

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES



TOPIC(S): PREPARING TO LIVE THE EASTER SEASON FULLY
THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) OF JESUS' PASCHAL MYSTERY
FAMILY ROSARY – THE GLORIOUS MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION
THE DIVINE MERCY

REFERENCES: CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
nos. 638, 1169

SACRED SCRIPTURE

MK 16:6;
JN 20;
ROM 1:16;
1 COR 15:1-9

CREED

nos.
210-11,
270-71,
638-58,
766,
1026

LITURGY

nos.
1067,
1085-86,
1166-71

LIFE

nos.
1694,
1846-
48, 2174

PRAYER

nos.
2606,
2637,
2659,
2774,
2837

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, by Your radiant and magnificent Resurrection, You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a conqueror. You reconciled Heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before You redeemed us. Your Resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence, and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your love!

(Pope Saint Gregory the Great)

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Glory Be...

Goals

- Families will reflect on the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus' Paschal Mystery
- Families will make their *Living-the-Easter-Season Family Plan*

Ice Breaker

Sketch a family member!

Try to guess who it is!



What Family Holy Week activities did you do during Holy Week and Easter Sunday? Describe how these experiences impacted your family.

Did you grow closer to God or to one another?



Would you make these activities a family tradition for Holy Week and Easter Sunday?

April

2024



Dedicated To The Eucharist And The Holy Spirit

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Easter Monday	Easter Tuesday	Easter Wednesday	Easter Thursday	Easter Friday	Easter Saturday
7 	8	9	10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)	The Annunciation (transferred from Mar 25)					
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
3rd Sunday of Easter						
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)		St. George		St. Mark		St. Zita
28 	29	30				
5th Sunday of Easter St. Gianna Molla	St. Catherine of Siena	Our Lady of Africa				



LITANY OF SAINTS

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| April 1 | St. Melito, pray for us | April 16 | St. Bernadette, pray for us |
| April 2 | St. Francis of Paola, pray for us | April 17 | St. Stephen Harding, pray for us |
| April 3 | Sts. Irene, Agape, and Chionia, pray | April 18 | St. Apollonius the Apologist, pray for us |
| April 4 | St. Isadore of Seville, pray for us | April 19 | St. Leo IX, pray for us |
| April 5 | St. Vincent Ferrer, pray for us | April 20 | St. Agnes of Montepulciano, pray for us |
| April 6 | Martyrs of Persia, pray for us | April 21 | St. Anselm, pray for us |
| April 7 | St. John Baptist de la Salle, pray for us | April 22 | St. Apapitus I, pray for us |
| April 8 | St. Julia Billiard, pray for us | April 23 | St. George, pray for us |
| April 9 | St. Mary Cleophas, pray for us | April 24 | St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen |
| April 10 | St. Fulbert, pray for us | April 25 | St. Mark, pray for us |
| April 11 | St. Gemma Galgani, pray for us | April 26 | St. Peter of Braga, pray for us |
| April 12 | St. Julius I, pray for us | April 27 | St. Zita, pray for us |
| April 13 | St. Martin I, pray for us | April 28 | St. Gianna Molla, pray for us |
| April 14 | Bl. Peter Gonzalez, pray for us | April 29 | St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us |
| April 15 | Sts. Basilissa and Anastasia, pray for us | April 30 | Our Lady of Africa, pray for us |

ALL YOU SAINTS AND ANGELS, PRAY FOR US.



APRIL

DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Divine Mercy Sunday 7 April

Annunciation 8 April

3rd Sunday of Easter 14 April

Good Shepherd Sunday 21 April

St. George 23 April

St. Mark 25 April

St. Gianna Molla 28 April

St. Catherine of Siena 29 April



Cherry Cake



Perfect for feast of St. Mark (April 25) or St. Gregory (Sep 3)

Ingredients

- 1 box (13.25 oz) white cake mix, plus ingredients listed on the box
- 3 oz box cherry Jell-O
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup cold water
- 8 oz whipped topping
- 12 maraschino cherries

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 inch pan. In a large bowl, mix and bake the cake mix according to box instructions. Allow cake to cool for 10 minutes. Poke holes in the cake every ½ inch or so using a skewer stick. Prepare the Jell-O according to package and whisk for 3 minutes. Slowly pour the prepared liquid over the cake, allowing it to absorb into the holes. Refrigerate for 4 hours. To serve, top with whipped topping and maraschino cherries.



