

DOWNLOAD PDF GOOD FRIDAYS GOOD NEWS (FAITH AND PRAYER EDUCATION)

Chapter 1 : The Good News | Christian Faith

*Good Friday's Good News (Faith and Prayer Education) on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Book by Grenier, Brian.*

That kind of thing is un-settling to us. Or when best friends betray one another. Public leaders leading immorally is un-settling to us. Members of the very same religion turning on one another. The Passion of our Lord is the un-settling event all time. There are somewhere around 2. I wonder among those 2. I was sitting with a parishioner recently before mass and she had her bulletin with her in the pew. She said to me that crucifixion on the cover the bulletin is so beautiful. I said I know I think so too which of course is the ironic point. Listen to what he said in his homily Look around your life and our world how many wounds are inflicted upon humanity wars violence economic uncertainty for the weakest among us our personal sins against God and each other. Jesus on the cross explained Pope Francis feels the whole weight of this evil and with the force of love he conquers it on Sunday at the resurrection. And this is point of today. By its very definition the Passion Death Resurrection must lead to Joy. And then he said what I think is probably the most honest statement of his homily in trying not to hide from the pain of the day for Jesus or for us in our own participation in the Crucifixion Pope Francis said Be joyful for having been saved today by the Passion and be joyful in doing a little of what He did on the day of his death in your own lives be joyful. This is the beauty of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. We are joined to Him in the Crucifixion and made right in the Resurrection. Ergo Christians must never be sad. The Holy Father finished his homily speaking to the youth of the world which of course should be a message for all of us he said to the young and he says to you and me on this Good Day this Good Friday following Christ is Good to go with Christ is Good the message of Christ is Good the Cross of Christ is ultimately Good emerging out of ourselves and into the world taking Jesus with us out there is Good! Three words for us all then: The Holy Father concluded We are living out the joy of walking with Jesus, being with Him, carrying his Cross, with love, with a spirit that is always young! This is the Good News of Good Friday and it beautifully calms that which can be so un-settling in our lives. Christ the King Catholic Church E.

Chapter 2 : What's good about Good Friday? - OnFaith

Read A Prayer for Good Friday - Your Daily Prayer - March 30, devotional and be encouraged to grow in your faith by bringing your worries and frustrations to God!

How do you explain why Jesus had to die? That Jesus knew ahead of Good Friday that he would die? The culmination of Easter on Sunday is great joy and celebration, but it is preceded by death. And not just any death – a very ugly, brutal, seemingly senseless death of an innocent person. It can be intimidating for us as parents to approach this subject with our children, but as one of the most important foundations of our faith, the crucifixion on Good Friday is something we need to make real for them. Ever since I was a child, I have always wanted Good Friday to be gloomy, cloudy, rainy. I understood from a young age the great sorrow accompanying the death of Jesus because my parents included me in the story. The Cross is a topic our children should know well and not hear about only on Good Friday, but this day was set apart for a reason – an opportunity for remembrance. It is healthy and necessary for us and our children to really grasp the great sacrifice both God and Jesus made through the crucifixion. You can look up these Bible verses with your children for more explanation: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19; Acts 2: Teaching our children about Good Friday involves the reading of the Passion of Jesus as found in John 18 and Good Friday is the day we focus on His suffering. Each child will handle what happened to Jesus differently, but this is where you as a parent have the discretion in what you share and how you discuss it. I want to encourage you today to not shy away from the Cross or shelter your children from the crucifixion. Instead, try some of the following! Good Friday Conversation Starters Ask your children to tell you in their own words what happened to Jesus on Good Friday. Hearing what their minds are thinking will help you understand what you may need to explain better or how you can relate the story to them in a different manner, if necessary. Let them know it is okay to focus on the feelings of sadness, gratitude, and repentance that come along with Good Friday and help them process these feelings. Talk to your children openly about how Good Friday makes you feel. I find myself immensely sad, but also immeasurably grateful. Let them know it is fine to feel strong feelings and let them know you are there to listen. Have some planned quiet or worship time based around the Cross. For older children, provide a journaling prompt that they can write or draw about based around the Cross. There are so many beautiful hymns that could be a part of this time as well. I love how these books address Heaven and salvation in an age-appropriate manner and open up discussion about how we get to Heaven. A long time ago, He had to die on the cross. But now Jesus is alive! Experience that love with your children this year.

