



# Parent Page Newsletter

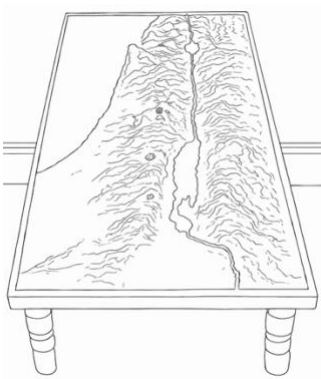
For the parents of children in the CGS Atrium March 2026

## Lent and Holy Week

The forty days of Lent give our families a special season to prepare our hearts for the great feast of Easter, when we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. During the first weeks of Lent, we focus on returning to the Lord with all our hearts and renewing our relationship with Him. As we enter Holy Week, the Church's prayer and worship begin to shift, and we notice meaningful changes in the liturgy. Beginning with Palm Sunday, we are invited to enter into the Gospel story more fully, participating in the reading as a way of walking with Jesus and reflecting on the great mystery of His Death and Resurrection.

With Holy Thursday, we begin a three-day celebration called the Easter Triduum. Over these days, the Church invites us to enter more fully into the life of Christ through the liturgies and prayers that mark His Last Supper, His Passion, and His Resurrection. On Thursday, we remember the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples. On Friday, we recall His Passion and Death, and on Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil, we celebrate the light of Christ breaking into the darkness on this Holy Night. Together, these days form one continuous prayer that helps us reflect on the great love Jesus poured out for all people in what we call the Paschal Mystery.

In the atrium, our preparation for the Feast of Easter follows the rhythm and movement of the Church. Because Jesus' Death and Resurrection cannot be separated, we are always careful to remember to announce that although He died, He is risen. Just as the Church helps all of us enter more fully into the events of Holy Week, we support the children in reflecting on these mysteries using the materials in the atrium.



The raised-surface map of the Land of Israel helps the child see that Jesus lived in a real place and at a real time. The children locate Jerusalem on the map as the city where Jesus died and rose. With the youngest children, we do not dwell on the details of His Passion; rather, we focus on the mystery of God's great love. Jesus chose the context of the Passover meal—an annual celebration in Jerusalem—to help His disciples understand the gift of His life. Jesus said He eagerly desired to share this meal with them, and in doing so, He found a way to express His love and His desire to remain close to them. It was at this meal that Jesus spoke new words that had never before been heard at a Passover meal.

Over the bread, Jesus said: "This is my Body, given for you," and over the wine: "This is my Blood, shed for you." The Bread and the Wine become Jesus, who wants to give himself to us and to all people. That night, Jesus found a way to remain, giving the gift of himself to all people of all times. With these words of love, Jesus, the Good Shepherd gives all of himself to all his sheep.

The children also work with a model of the City of Jerusalem that highlights the key places of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection—the upper room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the places where He was tried and condemned, Calvary, and the empty tomb. As they revisit the biblical story, they discover that these moments are part of one great event of love that we call the Paschal Mystery.

