will help him do:

> tell of freedom • give us sight bring good news to the poor

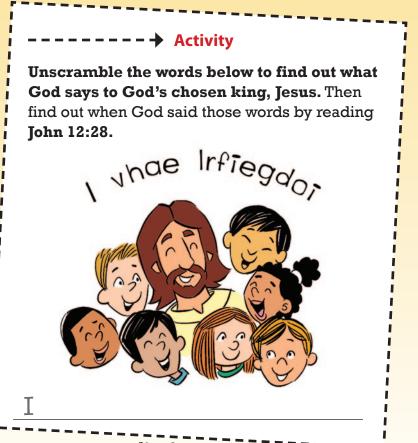


Thursday, the 3rd week of Lent

I have made a covenant with my chosen one.

– Psalm 89:3 –

The word messiah also means "chosen." The people of God believed that God chose each of their kings. God chose Jesus, too, to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and to be a king who would not boss God's People around but love them and serve them.

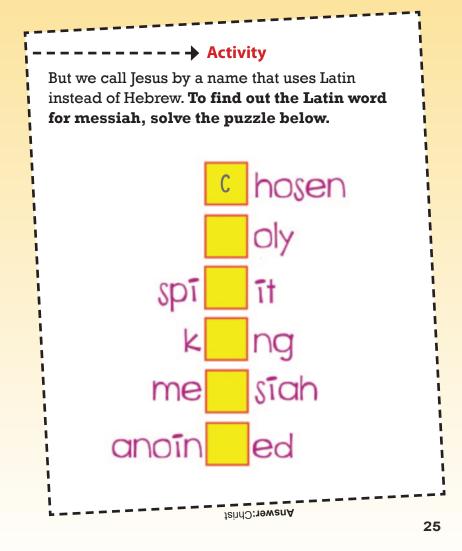


Friday, the 3rd week of Lent

We have found the Messiah.

– John 1:41 –

The woman at the well figured it out! Jesus is God's messiah. Now we'll give you another clue: the word messiah is a Hebrew word. Hebrew was the language that God's People spoke long ago.



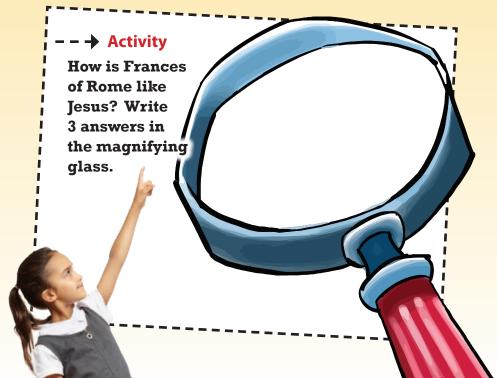
Saturday, the 3rd week of Lent

He said to them, "Come after me." - Matthew 4:19 -

From the woman at the well, we found this clue: Jesus is the messiah, God's chosen king, anointed with the Holy Spirit to bring good news to the poor.

Now let's look at another clue: the saints! When we look at the life of the saints, we get a clue about what life is like when we follow Jesus. Take, for example, Frances of Rome. She's a good saint to look at because she's just like our moms and aunts and grandmas. She got married. She had children.

She loved them, but her love didn't stop there. She cared for the sick. She brought help to the poor. What do you think?



The 4th Sunday of Lent

He saw a man blind from birth.

– John 9:1 –

The man born blind knew sad days. Some people said, "You're blind because God has cursed you." Some people left him out when they talked or worked, because he could not see. Nobody thought he would see again.

But Jesus changed his sadness to joy. Jesus let him see what he had never seen before. Imagine looking at the world with Jesus.

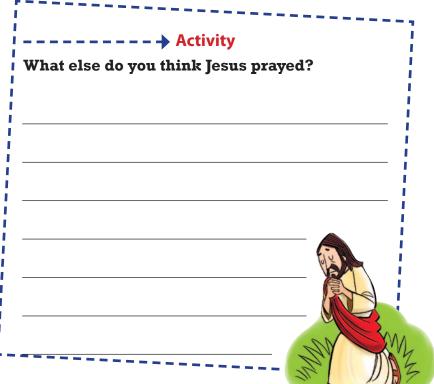


Monday, the 4th week of Lent

Kneeling, he prayed.

Another set of mysteries for the rosary are called the Sorrowful Mysteries, which tell the story of Jesus' death. When we pray them, we remember: Jesus died—but Jesus is risen. Jesus will never die again. We don't tell these stories to feel sad. We tell these stories to remember that death doesn't win: God wins.

