

Faith Loops

Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They will be projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass. To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early.

The slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.



It's the Custom!

Why do Christians wave palms on Palm Sunday?

Every year, on Palm Sunday, we wave blessed palms, fashion them into crosses or braid them, and place the palms with crucifixes in our houses for the year. Of course, this dates back two thousand years to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. He was welcomed with the word, '**Hosanna**', which means 'Jesus saves'.



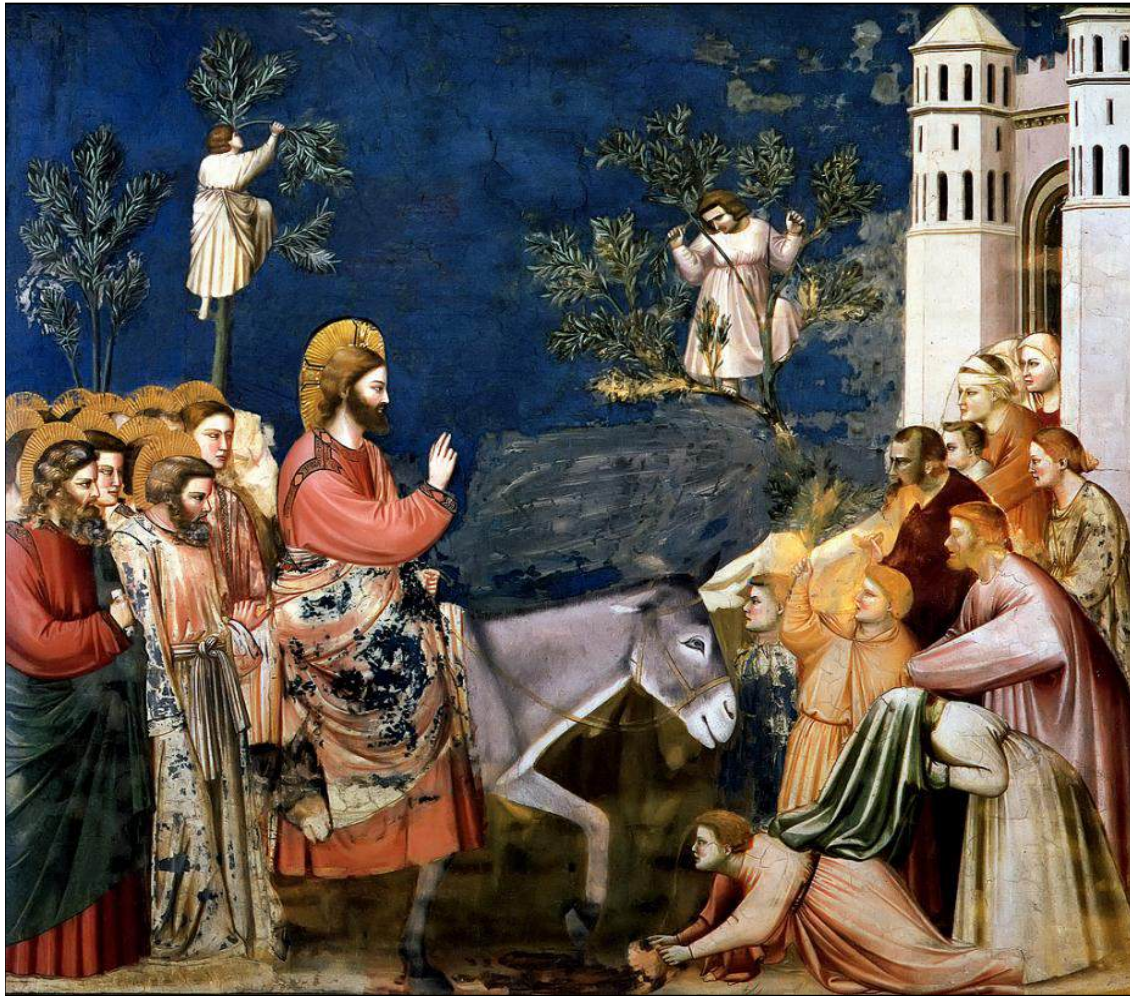


Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the blessing of palm branches.