Cherries are a traditional food eaten on the feast of St. Mark dating back to the 6th century! Legend has it that Pope St. Gregory the Great had a particular fondness for cherries. One year, St. Gregory found himself craving cherries on the feast day of St. Mark, but they weren't in season yet. Despite the fact that cherries were not available, St. Gregory's craving persisted. He prayed fervently for cherries, and miraculously, one of the barren cherry trees flashed and was immediately covered with ripe cherries. In some versions it's said that an angel performed the miracle, and in other versions it was a miracle of Saint Mark himself. Saint Gregory took this as a sign of abundance and blessing. He was so overwhelmed with awe and gratitude that he shared the cherries with others. From that day on it became a tradition to bless and distribute cherries on St. Mark's feast day in honor of this miracle! So this is the perfect feast day to enjoy a special cherry treat.

Story Behind The Dish

A decorative border made of watercolor-style floral and leaf motifs in various colors including teal, yellow, purple, pink, and orange, surrounding the central text.

He is not here

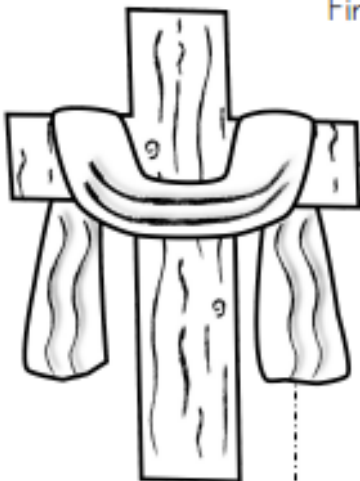
For He
has
been
raised
just as
He
said.

Matthew 28:6

Easter Word Search

J	A	K	N	S	S	A	H	G	S	E
E	J	C	L	O	R	D	M	A	T	O
S	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	R	O	H
G	X	J	O	A	B	Y	B	C	N	J
H	T	Y	A	V	A	G	R	A	E	E
Y	O	L	H	I	B	H	I	S	T	S
A	M	G	L	O	R	Y	S	K	E	U
O	B	L	C	R	O	Z	E	R	B	S
P	M	O	Q	S	S	L	N	L	A	Z

Find the words related to Easter listed in the box below in the puzzle area above. Words can be found going across → or down ↓



Jesus
Lord
Messiah
Savior

Tomb
Stone
Risen
Glory

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla Crack the Code

The feast day of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla happens each year on April 28th. Gianna was born in Magenta, Italy in 1922. She was a doctor, wife, and mother. Gianna gave up her own life to save her unborn baby. Saint Gianna is the patron saint of doctors, mothers, and unborn children.

Crack the code below to find out what Gianna Beretta wanted to do before she met and married Pietro Molla.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	5	15	21	6	16	13	7	19	1	22	8	14	17	2	24	9	25	10	3	26	11	4	18	23	20