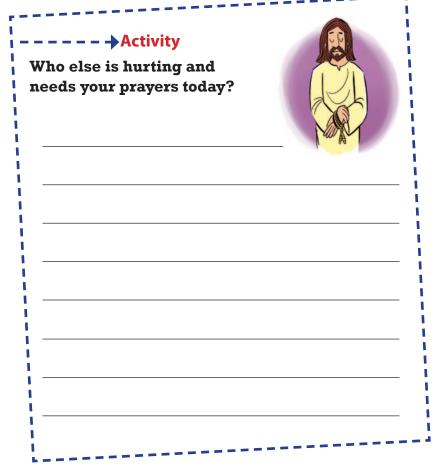
In the first Sorrowful Mystery, Jesus is troubled. He goes to a garden to pray. One of his prayers says, "Father, take this cup away from me."



Tuesday, the 4th week of Lent

After arresting him, they led him away. - Luke 22:54 -

In the second Sorrowful Mystery, the ruler says Jesus must die. Soldiers hurt Jesus. This might be a story too hard to hold on to. We can give this story to God. We can say, "God, we know there are people who are hurting in many ways today. Help them Lord. Show us how to help them, too."



Wednesday, the 4th week of Lent

Pilate asked him, "Are you a king?" -Luke 23:3 -

In the third Sorrowful Mystery, soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. They're making fun of him. They don't know he's a real king: God's king.

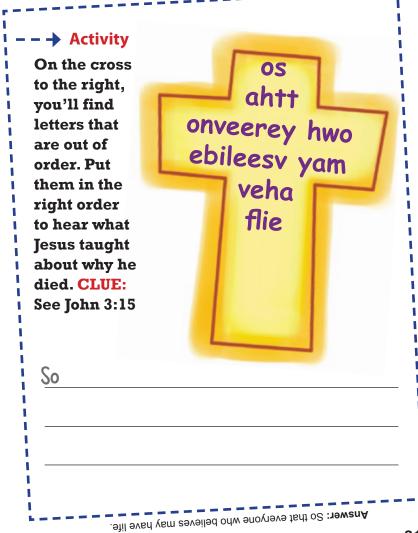


Thursday, the 4th week of Lent

Jesus, carrying the cross by himself, went to the hill called Golgotha.

– John 19:17 –

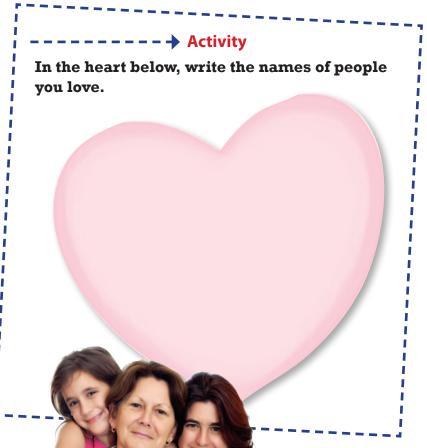
In the fourth Sorrowful Mystery, Jesus carries a wooden cross.





Because of God's great love for us, God brought us to life in Christ. – Ephesians 2:4-5 –

In the fifth Sorrowful Mystery, we remember that even on the cross, Jesus is chosen by God. Even on the cross, Jesus loves and serves God's People. Think about the people you love. These are people Jesus loves, too. Jesus died long ago, but now he lives for all the people he loves.

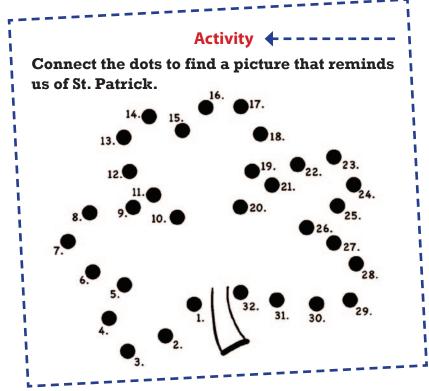


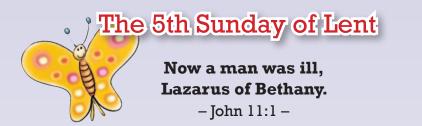
Saturday, the 4th week of Lent

You will truly be free. - John 8:36 -

The story of Saint Patrick starts out sadly, too. When he was just a teenager, he was kidnapped from his home. They took him to Ireland and made him a slave.

But his story turned to joy. He escaped to freedom. He loved Jesus, and grew strong. He grew so strong that he went back to Ireland to teach the people who had kidnapped him! God doesn't want sad times for God's People. God wants us to have freedom and joy too.