Palm branches were often used in Jesus' day in parades to signify rejoicing and royalty. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was marked by a parade of sorts.

Jesus was not a king in the traditional sense, but he was the fulfillment of ancient royal promises. His family tree, which includes King David, indicates a royal origin. This lineage signifies his claim to the Davidic throne and his kingship, not in a worldly, political sense, but as the Messiah and Lord.



It's the Custom! Palms

Scripture tells us that “the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him” (John 12:12-13). The scene is depicted in the painting above by the 14th century Italian painter, Giotto.

Palms



After Jesus' resurrection, people joined processions with palm fronds and olive branches from Bethany into Jerusalem, following the same route that Jesus had taken. The celebration of Palm Sunday spread throughout Europe and eventually the entire world. In Slavic countries, farmers would scatter bits of blessed palms around the property to protect crops from bad weather and animals from disease.

Blessed palms are holy objects and require due care and respect. Like any 'sacramental' they are to be disposed of by burying or burning them.

Learning About Liturgy

There are three kinds of oils used in the sacraments:

- Oil of Catechumens
- Oil of Chrism
- Oil of the Sick



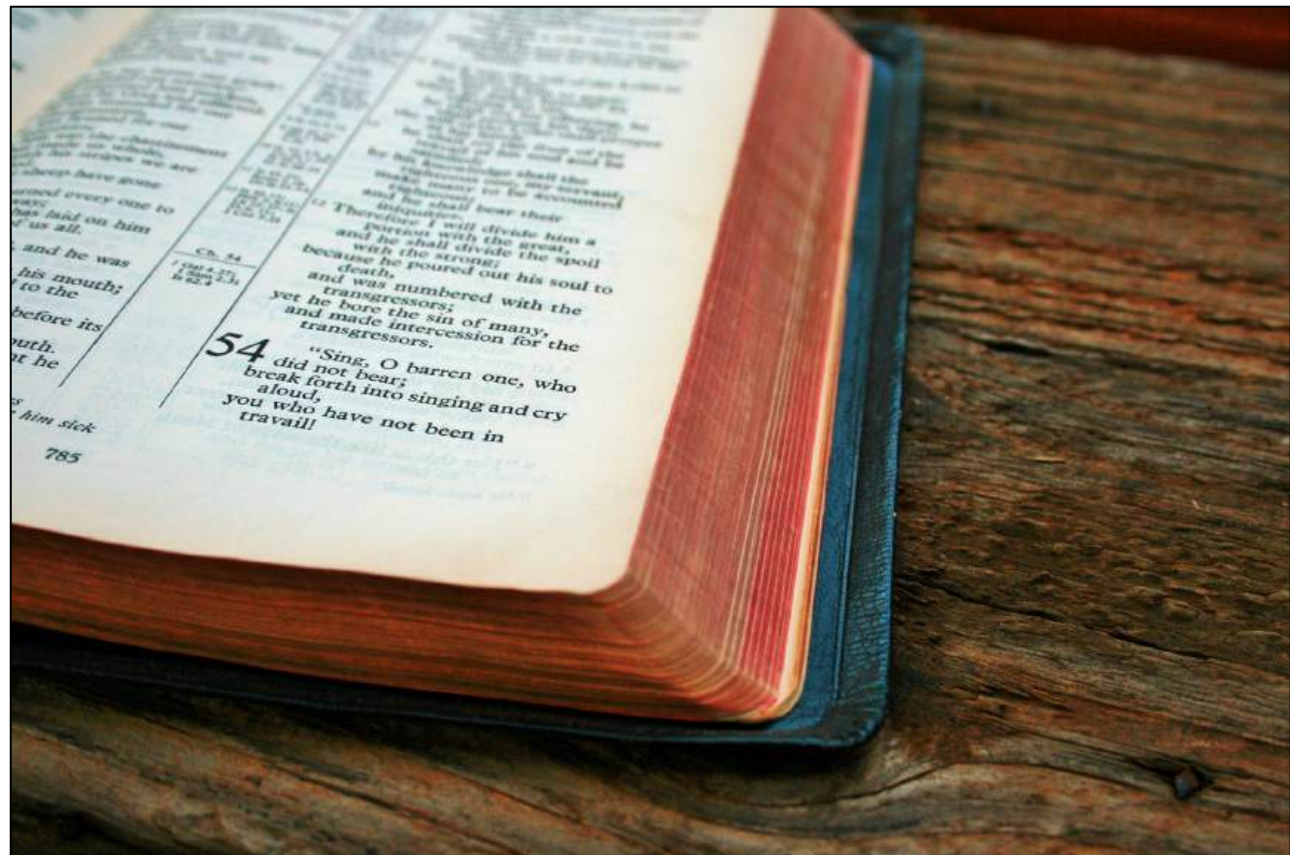
Each of them is oil extracted from olives, but the Chrism is distinguished from the others by having balm or balsam mixed with it. The oils are stored in three glass bottles, known as **cruets**, in a special cabinet, known as the **ambry**, which is mounted on the pillar to the right of the Blessed Sacrament altar.