10	7	6

4	12	17	3	6	21

3	2

21	2

14	6	21	19	15	12	8



14	19	10	10	19	2	17	12	25	23

4	2	25	22

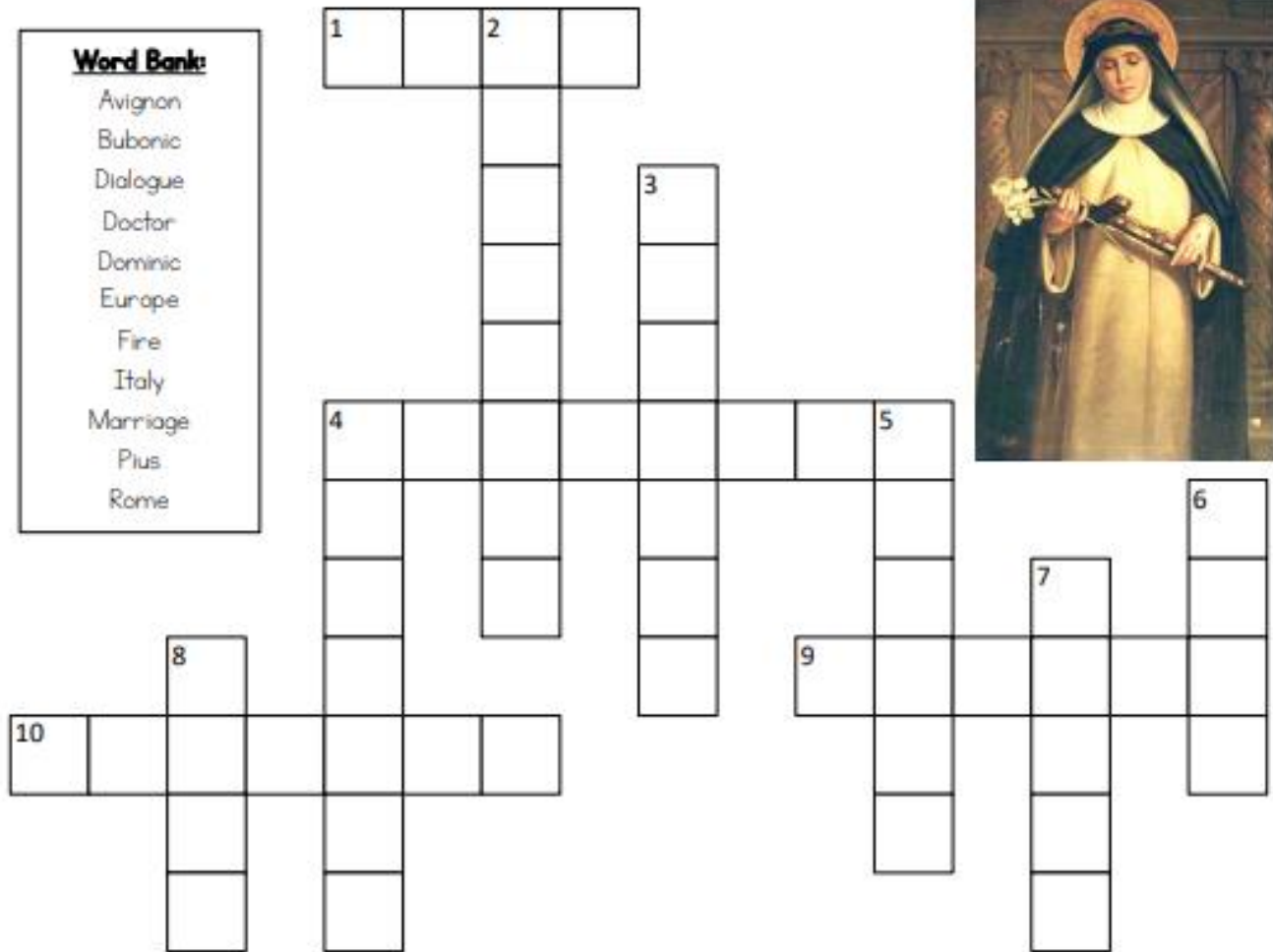
19	17

5	25	12	20	19	8

Saint Catherine of Siena Crossword

Word Bank:

Avignon
 Bubonic
 Dialogue
 Doctor
 Dominic
 Europe
 Fire
 Italy
 Marriage
 Plus
 Rome