A Prayer for Good Friday. Commentary. By Kaitlin Curtice My Blackness Is Not At Odds With My Faith in Christ. When Christian Education Is Really Christian Indoctrination.

Each member of the Church tries to understand at what cost Christ has won our redemption. The Church - stripped of its ornaments, the altar bare, and with the door of the empty tabernacle standing open - is as if in mourning. No Mass is celebrated on this day, but the service of Good Friday is called the Mass of the Presanctified because Communion in the species of bread which had already been consecrated on Holy Thursday is given to the people. Traditionally, the organ is silent from Holy Thursday until the Alleluia at the Easter Vigil, as are all bells or other instruments, the only music during this period being unaccompanied chant. We can see that the parts of the Good Friday service correspond to the divisions of Mass: Liturgy of the Word - reading of the Passion. Intercessory prayers for the Church and the entire world, Christian and non-Christian. According to tradition, a part of the Holy Cross was discovered by the mother of the emperor Constantine, St. Helen, on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in A fifth century account describes this service in Jerusalem. A coffer of gold-plated silver containing the wood of the cross was brought forward. The bishop placed the relic on the a table in the chapel of the Crucifixion and the faithful approached it, touching brow and eyes and lips to the wood as the priest said as every priest has done ever since: Because the Cross is inseparable from His sacrifice, in reverencing His Cross we are, in effect, adoring Christ. A modern translation of the some of the Reproaches, originally in Latin follows: My people, What have I done to you? How have I offended you? I led you out of Egypt; but you led your Savior to the Cross. For forty years I led you safely through the desert, I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to the land of plenty; But you led your Savior to the Cross. What have I done to you that you should testify against me? Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us. By very ancient tradition, three clergy read the three principal parts from the sanctuary: Jesus always read by a priest, Narrator, and all the other individual parts. The people also have a role in this - we are those who condemn the Lord to death. Good Friday Ideas for Families Catholic schools will be closed on Good Friday so the children will be able to participate in family observances of this solemn day. If possible, the entire family should attend Good-Friday services together, or at least make a trip to Church to make the Stations of the Cross see section on Stations. Following are a few other suggestions. The familiar hot cross buns are sweet rolls with the sign of the cross cut into it, and they are one of several traditional European breads marked with a cross for Good Friday. You may have your own recipe for sweet-rolls to which you can add currants or raisins before shaping and cut a cross in the top before baking; or you can buy them. These Good Friday buns were very popular, and were sold by vendors who cried, Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns! One a-penny two a-penny, Hot cross buns! It would be appropriate to observe a period of silence at home, for devotional reading and private prayer e. With very young children keeping silence during the Three Hours is virtually impossible. You might help them make a miniature Garden of Joseph of Arimathea in the yard. Children can gather small stones, sticks, acorns. Older children can be given a drawing or coloring project. Perhaps they could draw one or more of the Stations of the Cross. See also sections on the Cross and Christ symbols. Lent is a particularly appropriate time to attempt to penetrate the true meaning of this sacred image represents through prayerful contemplation; and to study the traditions surrounding the Christian symbol of the Cross. Looking at the Cross in prayer helps us to truly see it. Most Christians have crosses in their homes. Many wear a cross around their necks. Some of these are very beautiful, perhaps made of precious metal and embellished with jewels. It was a means of execution, like a gallows or a gas chamber. What the Son of God endured for us was the depth of ugliness and humiliation. We need to be reminded of the tremendous personal cost of love. As Lent advances we contemplate the redeeming Mystery of the Cross which aids the Church in her pursuit of the renewal of the faithful. We can hope that our prayers which focus on the Crucifixion of our Lord will help atone for our own sins and the many grave sins of our society. The Sign of the Cross The