Test Your Knowledge:

The New Testament

The books of the bible as we know it were compiled and recognized by the Church in the ...

- a. 4th century
- b. 13th century
- c. 2nd century
- d. 18th century



Test Your Knowledge: **The New Testament**

The books of the bible as we know it were compiled and recognized by the Church in the ...

a. 4th century

It took some time for the early Church fathers to discern what books were divinely inspired. The **canon** – or list of books – in the bible was finalized at the Council of Rome in 382 A.D. The first widespread edition of the Bible was assembled by St. Jerome around A.D. 400. This manuscript, which included all 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament, was written in Latin and was commonly referred to as the **Vulgate**. The canon was reconfirmed at the Council of Trent in 1546 A.D.

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You Asked Us ...

Why do we strip the altar after Mass on Holy Thursday?

Mass on Holy Thursday concludes in silence, after consecrated hosts, to be used on Good Friday, have been carried in procession and placed in the side tabernacle. The altar, which represents Christ, is stripped bare.

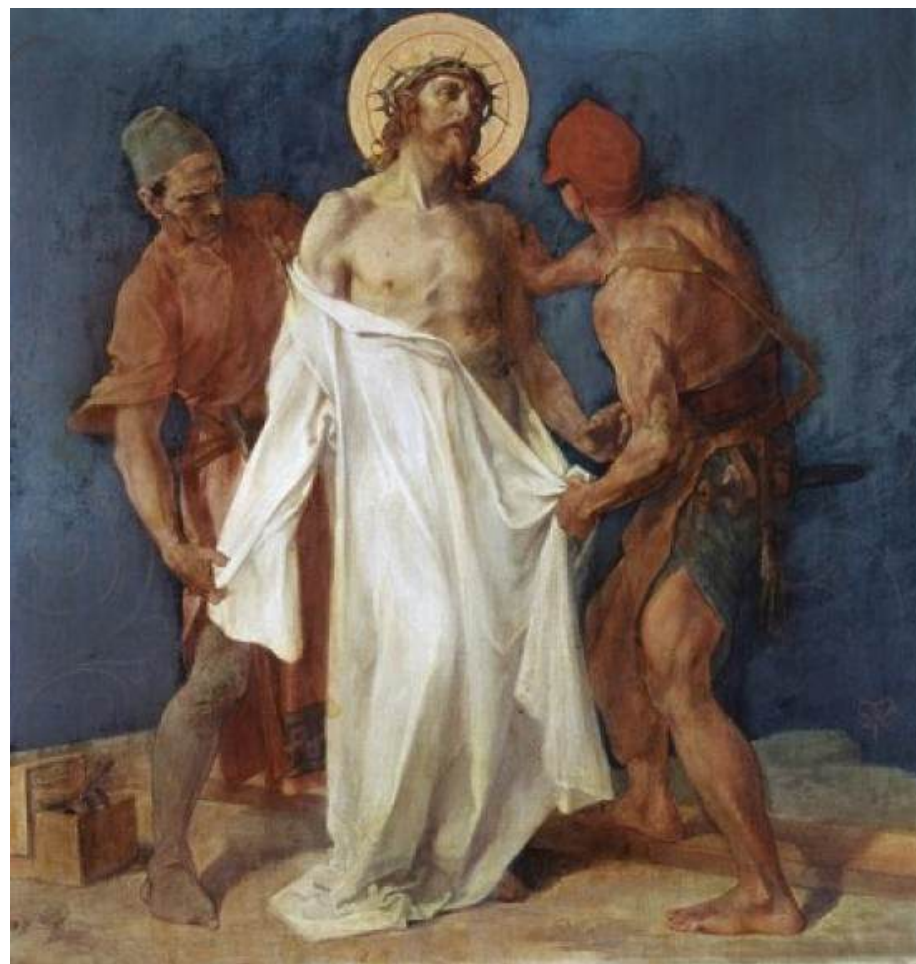


You Asked Us ... about

Stripping the Altar on Holy Thursday

At one point, this was symbolic of the stripping of Jesus's garments before he was crucified. In fact, the stripping of the altar is an ancient liturgical practice, that was once done after every mass.

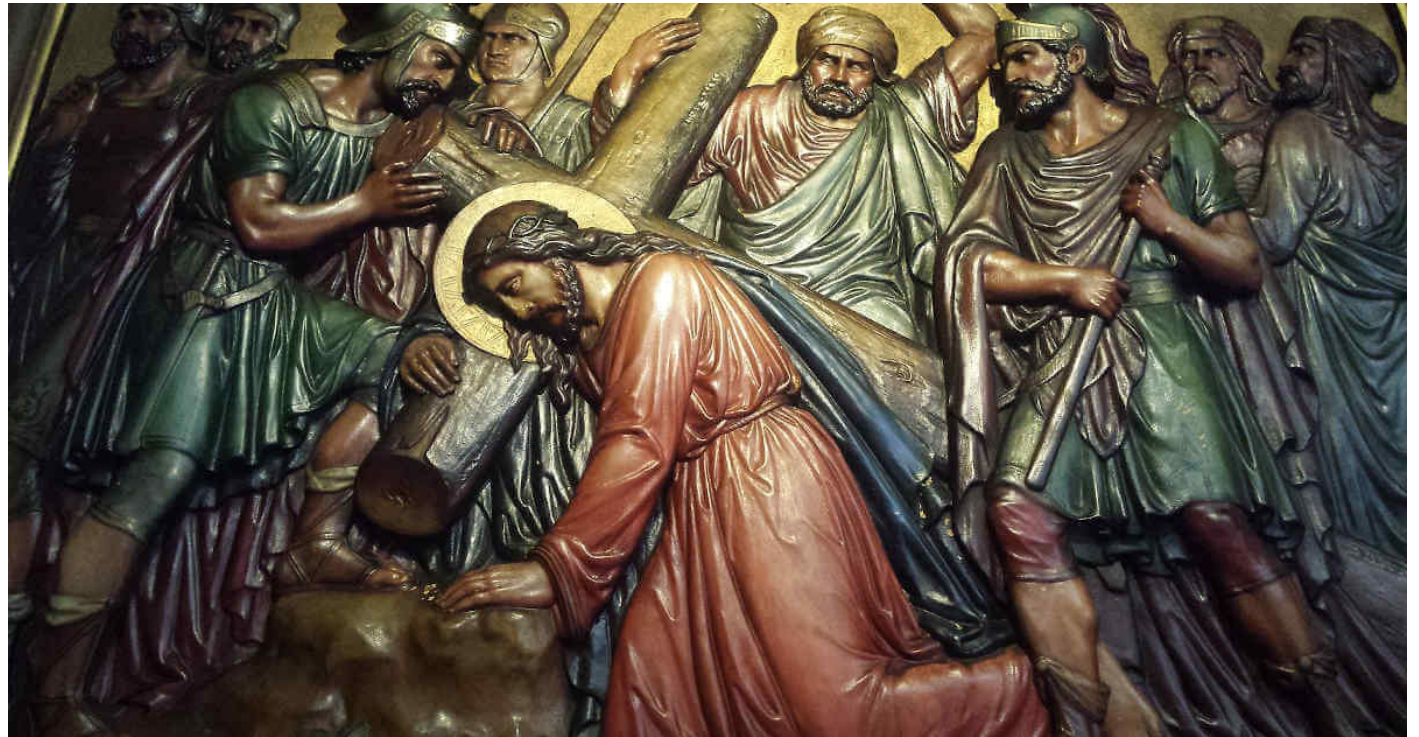
It is done on Holy Thursday in anticipation of Jesus' suffering and death.