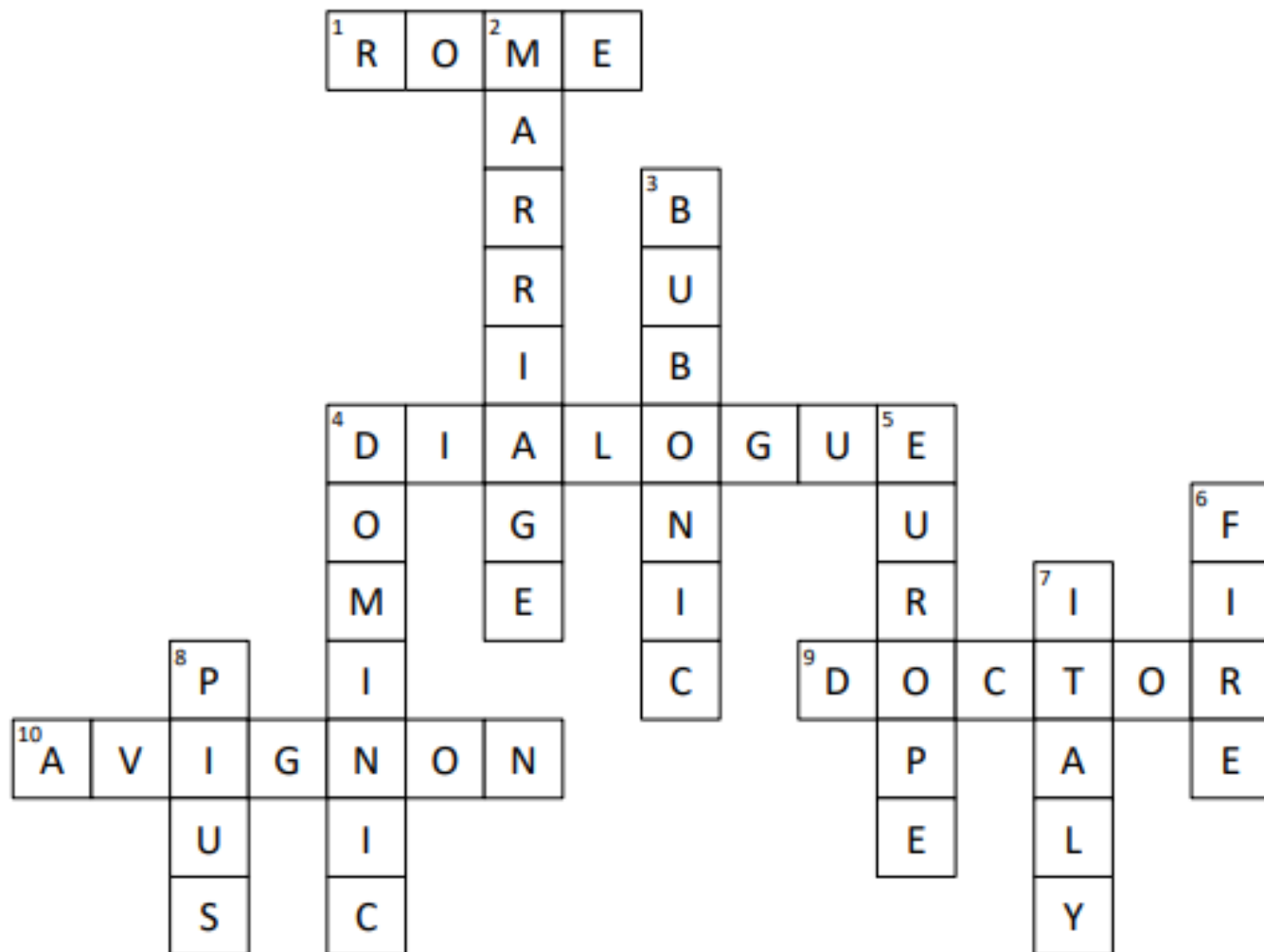
Across

- Catherine died in this city
- Most of Catherine's writings were gathered into a collection called The _____
- In 1970, Saint Catherine was named as a _____ of the Church
- Catherine wrote letters and petitions to try to get the papacy to move from _____ and back to Rome

Down

- Catherine experienced a mystical _____ with Jesus
- Catherine ministered to the sick and poor during this plague
- As a vocation, Catherine joined the Third Order of Saint _____
- Saint Catherine of Siena is one of the patron saints of this continent
- Saint Catherine is the patron saint for the prevention of this
- Present-day country where Catherine was born
- Saint Catherine of Siena was canonized by Pope II in 1461