season of Lent is a most appropriate time for children of all ages to learn more about one of the most distinctively Catholic prayers: By making this sign both in public and in private we affirm our faith in Christ crucified and ask for His blessing and protection. It is also a gesture of reverence to the Blessed Sacrament. This Christian sign is a very ancient one, mentioned by the early Fathers of the Church as being a habitual practice by the second century. We are anointed, at baptism and at confirmation, by the priest making the sign of the cross on our foreheads with the Oil of Chrism the oil blessed by bishops at the Mass of Chrism on Holy Thursday. The sign and the chrism are also used at the ordination of a priest or bishop. In administering the sacrament of the sick the priest anoints the person with the sign of the cross made with blessed oil. Also, on Ash Wednesday, our foreheads are marked by the priest with the sign of the cross made with blessed palm ashes. Another form of the sign of the cross is made by the priest several times during the celebration of Mass and when he grants absolution and gives other priestly blessings, by making an invisible cross with the first two fingers and thumb of his right hand extended. A similar gesture of blessing is made when a priest blesses religious objects these objects used in worship are also called sacramentals, such as rosaries, medals, vestments and articles used in connection with Mass. Parents find that even infants can learn to make the sign of the cross, and try to imitate what they see family members doing at the blessing before meals even before they can talk. Try to encourage use of this sign at bedtime prayers, too, when you can explain what it means. The two forms of the sign of the cross used by most Catholics are: The Great Sign of the Cross: This is the one most people think of, and the one people use most often. A cross is traced with the right hand, touching the forehead, the chest, then the left and right shoulder. The Little Sign of the Cross: A cross is made on the forehead with the thumb or index finger this form is used by the priest when anointing or administering ashes. This sign is made at the reading of the Gospel by both priest and people. Give your children a new medal, and ask the priest to bless it for them while they are present. Crucifixes are always found in Catholic churches and chapels over the altar and are always carried in liturgical processions. This image is venerated by the faithful in a special ceremony on Good Friday. They are a customary fixture in every room and office of Catholic institutions schools, hospitals, and on the walls of Catholic homes. This form of representing the Cross of our Lord adorns Rosaries, prayer-books, private altars, vestments, and many other devotional articles; also the Pectoral Cross worn by a bishop as a sign of office. A crucifix is frequently worn by Catholics on a neck-chain. A less common form of the crucifix bears an image of Christ glorified, wearing the vestments of a priest and with his arms extended in blessing. Andrew Cross an X shape. You might look for various types of crosses in churches, on vestments, and in other places. Introduce children to New Testament symbols of Christ such as the Lamb, the door, the lamp, etc. Display them on the refrigerator or in their rooms after they have finished. The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him, and he said: But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. Those others who have come are thieves and robbers. I am the door. If anyone enter by me he shall find salvation, and shall go in and out, and shall find pastures. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away; and every branch that bears fruit he trims clean, that it may bear more fruit. I am the vine, you are the branches; He that abides in me brings forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. I am that bread of life.

Chapter 4 : Call to Prayer Friday Fast - Intentions and Reflections

No Christian goes through this life without feeling weak in their faith at times, but we all can take comfort in knowing our God is Immanuel-- He is with us in every season, whether good or bad.