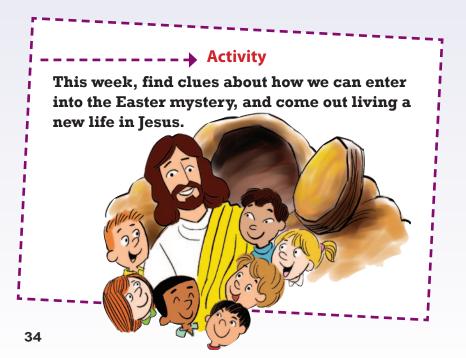




The story of Lazarus is a BIG clue to what Easter means. Martha and Mary were sad that their brother Lazarus was dead. Jesus gave new life to Lazarus. Jesus changed their sorrow to joy.

Sometimes we use the symbol of the butterfly to think about Jesus' life and death. A caterpillar has to change to become a butterfly. It goes into a cocoon as a caterpillar and flies away as a butterfly.

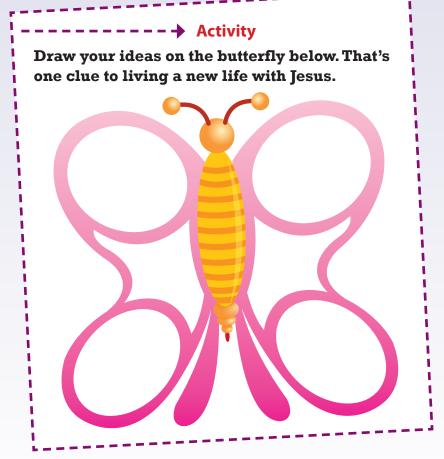
Jesus dies and goes into the tomb. He comes out as our risen King Jesus, who lives forever. He gives us a chance to change, too, just as butterflies change!



Monday, the 5th week of Lent,

I was sick and you cared for me. - Matthew 25:36 -

One way we can live a new life in Jesus is by caring for the sick. Do you know anyone sick in your family or class? You could offer to help them with a task. You could make them a card. You could play a board game with them. You could watch a video with them. What are other ways you can care for them?



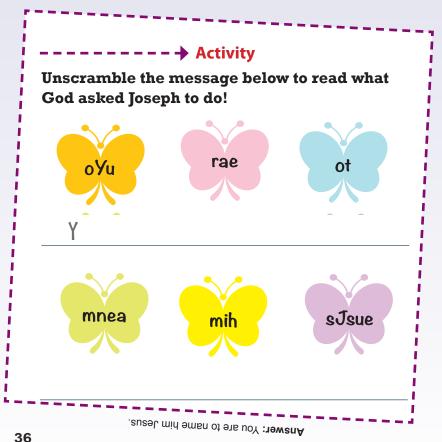


Whoever receives one such child, receives me.

– Mark 9:37 –

God asked Joseph to take care of Jesus and his mother, Mary. Joseph said, "Yes!" Joseph welcomed God's own child.

Take a clue from Saint Joseph and find a way to welcome a child younger than you are! You can let them choose a game for you both to play. You can read them a book.



Wednesday, the 5th week of Lent

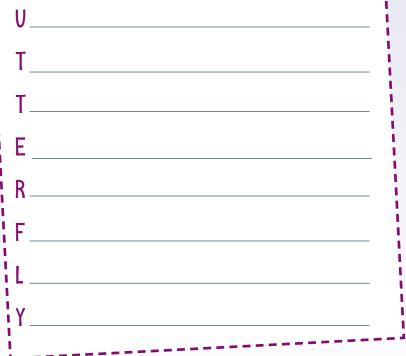
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

- Matthew 25:35 -

----- Activity

This butterfly is a puzzle! Ask your family to help you think of ways to care for others as Jesus did. Each idea should start with one of the letters in the word butterfly. We've given the first idea below. What ideas can you and your family add? All these clues show us ways to share in the life of Jesus—forever!

B ring water to someone thirsty.

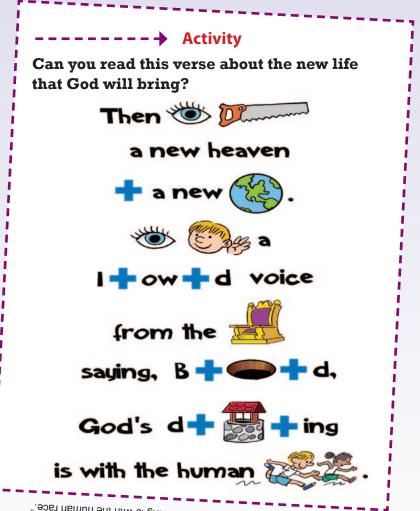


Thursday, the 5th week of Lent

See, I make all things new.