Saint Catherine of Siena Crossword

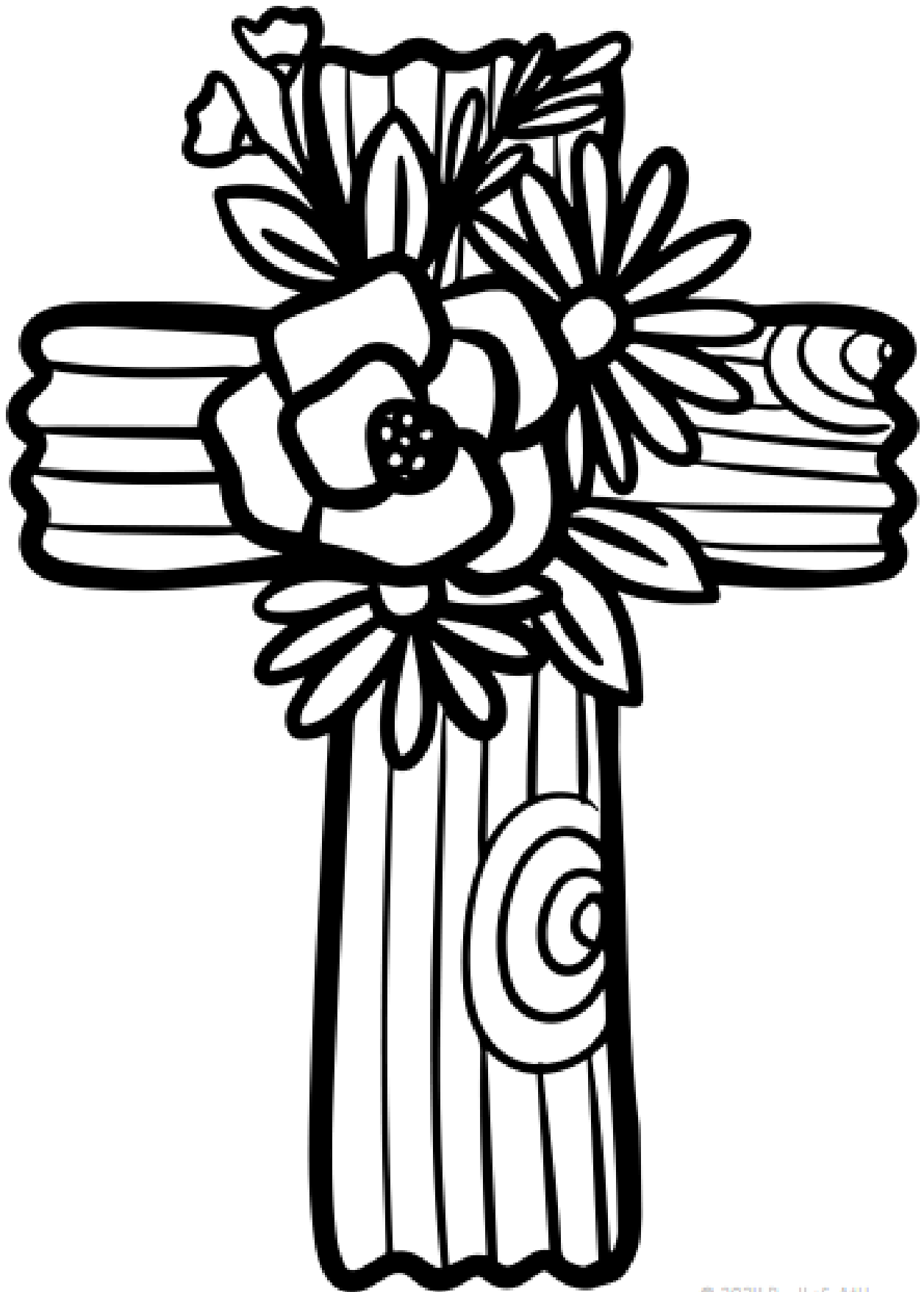


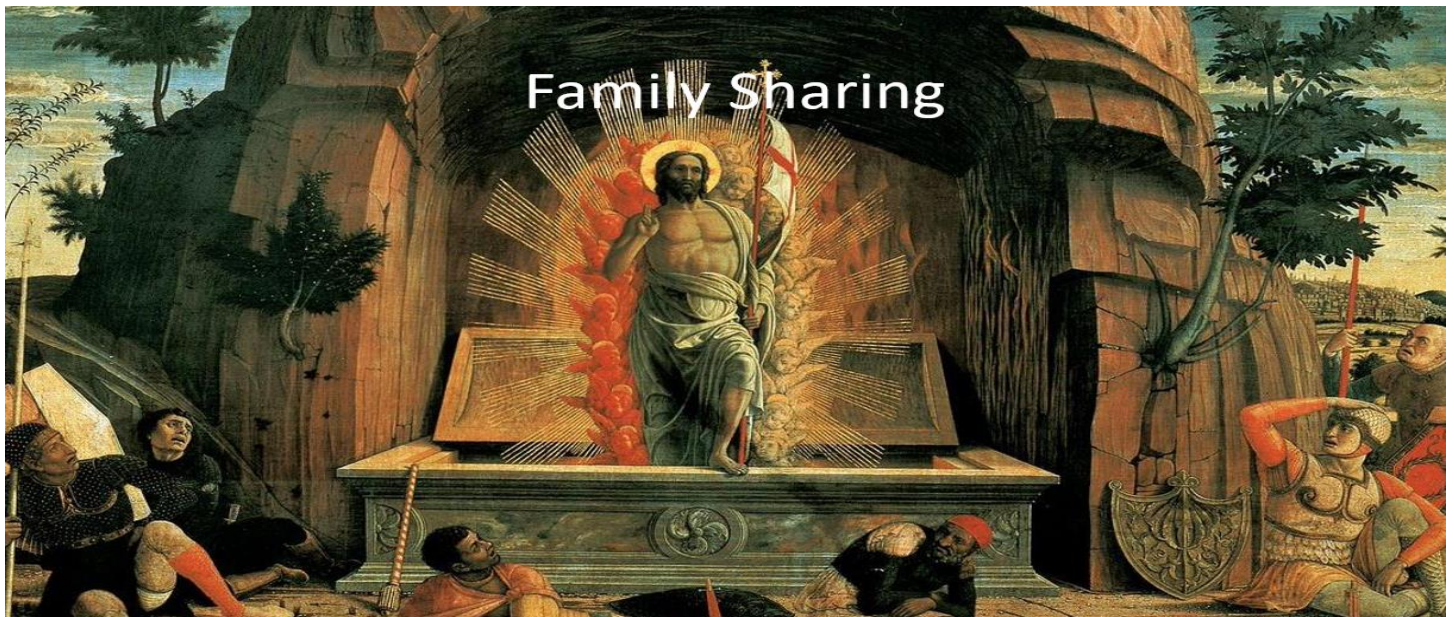
Across

- Catherine died in this city
- Most of Catherine's writings were gathered into a collection called The _____
- In 1970, Saint Catherine was named as a _____ of the Church
- Catherine wrote letters and petitions to try to get the papacy to move from _____ and back to Rome

Down

- Catherine experienced a mystical _____ with Jesus
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Family Sharing

<https://youtu.be/Siv3MQcHrq8>

Explain: Saint John Paul II said that “We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!” At Easter we celebrate the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection and of God’s invitation to live with Him in Heaven forever! But Easter is more than just one day! It is actually the longest liturgical season we have in the Church. The Easter season is fifty days long and officially begins at the Easter Vigil (the night before Easter Sunday). **Ask:** Why is Easter the longest liturgical season? **Answer:** One day for Easter would never be enough for us to celebrate all the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead! For when He died and rose (and ascended to the Father), Jesus opened the gates of Heaven, so that when we die, we too, by the Lord’s good grace, can go to Heaven and be with God. Easter is a most important and glorious time! **Explain:** During the Easter Season, for fifty (50) days we live the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection and God’s invitation to us to live with Him in Heaven forever! **Ask:** What are the first eight days of Easter called? **Answer:** The first eight days of Easter is called the Easter Octave, and all eight days are celebrated as Solemnities (the most solemn or greatest of feast days).

https://youtu.be/AtfEa4_QQLc