Posted by Michael Fackerell Feb 14, The Gospel or Good News 13 Introduction We have seen that after the fall of Adam all men became sinners, law breakers and were under the righteous judgment of God. God still wanted to be a good Father to us. But now it was necessary for us to be saved from the consequences of our rebellion against God. Therefore everybody needs to know about Jesus , and what He has done for us. The angel, speaking to Joseph concerning his betrothed wife, Mary, said: Although we acknowledge that Mary had an important role in bringing the Saviour into the world, we cannot recognise her as a saviour or a way to God. No one comes to the Father but by Me. There is no other source of salvation. There is no other way to God. Neither Mary, nor the saints, nor Mohammed, nor some guru or any teaching of mysticism or philosophy can do away with our great personal need for Jesus Christ, the only True Saviour. He is fully God. It takes God to save sinners. This is one reason why it matters if we believe the doctrine of the Trinity. He is fully man. Only as a man could Jesus pay the price for the sins of mankind. Only as a man could he be the representative head of the new race of new men, born again of the spirit of God. He is the last Adam and the Second Man. He perfectly fulfilled the law of God, including all of the Mosaic Law. If Jesus had sinned, he would need a Savior. A careful study of the life of Jesus as recorded in the gospels reveals no sin in his life. Instead it reveals that he fulfilled both the commandments and ordinances of the law and also that he fulfilled the O. What he did for us, he did willingly. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. It is recorded that he cast out demons, healed the sick Mt 4: We know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever Hebrews God demonstrated this by raising Christ physically from the dead. What did Jesus do for us at the cross? It is extremely important that we understand what Jesus did for us at the cross. This is where a great exchange took place. When we are in Christ, all the promises of God and all the benefits of calvary become available to us 2 Corinthians 1: We can receive them. Then we can declare: Jesus was made sick on the cross. Our salvation is based on what God has declared to be true in His Word, not on the words of a man or a church. The most important thing for us to remember and present to people is that Jesus Christ through his death on the cross paid for all our sins and rebellion â€” everything that separates us from God. This means that God is now able to offer a way back to Him, through Jesus, for everyone who wants to be reconciled with God again. It means that now we can have a relationship with God again, because all our sins which destroy that relationship and give room to the devil in our lives have been paid for at the cross. Knowing the truth of this can make us free. This was not just a spiritual resurrection but a bodily resurrection. As Christians we too have the promise from God that we will be physically resurrected with new bodies, just as Christ was. Through the resurrection, we too may share in the resurrection life of Christ, beginning with the new birth. We may walk in newness of life. It gives us a living hope, and a hope of life after death. He shows that the resurrection is a well- documented historical event. Here are some points which support the claim that Jesus rose from the dead. The grave was empty. The Pharisees knew where the body was put, and they had the tomb sealed and guarded. Something happened so that they spread the story that the disciples stole the body of Jesus. They knew the tomb was empty. If they knew the body was there, they could have easily stopped the preaching of the apostles later on. The disciples claimed they saw Jesus as resurrected, not just as individuals, but as a group and on more than one occasion. If they knew they were lying, why would they go on to die willingly for their lie, as so many did? If they were deceived, and having mass hallucinations, then why would the grave be empty? The disciples then and many disciples today through their changed lives and many miracles of healing done in the name of Jesus give us another powerful evidence that Jesus is really alive. Some unbelieving scholars and eastern gurus have made various feeble attempts to deny the resurrection. It is

amazing what kind of theories men will invent to deny the truth. How to Be Born Again You must accept this salvation as a gift. You cannot earn it Eph 2: To receive a new life from God you must receive Jesus into your life. He will then give you a new life and the possibility to change. This wholehearted commitment, this faith, this believing in Christ, brings God into your life. We say with our mouth before men and act with our lives as if He is Lord " our Lord. This confession will have an influence on what we say and do. Since Jesus is the Word of God, our salvation is received and maintained by an ongoing confession of what the Word of God says. Out of gratitude and respect you will allow God to change you more and more and direct your life in the future. Why not put your trust in Jesus right now for this salvation and forgiveness. You can do this by praying this prayer to God right now: O God, I come to you because I need your forgiveness. Like all others, I have been selfish and rebellious and have broken your laws for life. I confess all my sins to you name them. I want to change. I turn from my sin to You. I believe that you died on the cross to pay for my sins. I believe that you rose from the dead and are alive. Come and live in my heart, Lord Jesus. I give my whole life " including my mind and body " to you. I receive and confess you as my Lord and Savior now and always. Wash away my sins. Give me your free forgiveness. I believe that you have made me a child of God. I thank you, Father, for new life in Christ and a new relationship with You. And Father, just as you forgive me my sins, I also forgive all those who have sinned against me. Lead me in the way I should go, fill me with the Holy Spirit and keep me from the evil one all the days of my life. If you have prayed this prayer from your heart then you have become a new person in Christ! The old has gone, the new has come! Give thanks verbally to Christ for coming into your life. Remember always that you have solemnly received Him as your Lord and Savior. Let His Spirit and His Word guide you always, and keep your trust in Him for all the new decisions you will be making in working out the application of your new life in Christ. Please contact me if you have prayed this prayer, so we can celebrate with you and help you go on with God. The Lord bless you. Full Salvation " from pardon to union with God Through the death and resurrection of Christ a way has been made for us to enter into fellowship with God once again. It is not just that we may be forgiven, although this is part of it 1 Jn 1: We may be justified before God declared righteous, just as if we had never sinned Rom. Of course, peace with God is not possible if we still want to be rebels against God and His word. That is one reason why repentance change of mind and life is necessary for us to be saved. Repentance is something we must embrace, but we know also from the Scriptures that it is a gift from God Acts 3: At the time of our new birth John 3:

Chapter 5 : 10 Prayers for a Stronger Faith (in Good or Hard Times!)

Should Christ be present on the Cross being venerated on Good Fridays. Answer by Dr. Warren Carroll on 6/13/ Some parishes use a plain cross for veneration on Good Friday, while others use a crucifix.

He was arrested, put through a trial, denied by his own, whipped, paraded through Jerusalem and crucified, dying after six hours of agony. What was so good about that? I confess, as a believing Christian, I find Good Friday one of the toughest days of the year. I have celebrated it in various ways, none too happily. I have sung in choirs through a three-hour service. I have prayed my way through the stations of the cross. I have sat in a pew in a church near my office, meditating over the last words of Christ. And I have skipped the whole thing, far preferring the alleluias and flowers and jelly beans and chocolate eggs of Easter. But I have to admit in my struggles with faith, the shadowy Good Friday moments count as much as those blissfully sunny Easter days and here in the northeast, when is Easter ever warm and sunny? A year-old friend dies of cancer. A hard-working dad loses the job he was sure he was meant for. An impoverished country gets pummeled by a devastating earthquake. This seems to be the paradox of belief. As often as I try for a prevailing attitude of gratitude and joy, I learn more through the tough stuff. It can take a wake-up call of incipient disaster to give me a piercing clarity about all my blessings. Better yet, I can join with others who have much greater concerns than my own and pray for them. Thousands of requests are sent in by mail or online, and every request is prayed for by OurPrayer staff or dedicated volunteers. Log on to ourprayergoodfriday. You can scroll down and see pretty quickly what people are going through – health issues, financial struggles, relationship problems, grief and loss. The disciples are in the foreground, coming back from the misery of Calvary. Something incredible is coming. To see the good in Good Friday.

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Chapter 6 : Manchester uni puts faith in praying booth | Education | The Guardian

The teaching of our Catholic faith "obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land" and around the world. This includes the freedom to serve with Christian love and humility all those around us and share the teachings of our Lord.

