

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

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

The last three days of Holy Week are known as the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Holy Week is the most important week of the liturgical year. **PAGE 148**

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, we hear the story of Jesus' Passion and venerate the Cross. During the Passion, we pray as we hear about Jesus' Crucifixion and Death on the Cross. On Holy Saturday, we celebrate the Easter Vigil to commemorate the night that Jesus rose from the dead. **PAGE 148**

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's Resurrection. This is the highest feast of the year. Easter represents the fulfillment of our Christian faith. **PAGE 148**

Saint Vincent de Paul believed that if he alleviated people's suffering, he could help them experience the joy of Christ's love. He wanted to serve as many people as possible, so he founded organizations that provided help to people in need. **PAGE 149**

The works performed by Saint Vincent de Paul inspired Blessed Frederick Ozanam, and he helped form the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. **PAGES 149 AND 150**

Easter offers us the opportunity to celebrate the promise of an end to suffering, fear, and death itself. We celebrate that Christ is risen and that he will come again. **PAGE 150**

Hope is a confident expectation that everything will be OK and a trust in something that we might not be able to see or have not experienced. **PAGE 151**

In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus and arranged to have him arrested. The Church reminds us that Judaism is the religion of Jesus and is the response to God's Revelation. **PAGE 151**

Peter denied knowing Jesus on three different occasions after Jesus was arrested. Peter's hope and faith in God's mercy helped him overcome despair and become the first leader of the Church. **PAGE 152**

The *Exsultet* is the Easter Proclamation that follows the lighting of the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The *Exsultet* proclaims Christ's Resurrection from the dead for our Salvation. **PAGE 153**

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