

HOLY THURSDAY

We suggest this brief ritual not substitute the participation of Mass on TV or online, this rite is to deepen as a family what we hear in Mass.

It would be appropriate that this rite end with Dinner where the meal and joy of being a family is shared.

THINGS TO PREPARE

1. The Bible or print these pages
2. A table with a bit of bread and a wine
3. One or two lectors

Rite

Head of Household: My God come to my aid.

All: Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Lector

We will read the story of how God prepared his people to set out on the way to freedom, to come out of slavery. The night prior to the exit from Egypt families celebrated a farewell dinner, here is the narration from someone who didn't want that manifestation from God to be forgotten and wrote it so that it could be celebrated by generations that would later come, like ours.

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.

If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.

You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you. “This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.”

Family discussion

What called your attention in this reading? Why were their “loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand”?

The head of household explains why this celebration is the prophetic anticipation of our Holy Mass.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18.

R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

R. **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

R. **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

R. **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Now we read the Gospel of the day and we hear with close attention

Gospel

JN 13:1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.

He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Family dialogue

Washing the feet of guests was a work of slaves or servants, and Jesus put himself in that place. Why did he do it? What is the teaching he wanted to leave for us? We don't have to wash anybody's feet but how can we follow this example of Jesus? Starting today, what could we do in the home to put in action Jesus' teachings? As we saw in Jesus, love is shown through actions; with what actions can we show our love to our family? To our elders? To the less fortunate?

At the end we can also explain that Jesus' farewell dinner was also the dinner where he wanted to sacramentally stay with us through the eucharistic forms of the bread and wine. Maybe, because he wanted that when we eat his bread and drink his blood we unite as brothers and sisters and that we recognize him in the love for one another.

After Supper we can conclude with this prayer

Lord we are not worthy that you should enter our home,
But you went to the Centurions' and you enter Zacchaeus' and Mary Magdalene's,
Deign to stay here with us forever.

We will try to:

Believe what you want us to believe,

Think what you want us to think,

Read what you want us to read,

Speak what you want us to speak,

Love what you want us to love,

And always do what you want us to do,

Amen.