Bishops are encouraging the faithful to pray and fast for the renewal of a culture of life and marriage and for protection of religious liberty. In particular, Catholics are invited to make a pledge to fast and abstain from meat on Fridays. Below are suggested intentions and reflections for each Friday fast. Or text "FAST" to receive text messages. Join the Call to Prayer Facebook page to connect with others who are participating in the Call to Prayer and to share what you, your parish, or your diocese is doing. With grateful hearts, we celebrate the close of the Fortnight, inspired to continue praying for religious liberty at home and abroad. In a speech given on the eve of the Fortnight, Pope Francis underlined that it is incomprehensible and troubling that people continue to suffer discrimination, restriction of their rights and even persecution for professing their faith. The Fortnight for Freedom begins on June 21 and ends on July 4. Let us prepare for this powerful witness by asking the Holy Spirit for a fruitful time of renewal in our country to celebrate the values of life, marriage, and religious liberty. We pray that through their marriage, a husband and wife will reflect the love that God Himself is. Although there is not gender in God, there is unity and difference. This unity and difference in God is imaged through the sexual difference of man and woman. Through their bodies, a husband and wife are able to express marital love. This unique expression would not be possible apart from their existence as male and female. In the words of St. The second March for Marriage will be held in Washington, D. Miscarriage is a painful event for anyone to go through. It is often borne silently, without the benefit of support. Couples may keep the loss to themselves, leaving others unaware of their grief, or they may speak of it and find others unsure of how to respond. We know that in the Cross of Christ, suffering finds meaning. In order to respond lovingly to those who suffer a miscarriage, we must embrace our role as friends or family to help carry the cross with them. Grief is both emotionally and physically difficult. Sometimes the best way we can accompany those who are grieving is to perform simple acts of love, like helping with housework, providing meals, or just taking someone out for a cup of coffee. Lord, help us always to follow the Gospel call to serve "the least of these. The Fortnight for Freedom is coming next month June 21 to July 4. The two-week celebration will focus on the theme, "Freedom to Serve," emphasizing the link between religious liberty and service to the poor and vulnerable. As Catholics, we believe that the gift of our faith is to share the light of Christ with all people. The teaching of our Catholic faith "obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land" and around the world. This includes the freedom to serve with Christian love and humility all those around us and share the teachings of our Lord. In loving him more, honoring him steadfastly and serving him as disciples, we naturally serve others in the same way. In a recent homily, Pope Francis emphasized charity as the "greatest act of holiness [that] relates to the flesh of our brother and the flesh of Jesus Christ. You can pray for religious freedom at home, school, work, or in your parish! You can also attend special Masses to celebrate the Fortnight; if you are not able to travel to Baltimore or Washington, DC, the Masses will be televised nationally, so check your local listings! Let us pray that the gift of motherhood may be better understood and appreciated within our culture today. Without our mothers, we would not have been born and therefore would not have the capacity to live out our Catholic faith. Just as a mother gives life to her children, so also the Church "brings forth to a new and immortal life the sons who are born to her in baptism Lumen Gentium, no. 63. In this document, he explained that "Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise. Mary is known as the month of Mary! On the Feast of the Annunciation, Pope Francis reminded us that "salvation cannot be bought and sold; it is given as a gift, it is free. Through the example of Christ and Mary we can see that the freedom of salvation lies in perfect obedience and receptivity to God.