Ask: What does the word “Gospel” mean? **Answer:** Good News! **Ask:** What do you think the Good News is? (hint: It is written in our Creed) **Answer:** Jesus Christ was crucified, died, was buried, and rose again from the dead, ascending forty days later into Heaven. Jesus did this so that our sins could be forgiven— so death could not hold us as it could not hold Him. Jesus saved us; He rescued us from our sins (and from the grasp of the devil and death), becoming the way to Heaven, that we might live with God and those we love forever. This is the Good News, the Gospel! It is called the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus’ Paschal Mystery (His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Glorious Ascension), which is the whole reason God the Father sent His Son Jesus to us. God so loved the world... (Jn 3:16). In Jesus, we know we are beloved by God!

SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 638:

“We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus” (Acts 13:32-33). The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

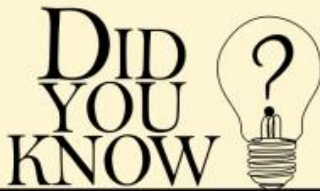
Christ is risen from the dead!

Dying, he conquered death;

To the dead, he has given life. (Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion of Easter)

Pope St. John Paul II, Angelus (November 30, 1986):

“... We know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. ‘We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!’ We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the ‘fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy.’ We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: ‘Be it done unto me according to thy word.’



The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. It is an important Feast and comes at the end of the Easter Octave. It was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II.

