

DUE: April 30, 2012

Name:

Confirmation Mass Assignment
April 1, 2012
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47.

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection

The Passion reading in Mark's gospel begins with an unnamed woman pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' head and continues through the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples praying in Gethsemane, the arrest of Jesus, his trial, crucifixion, death and burial. Of course the disciples scattered and made no claim to Jesus. He was left alone to die a degrading death. Some women stood and watched at a distance and a Jewish man, Joseph of Arimathea, gave him a tomb.

It's human nature, to cry out when an injustice takes place. But Jesus didn't argue with Pilate. He didn't even express sadness at the desertion of his disciples. In fact, he knew that Judas would betray him and Peter would deny him. Like Jesus, we hope for the best of strength and courage from others, but things will happen in their lives where they fail. The most important lesson we can learn from Jesus is that of the unconditional love he had for his disciples. Even after they denied and deserted him, he still came to them in love and reconciliation.

Throughout the Passion of Jesus, we see much suffering and disappointment. People accuse Jesus, desert him, betray him and in the end, execute him. There is very little joy in this long account of Jesus' final days on this earth. But as Jesus promised, there *was* joy and that is truly good news for us. Where are the places in this world, in our community, or even in your family where all you can see is unhappiness and gloom. Take another look at these situations and see where is the hand of God, the Good News, the hope. Look hard and help one another find the joy.

Gospel Questions:

1. Sometimes it is difficult to admit I am a follower of Jesus, especially when...

2. Like Simon helped carry the heavy cross for Jesus, I once helped someone carry a heavy burden when...

Name:

3. It's easy to criticize Peter for denying Jesus, but one time when it was difficult for me to act like Jesus would want me to was when...

DUE: April 30, 2012

Name:

Confirmation Mass Assignment
April 8th, 2012

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Gospel John 20:1-9

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection

Imagine the headlines that might accompany this Easter gospel: "Woman Finds Tomb Empty," "Race to Tomb Lost by Peter," "Burial Shroud Mysteriously Vacated." John's account makes it clear that Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the empty tomb. Like Peter and John, she did not at first understand that Jesus had risen from the dead.

In an historical time when women were not allowed to testify in a court of law, Jesus chose a woman to be the first witness to the empty tomb and to the risen Lord himself. The very next story in John's Gospel tells us how Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus and he sends her to announce to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18).

Whenever we hear this or any other Easter gospel proclaimed, we can rejoice that we too have been chosen as witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God who has risen from the dead.

Gospel Questions:

1. Why do you think Mary Magdalene, Peter and John did not know what to make of the empty tomb, at first? If you had been among them, what might you have seen as a "clue" inside the tomb?
2. Name some of the things this reading reveals to you about these three disciples.
3. Like the first disciples, we are not always completely fearless and faithful witnesses to the risen Jesus. But he has chosen us just the same! Name one quality or skill you can use to help others experience the joy of following Jesus.

Name:

4. Sometimes when we hide behind the locked doors of doubt, fear, or anger, Jesus makes his presence known to us. What are some of the ways he might do that?

Name:

3. One of the best examples I have recently seen (or heard of) where someone shares the Good News is...

Name:

DUE: April 30, 2012

Confirmation Mass Assignment
April 29th, 2012

Gospel of John 10:11-18

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

Jesus tells us in today's gospel that he is the Good Shepherd. He makes a distinction between good shepherds, hired hands, and wolves. As a good shepherd, Jesus knows his sheep and his sheep know him. He is so devoted to his sheep that he is willing to die for them. Not only is this image fitting for Jesus and God's people, but it helps explain the love of God for his son.

When we consider the people in our lives, we find most of them represented in this scripture. There are the good shepherds. Mostly they are parents and grandparents or other relatives who make a positive impact in our lives. Then there are "hired hands" who help us because they benefit in some way—usually monetarily. But when push comes to shove, how much of themselves will they invest? It even happens that sometimes the people we thought were shepherds turn out to be hired hands. Finally there are the wolves—all the things that distract the shepherds or lead the sheep away. We need to be aware of who these people are in our lives. We even need to look into our own hearts and desires and be certain that there are no wolves luring us from following the right path towards God.

Gospel Questions:

1. Most of the time I am a sheep in the flock, but once in a while I am a wolf when...

2. Sometimes it is difficult for me to be a shepherd because . . . I will try to overcome this by...

Name:

3. Looking back on this situation, I recognize that I was a lost sheep and Jesus, the Good Shepherd, called me back by...