May is a special opportunity to grow in Marian devotion which leads us closer to Christ. Check out these pro-life rosary prayer intentions! May our minds and hearts be always open to God so that we have the freedom to act in accordance with his will. In a recent homily, Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to be vigilant in prayer that directs our hearts towards the Father. Being vigilant in prayer opens us up to dialogue with God and an ever greater union of love through the recognition that "there is something else, the possibility that God speaks to us, tells us about His journey," according to the Holy Father. Pope Francis concluded his homily by telling the faithful to "be humble and pray, that the Lord always gives us the freedom of an open heart, to receive his Word which is joy and promise and covenant! And with this covenant move forward! In his Easter Sunday homily, Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to re-read the accounts of the Resurrection this week. The joy of Easter is almost here, but today we still must journey with the Cross. Many of us have chosen to sacrifice something during Lent. However, there are those in the world that do not have that choice; many struggle to put food on the table, give their children an education, take care of ailing parents, and much more. Through our own sacrifices we stand in solidarity with those who struggle as we work to ease their suffering. One thing we can take away from this Lent and from our encounter with the Passion of Christ is that at the heart of every sacrifice is love. When we freely sacrifice something during Lent, the goal is to do it for the love of God. How can we continue to lovingly sacrifice once Lent is over? One way is to pay attention to the people in your life, while another way is to stand in solidarity with those who suffer while working to ease their burden. He knew and loved us all when he offered his life" CCC Check out the entire section found in paragraphs We pray for a deeper understanding of what it means to be created male or female. During a recent morning meditation, Pope Francis reflected on the Book of Genesis. God "did not want for man to be alone: This sexual difference is actually complementary. It is through the existence of woman that we are able to fully appreciate the uniqueness of man and vice versa. An example of this aspect of difference and complementarity can be seen in beautiful paintings where two complementary colors are used. When brought together, the two different colors look more vibrant and unique than they would have looked separately. The same can be said of man and woman. In the words of Blessed John Paul II, "femininity in some way finds itself before masculinity, while masculinity confirms itself through femininity. In his Theology of the Body, Blessed John Paul II explained that "man became an image of God not only through his own humanity, but also through the communion of persons, which man and woman form from the very beginning. In this way, a husband and wife have the unique ability to reflect Trinitarian Love. We pray that people in the U. The Greens and their closely-held companies challenged the HHS mandate in a case that was heard by the Supreme Court last week. The Holy Father asked how the Hobby Lobby case was progressing. As the Supreme Court considers this case, as well as the Conestoga Wood Specialties case on behalf of a devout Mennonite family, let us pray that religious liberty will be upheld. A recent analysis shows that broader threats to religious freedom in the United States appear to be growing. Experts attribute the rise in religious restrictions in the U. May we be free to live out our faith and bear witness to the dignity of each person. Some Catholics, like the Little Sisters of the Poor who run nursing homes for the elderly poor, devote their entire lives to helping others and embrace a vow of poverty themselves" Archbishop Kurtz. Yet the HHS mandate compels objecting employers to provide coverage for drugs and devices which are against their consciences and threatens the ministries of the Little Sisters of the Poor and many others. As this and many other lawsuits progress, let us continue our prayer efforts for the protection of the religious freedom so we may practice charity and live out our faith without penalty. This Tuesday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases brought by families who are seeking protection of their religious freedom. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U. We pray for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus. On Wednesday, we celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. Joseph as "the guardian and cooperator in the providential mystery of God no Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood no 8. A further reflection on St. Pope Francis has a deep

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devotion to St. Last year, he chose the Solemnity of St. Joseph as the date for his inaugural Mass. Next to the star representing Mary is the spikenard flower, which is often used to represent St. A year ago this week, Pope Francis captivated the world almost immediately with his humble simplicity, charisma and warmth. Throughout the past year, he has continued to teach us both by his example and his words, inspiring us to look beyond ourselves and encouraging us to "go in search of the people who are the very flesh of Christ" Vigil of Pentecost, The Vatican website features an online book of images and quotes from Pope Francis over the last year. As we begin Lent, we pray for the strength to commit ourselves to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so that we may grow to love you, God, more each day. Lent is our way of taking a long loving look at ourselves and our lives and asking, "How can I be more faithful to the Gospel and grow deeper in my relationship with God? During Lent, we may abstain from various things: But the prophet Isaiah and Jesus remind us that the things which we abstain from should not be done for themselves alone, but to change our hearts.

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Chapter 7 : Good Friday and Children: Making the Cross Real to Your Kids - FaithGateway

Good Friday, a day of fasting and penance in the Christian faith, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The holiday, which lands on March 30 this year, is celebrated on the Friday right.

Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 40 days. It might be more accurate to say that there is the "forty day fast within Lent. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays? Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole Time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience. Does meat include chicken and dairy products? Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs, which do not have any meat taste. Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, cold-blooded animals and shellfish are permitted. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer. I understand that Catholics ages 18 to 59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts? Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday? Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Chapter 8 : www.nxgvision.com - veneration of the Cross on Good Friday

Good Friday is a very important day for Catholics. It's the day Jesus died on the cross for us and saved us from our sin. Not only is it an important day, it's a day of fasting, prayer, and mourning.

Chapter 9 : Good Friday Live Stream Watch Pope Francis's Service at St. Peter's Square

Good Friday Prayer. Catholic Online; Stay up to date with the latest news, information, and special offers. Education Learn the Catholic way.