



GIFT – April 2020

Holy Week and Sacraments of Initiation

Recap of April GIFT:

This month's session took a different approach as we are all required to be staying at home to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. We took our sessions online and held a Zoom meeting to look at Holy Week and review the symbols used during the Sacraments of Initiation. During the session we:

- Prayed an opening prayer to call to mind Holy Week
- Heard from Fr. Steve about the Paschal Mystery and the days of Holy Week
- Reviewed the Sacraments of Initiation and their symbols with Deacon Chris
- Discussed the contents of the Home Kits that were mailed out
- Ended with a prayer of hope and healing for everyone as we are impacted by the coronavirus

We know this is a challenging time for everyone and understand many of you were not able to make the session. Please know of our continued prayers for all our families and parishioners during these uncertain times. If your family was unable to attend the session, we invite you to go through the following pages to experience some of the parts of our April session.

Opening Prayer: A Prayer for Holy Week

Lord God,

I give you thanks, for you are good, and your mercy is endless.

Here I stand, at the start of this Holy Week, this week in which your Church remembers Jesus' passion and death.

I am distracted by many things.

Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in Your name

The One who opens the gates of righteousness

The One who answers when we call.

I bless you, Lord, for shining Your light upon me,

And for sending Your son to us, in human frailty.

To walk the road we walk.

Open my eyes that I may see him coming.

Let me praise him with a pure heart,

And walk in the way of his suffering,

to then share also in his resurrection.

We as this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



HOLY WEEK



Fr. Steve's and Deacon Chris' Presentations

Fr. Steve spoke with us about the Paschal Mystery—the Passion, Death, and Resurrection—of Jesus and the what happens in Holy Week.

Deacon Chris spent some time talking about the symbols we associate with the Sacraments of Initiation (those that would normally be received at the Easter Vigil).

Use this link to watch the presentations: <https://vimeo.com/409035081/b305f618e2>

Home Kit Resources and Activities for the month:

We mailed out this month's home kits. If your family did not receive one in the mail, please let us know and also send us your current address to make sure we have it correct in our files.

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help (picture of the statue from our church) and Memorare Prayer Card
 - o Pray the Memorare for peace and comfort during this time and display this prayer card to remind your family of our physical church
- Sacraments Worksheet
 - o Revisit all the symbols for the sacraments and complete the matching worksheet
- [Holy Week Guide](#)
 - o Put this up on your refrigerator for information and ideas on celebrating each of the days of Holy Week at home
- Holy Week Activity Book and/or Easter Stickers
 - o Spend more time reflecting on the days of Holy Week and Easter with these activities and stickers
- [Triduum](#) and [Easter](#) Coloring Sheets
 - o Color and display your Triduum page during the Three Days of Triduum and switch to your Alleluia on Easter to celebrate the return of this joyful acclamation!
- Letter and Envelope for one of our Elect or Candidates
 - o Please write a letter of prayer and congratulations to one of our elect or candidates preparing to receive the sacraments of Initiation
 - o Their name, with letter and addressed envelope (addressed to the church) is included, please either drop your letter off at the parish office or add a stamp and mail back to us and we will distribute to all in the coming weeks

Announcements and Closing Prayer:

For the health and safety of our community and in support of the city, county, and state restrictions, we will continue to not have Masses or gathered events until further notice. We do not yet know when we



will be able to start celebrating Masses again, which also includes scheduled dates for the sacraments. If you have a child preparing for sacraments this year, we will give an update as soon as we know.

Our website is being updated regularly with resources on practicing the faith at home, celebrating Sunday at home, our partnership with Catholic Charities and the San Diego Food Bank on emergency food distribution, and ways to pray for each other. We also are keeping in touch through social media.

Visit our sites to stay connected:

Website: <https://www.saintbrigidparish.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintBrigidSD>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saintbrigidsd/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/4saintbrigidparish/>

Please know of our continued prayers for you and your families. If you have any specific needs and/or suggestions on how we can stay better connected, please let us know!

For our closing prayer, we used the prayer written by Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles for these times:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

*Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.*

*For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.*

*In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another
and to be patient and kind.*

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

*Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