- Revelations 21:5 -

Happy spring! Just as butterflies are a sign of spring, so Easter is a sign of new life. God wants new life for all people, just as God gave new life to Jesus.

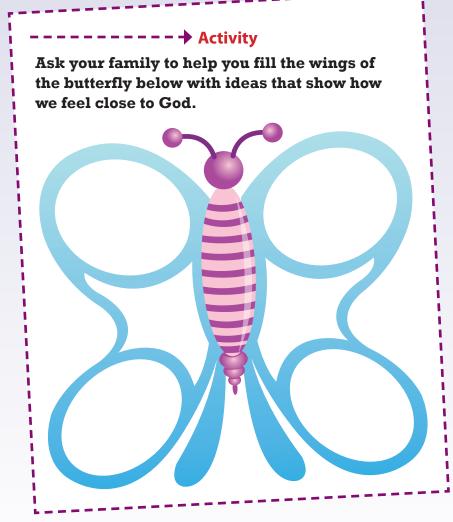


Amswer: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying "God's dwelling is with the human race."

Friday, the 5th week of Lent

Teach one another. - Colossians 3:16 -

Everyone connects to God in a different way. Ask yourself: How do you feel close to God? Now ask your family the same question.

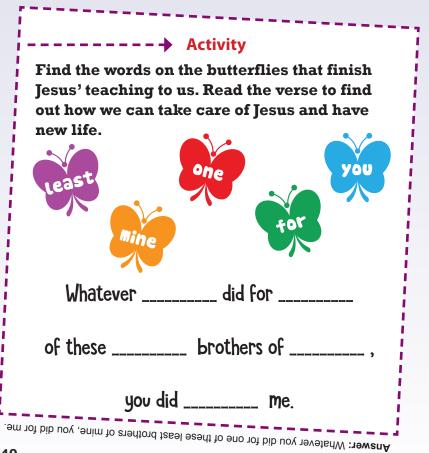


Saturday, the 5th week of Lent

I was hungry and you gave me food. - Matthew 25:35 -

Today Jesus gives us another clue about living a new life with him. Some of these clues sound mysterious, too! How can we give Jesus food? How can we bring Jesus drink? How can we care for him when he is hungry?

The answer is in Jesus' words below—but some of them are flying away!



Palm Sunday

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

– Luke 19:38 –

Jesus rides into Jerusalem and the people call him king. But God's king is not like other kings. They wave palms to give him glory, but God's glory is not like the glory of other kings.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem where he will die, but his death is not like other deaths, either. The first Glorious Mystery of the rosary is the resurrection of Jesus. Even when sad days happen, remember: Jesus lives. Jesus wants us all to live with him forever.

----- Activity

On the palm fronds below, you'll find letters that spell out what the people call to Jesus as he rides into Jerusalem.

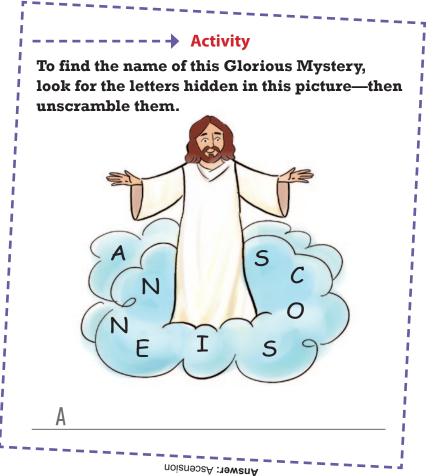
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Answer: hosanna

Monday in Holy Week

A cloud took him from their sight. - Acts 1:9-

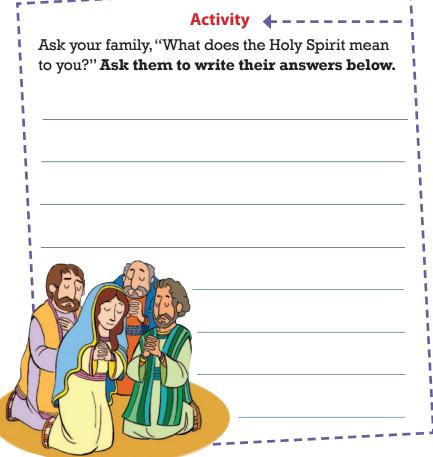
The second Glorious Mystery of the rosary is another clue to Easter. Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus goes to be with God, and promises us: the Holy Spirit will come to us. We will have the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus. We will be with God forever, just like Jesus. This is the promise of Easter.