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

The liturgical color for Palm (or Passion) Sunday is:

- a. purple
- b. white
- c. red
- d. rose



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

The liturgical color for Palm (or Passion) Sunday is

c. red

Red reminds of the blood that Jesus shed for the redemption of our sins and for our salvation.



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

The term 'Triduum' refers to:

- a. Jesus' three hours on the cross
- b. Jesus' three days in the tomb
- c. The 72 hours between the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and the Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday

Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

The term 'Triduum' refers to:

c. The 72 hours between the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and the Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday

Triduum is a Latin word which comes from 'Tri' meaning 'three' and 'Duum', which means 'days'. The Sacred Triduum is considered one great festival from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday. It is the most solemn part of the liturgical year.

Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

At the Last Supper, Jesus passed a morsel of bread to this disciple:

- a. Peter
- b. James
- c. John
- d. Judas Iscariot



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

At the Last Supper, Jesus passed a morsel of bread to:

d. Judas Iscariot

Jesus was asked by the apostles to reveal which disciple would betray him. Jesus answered,

“It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.”

So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.

(John 13:26)

You Were Wondering ...

What is the history of the Veneration of the Cross?

This tradition dates back to the 4th century in Jerusalem. According to legend, while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Helen, the mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, discovered a fragment of wood from the cross on which Jesus was crucified. On every Good Friday, it would be exposed, and the faithful would come from far and wide to see the relic and venerate it with a kiss. This ritual was described in a 5th century account. As people venerated the relic, the priest would say, “Behold, the wood of the Cross.” These words remain part of our Good Friday liturgy. Our response is “Come, let us adore.”

You Were Wondering ... about **the Veneration of the Cross**

In the seventh century, the Church in Rome adopted this practice. Today, this is a special moment in our Good Friday service. By genuflecting before the cross, kissing it, or bowing our heads as we place a hand on it,



kissing it, or bowing our heads as we place a hand on it, we recognize the significance of the cross in God's plan for our salvation.