The Feast of the Ascension, when Jesus ascended to Heaven to return to the Father, comes forty (40) days after Easter Sunday. In the U.S., the celebration of the Ascension is often transferred to the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday, the fiftieth (50th) and last day of the Easter season.

How will you celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and Pentecost as a family?

IDEAS FOR THE EASTER SEASON

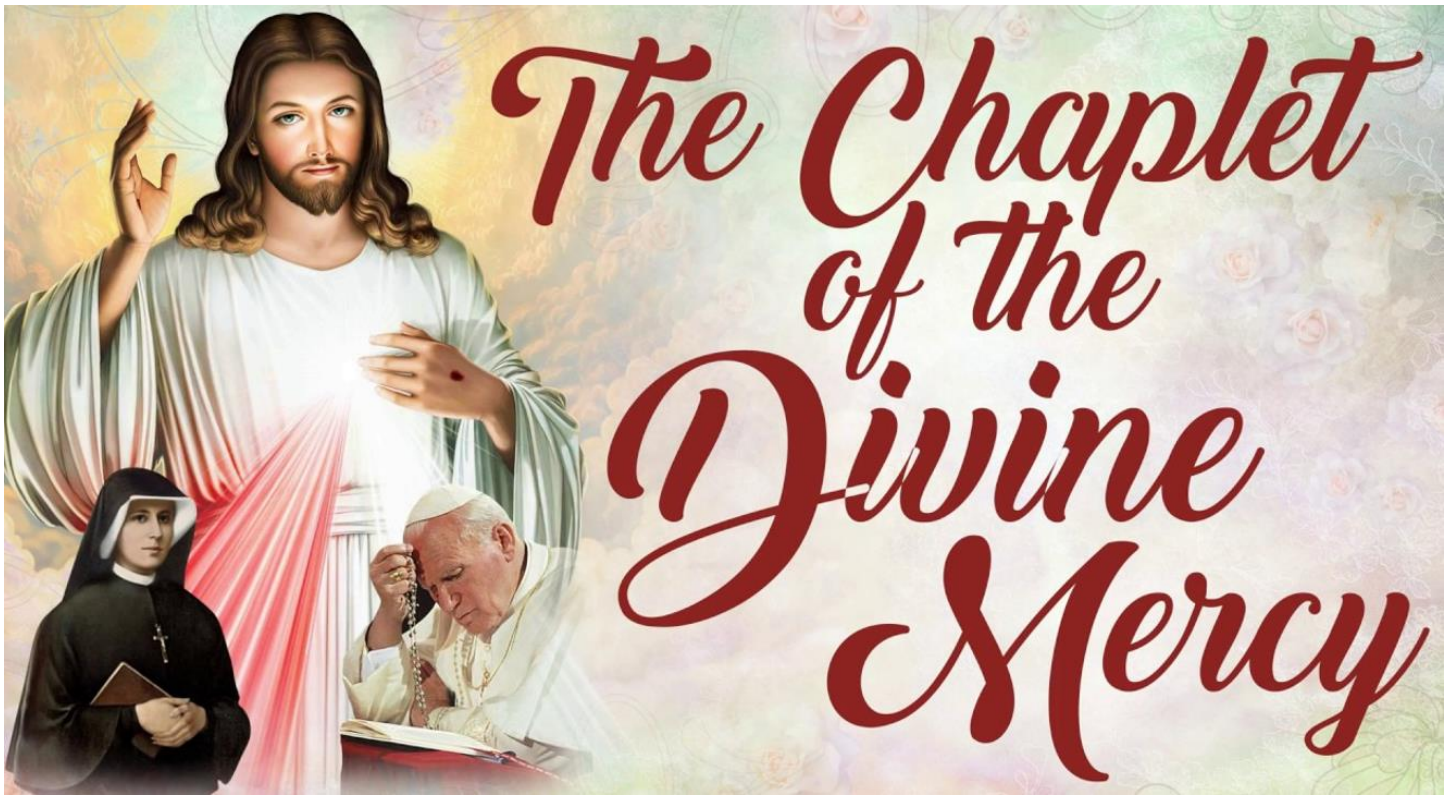
Easter is not just one day it's 50!

Easter is a time of joy and light for Christians, after the 40 days of Lent we have the 50 glorious days of Easter, lasting from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Why not do some special things which add to your life and faith this Easter Season? Here are some ideas to help you.

