

# Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 20**.

During Holy Week, we enter into the greatest mysteries of our faith. We make our final preparations for Easter. The three days leading up to Easter, in which we enter into the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, are called the Triduum. During the Easter Vigil, we wait to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, and we welcome new members into the Church in the Sacrament of Baptism. **PAGE 148**

We often pray the Stations of the Cross, a prayer through which we remember Jesus' Passion and Death for our Salvation. **PAGE 148**

We commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, we pray and remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the Cross for our Salvation. **PAGE 149**

A vigil is a watch kept the evening before a celebration. At the Easter Vigil, we hear the story of our Salvation, beginning with creation and leading to the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb. **PAGE 150**

The *Exsultet* is a beautiful Easter hymn of praise sung during the Service of Light that begins the Easter Vigil. **PAGE 150**

Jesus' Death teaches us that suffering is part of human life. Jesus showed us how to respond to suffering. **PAGE 151**

We continue to suffer the effects of sin even after we receive forgiveness, which is called temporal punishment. An indulgence is a lessening of temporal punishment that is gained through our participation in prayer and works of charity. **PAGE 151**

Jesus' Resurrection gives us a glimpse of what awaits us after our human lives are over. Jesus promises us eternal life. We, too, have a place in heaven with Jesus. **PAGE 151**

At the moment of death, we will receive God's judgment concerning whether the actions of our lives have brought us closer to or farther from Jesus. That moment is called the particular judgment. **PAGE 152**

Purgatory is the temporary state of purification where every trace of sin is cleared from one's soul to enjoy God's presence in heaven. **PAGE 152**

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