You Were Wondering ... about **the Veneration of the Cross**

By reverencing the Cross, we adore Christ. One of our ritualized phrases, often used when praying the Stations of the Cross, is:

**“We adore You,
O Christ,
and we bless You,
because by Your
Holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.”**



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Judas betrayed Jesus ...

a. for thirty pieces of silver

b. in the Garden of Gethsemane

c. with a kiss

d. all of the above



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Judas betrayed Jesus ...

d. all of the above

This scene is described in Luke's gospel:

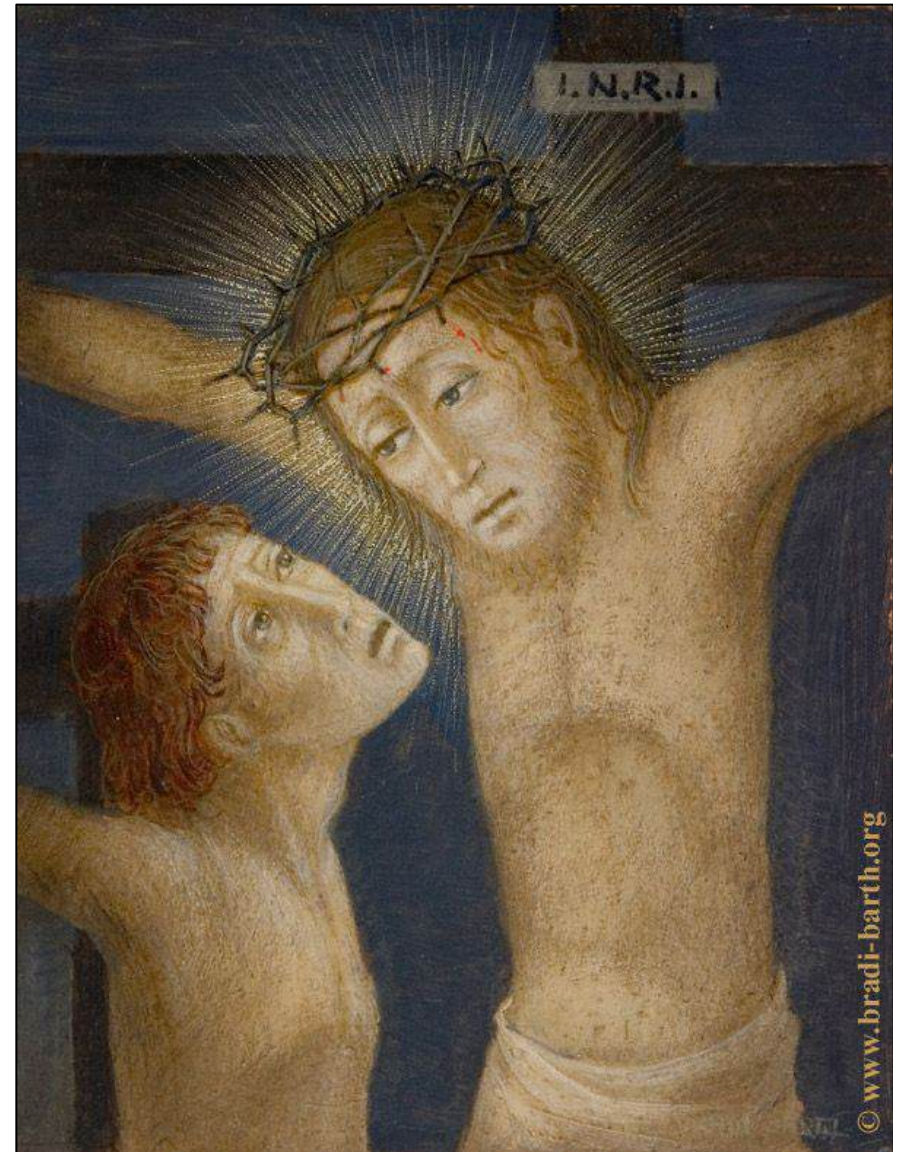
Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Luke 22:3–6, 47

Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Although it is not mentioned in Scripture, the traditional name given to the 'good thief' or 'penitent thief' crucified with Jesus is:

- a. Barabbas
- b. Dismas
- c. Cleopas
- d. Christopher



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week



The traditional name given to the 'good thief' crucified with Jesus is:

b. Dismas

In Luke's gospel it is written:

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."
He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

(Luke 23:42-43)

The feast of St. Dismas is March 25.

Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Jesus' body was buried in the tomb of:

- a. Joseph of Arimathea
- b. Nicodemus
- c. Bartholomew
- d. Simon the Zealot



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Jesus' body was buried in the tomb of

a. Joseph of Arimathea

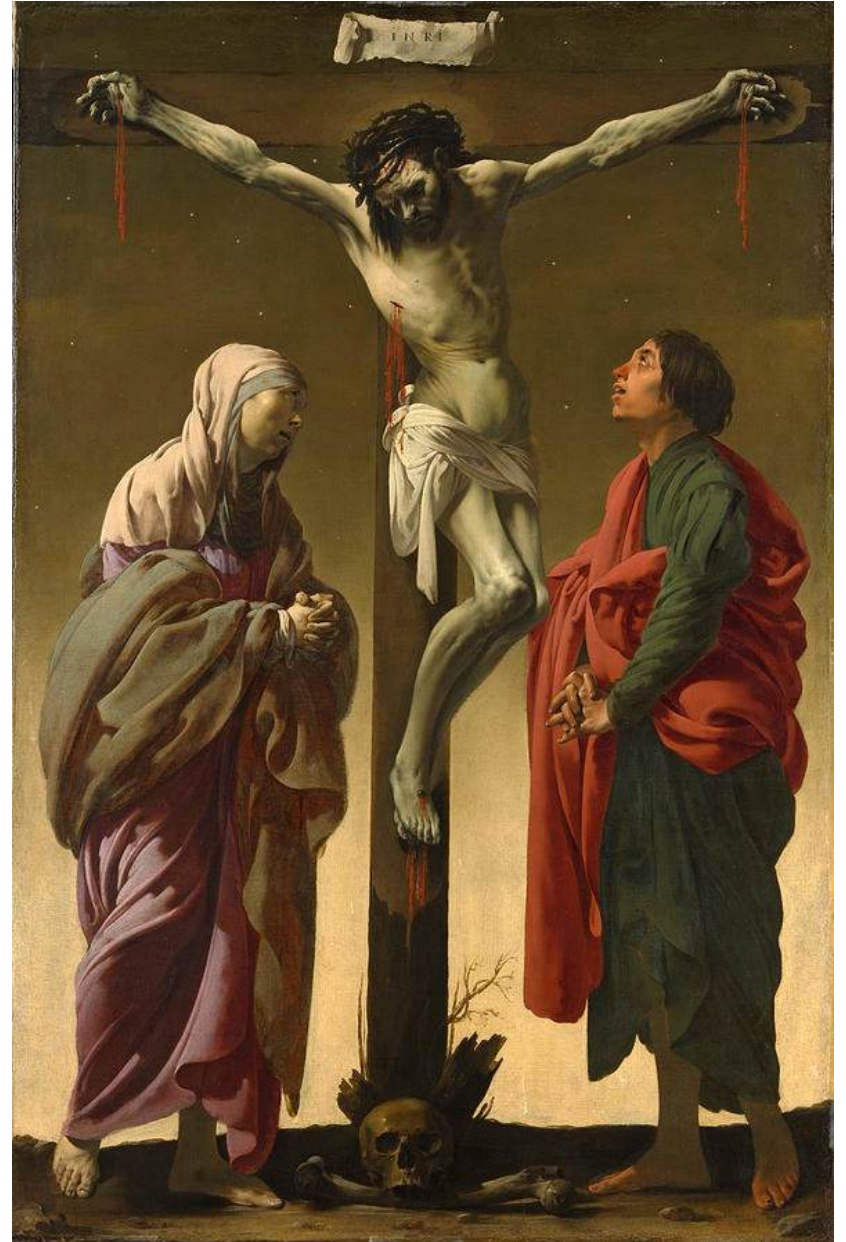
Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin. Scripture tells us:

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. (Matthew 27: 57 – 60)

Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Only one of the Twelve Apostles was at the foot of the cross:

- a. Peter
- b. Paul
- c. John
- d. Andrew



Test Your Knowledge: Holy Week

Only one of the Twelve Apostles was at the foot of the cross:

c. John

John is referred to as ‘the disciple Jesus loved’.