Visit a lovely place and simply sit there and thank God for beauty
Have a small vase of flowers in a prominent place in your home
Eat a small special piece of chocolate and savor the taste
Read the account of Easter morning in John 20:1-18
For a few days make a list of things you are grateful for
Come to a weekday Mass in the Easter Season, each week if possible
Take a 15-minute walk, carefully notice the things you see
Give away something each day – a material thing, or a smile
Make a chart of the 50 days of Easter and make some plans!
Send some Easter cards with a greeting to some friends or distant family
Place a lovely postcard you have received prominently in your home
Read the story of the Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35
Try to identify one place each day where you encountered Jesus
Invite a friend for tea to your home, or to a café
Look at old photographs of departed loved ones and give thanks
Learn a new recipe for a simple cake and share a piece
Give a donation for Easter flowers at Church to share their beauty
In May, Mary's month, say the Rosary one day or more
Support a local food bank and help feed children and families in need
Plan a special Eastertime meal
It's okay to have questions. Read about 'Doubting Thomas' John 20:24-29
Plant a sunflower seed
When you come to church make sure you have a time of quiet
Give a small gift to say Thank You to someone
Think of an Easter hymn or poem you like and read it
Make an Easter gift, food or a card, say, and give it away
Place a sign of Easter (flowers or a cross...) where you work
Sort out, or put up, your bird feeder
Sort out your clothes and give some to charity
Give an Easter gift to a child you know
Pray for joy, beauty and a spirit of love and generosity
Read St Matthew's account of the Resurrection: Matthew 28

Rose, Thorn, and Spaghetti

Each family member shares three highlights from their day: One is the rose (the best thing that happened that day); the second is the thorn (something the person wishes hadn't happened or something unpleasant that happened); and the third thing is the spaghetti (something funny or unexpected that happened).



Explain: We have learned about the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, the Resurrection, and the Easter season. Today we will reflect on Jesus' Divine Mercy. To do this we have to look at two stories. The first story is about the piercing of Jesus on the Cross and the power of the blood and water which flowed from his side. The second is about when, in 1931, Jesus appeared to a simple religious sister. He told her to tell everyone that the blood and water that flow from His side is from His Heart and is a source of mercy for the whole world.

Explain: An early tradition identifies St. Longinus as the centurion who, when ordered to break the legs of Jesus when He was already dead on the cross, chose not to do it. Out of compassion for Mary, Jesus' mother who stood at the foot of the cross and had already seen her Son suffer so much, Longinus instead pierced the side of Our Lord with his lance or spear (the Gospel of John includes the account of the piercing of Christ's side). The lance reached into the Heart of Jesus. When he pulled it out of Christ's side, blood and water poured out, as noted in John's Gospel. According to early tradition, Longinus, who was nearly blind at the time, was miraculously healed when some of the blood and water fell onto his eyes. It was then that he exclaimed "Indeed, this was the Son of God!" (see Mark 15:39— the tradition identifies Longinus as the centurion who exclaimed these words in Mark's Gospel). Not only were St. Longinus' eyes healed, but his soul was healed as well!

Read: John 19:31-37, The Blood and Water

Many Church Fathers taught that the Church was born from the pierced Heart of Jesus on the Cross—the blood and water signifying the sacraments instituted by Christ and celebrated by the Church, through which the Lord’s mercy and grace are poured out upon the world.

St. Longinus believed in Jesus, left the army, and was taught about Jesus by the Apostles. He became a monk and lived a life of holiness, never forgetting the great love and mercy that God had shown him. Later, he became one of the early Christian martyrs and died for his love for Jesus Christ. Today, the lance that Longinus used to pierce the side of Jesus is contained in one of the four pillars over the altar in the Basilica of St Peter’s in Rome.

St. Faustina who was the religious sister to whom Jesus appeared in 1931. He told her to make an image of His mercy and to tell the whole world that He wanted to pour out His mercy on all people, just like He had done for St. Longinus. Jesus also gave Faustina a special prayer called the Divine Mercy Chaplet. When we pray this chaplet, God makes us four promises.

In addition to praying the chaplet, Jesus also asked that we go to confession and receive Holy Communion nine (9) days before or after the Feast of Divine Mercy.

<https://youtu.be/cEbDRfbiAdU>

<https://youtu.be/PRJyLb-MAFU>

<https://youtu.be/PLEN7gZ67F0>