Tuesday in Holy Week

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. -Acts 2:4 -

The third Glorious Mystery of the rosary is another clue to Easter. The promise of Jesus comes true! As Mary and all the disciples of Jesus pray, the Holy Spirit comes upon them.



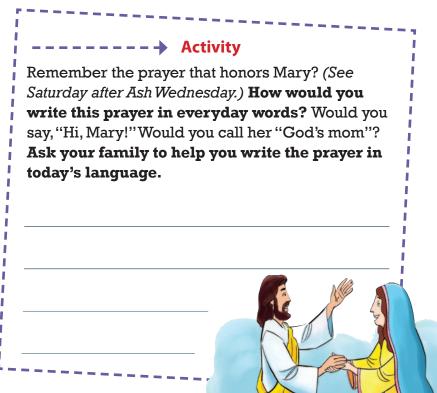
Wednesday in Holy Week

A great sign appeared: a woman, clothed with the sun.

– Revelation 12:1 –

The fourth and fifth Glorious Mysteries of the rosary go together! In the fourth Glorious Mystery, Mary, the mother of Jesus is taken up into heaven to be with Jesus forever. In the fifth Glorious Mystery, Mary is crowned as the queen of heaven.

We love Mary because she gave us Jesus and taught him how to love us. These mysteries of the rosary tell us that God loves her, too. She will live with God forever.

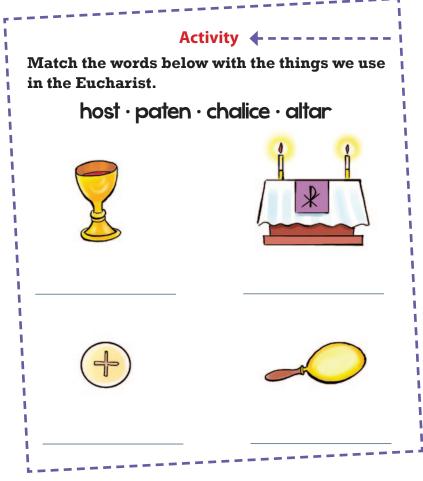




I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

-Luke 22:15 -

Today we remember that Jesus ate his last supper with his disciples. This was the first Eucharist, long ago. The Mass is another clue to Easter: we will share bread and wine with God and God's People forever.



Good Friday

Bowing his head, he handed over his spirit.

- John 19:30 -

lt is Finished

Fish

From Jesus' death, God makes new life for all creation. From the last words of Jesus, how many new words can you make? Use the letters below and mix them to make as many new words as you can.

It is finished

Holy Saturday

Early in the morning, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. - John 20:1 -

Today we wait for Easter. All our clues are solved. We know who Jesus is and the stories of his birth. We know how he lived, died and rose again. We know that he wants us to live with him forever.



The Mysteries

When we pray the rosary, we think about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by using the events called mysteries, that is, those events that give us very good clues about who Jesus is and what God is doing for us through him. **These mysteries are:**

The Joyful Mysteries

- 1. The Annunciation
- 2. The Visitation
- 3. The Birth of Jesus
- 4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- 5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries

- 1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
- 2. The Wedding at Cana
- 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- 4. The Transfiguration
- 5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries

- 1. The Agony in the Garden
- 2. The Scourging at the Pillar
- 3. The Crowning with Thorns
- 4. The Carrying of the Cross
- 5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

The Glorious Mysteries

- 1. The Resurrection
- 2. The Ascension
- 3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit
- 4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- 5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Easter Sunday

The Lord has truly been raised! - Luke 24:34 -

---- Activity

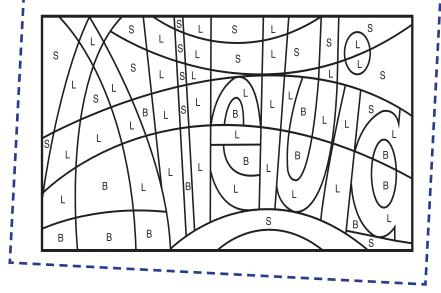
In the puzzle below, color all the spaces marked "B" with blue, for the Joyful Mysteries.

Color all the spaces marked "L" with yellow, for the Luminous Mysteries.

Color all the spaces marked "S" with purple, for the Sorrowful Mysteries.

All the spaces that are left, leave white, **for the glorious mysteries.**

What word do they spell? That's the word for Easter! Say it to another member of your family today —and **HAPPY EASTER!**



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