Scripture tells us:

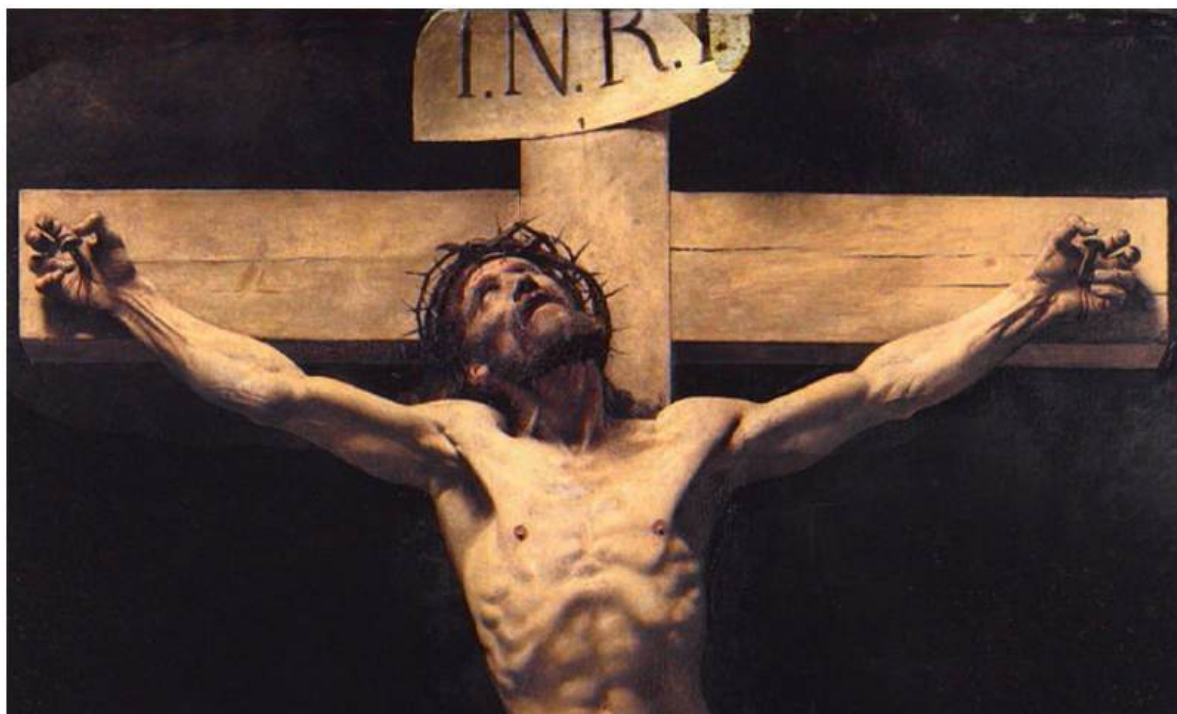
When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.”

Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”
And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:26–27)

INRI

This is a common symbol of the Passion, often affixed to the top of a crucifix. But what does it mean?

INRI is shorthand. It stands for *Jesus Nazareus Rex Iudaeorum*, which is Latin for 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'.





Pontius Pilate ordered this superscription of the cross to be written in three languages: Latin, Greek, and

Hebrew. Latin was for the Romans, Greek for foreigners and travelers, and Hebrew for the local people.

The religious authorities wanted Pilate to write, “This man *said*, ‘I am King of the Jews’.” Pilate, however, would not change it, saying “What I have written, I have written” (John 19:22).

Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to give me at Mass today.

My heart is open. I come in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in need to be loved by you,
united with this faith community,
strengthened by your word,
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

