



# Journey through Lent

## TRIDUUM

### Lower Elementary

#### Materials

- Handout A: What Is Triduum?
- Handout B: The Last Supper Look and Find
- Handout C: *The Last Supper* by Vicente Juan Macip

#### Learning Goals

Triduum is the shortest liturgical season in the Church year. It comprises three days from the evening of Holy Thursday through the evening of Easter Sunday. During this time, we remember and celebrate the very events of our salvation: Christ's Last Supper and Institution of the Eucharist and the ordained priesthood, and His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. In this lesson, students will learn about Triduum and reflect on the Last Supper with sacred art.

#### Activity

- Have students read the information on **Handout A: What Is Triduum?** (or read it aloud as they follow along). Then have your students answer the questions, or discuss them together as a class.
- Have students complete the **Handout B: The Last Supper Look and Find** activity using the given list and the sacred art image from **Handout C: The Last Supper by Vicente Juan Macip**. Students will look for certain items in the painting, circle them, and answer some questions. When finished, review the answers with your students.

# What Is Triduum?

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**Directions:** Read about the season of Triduum. Then answer the questions.

## What is Triduum?

Triduum is the shortest season of the Church year – a total of three days! The word Triduum is Latin for “the three days.” It is one of the most important seasons of the entire Church year. During the three days of Triduum we remember and honor the events of our salvation.

Triduum includes:

- **Holy Thursday** Mass at night
- The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and Adoration of the Holy Cross on **Good Friday**
- The Easter Vigil on **Holy Saturday** night
- **Easter Sunday** Mass
- Evening Prayer on **Easter Sunday**

## Holy Thursday

Jesus ate the Last Supper with His Apostles on the night before He died. We call this night Holy Thursday. During the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the Eucharist for the first

time. He also made His Apostles the first priests. We honor the beginning of both Sacraments, Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders, during Holy Thursday Mass. During this Mass the bishop or priest washes the feet of twelve people. This is a symbol of how Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles and told them to follow His example.

Earlier in the day on Holy Thursday, every bishop has a Mass with the priests of his diocese. There, he blesses the holy oil, or Chrism, that will be used in the Sacraments all year.

### **Good Friday and Holy Saturday**

On Good Friday we remember Christ's suffering and Death on the Cross. On the first Good Friday, Jesus was put on trial, carried His own Cross, was crucified, and died on the Cross.

We celebrate the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. During this service, we hear Scriptures read, we adore the cross by kissing the foot of the cross, and we receive the Eucharist, which was consecrated on Holy Thursday. This liturgy usually ends around 3 PM. That is the time that Jesus died.

There are no other liturgies until the Easter Vigil the next night. After the Adoration of the Cross through Holy

Saturday, we think about Jesus' Death in a special way, and we wait for His Resurrection. This is just what the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, and His mother Mary did two thousand years ago.

### **The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday**

The high point of Triduum is the Easter Vigil. It begins when it gets dark on Holy Saturday night. A new Easter Candle is lit and is carried into the dark Church. Other candles are lit from the Easter Candle. Soon the entire Church is lit by candle light. This light represents Jesus the Light of the World. He has risen from the dead!

During the Easter Vigil, we hear different Scriptures read that tell us about how God saved us from sin. New members of the Church are Baptized and welcomed into the Church family. Others receive Confirmation. Then, everyone is blessed with holy water so we can remember our baptismal promises. And we receive the Eucharist together as one Body of Christ.

The Masses on Easter Sunday begin our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Easter is an entire season! It lasts for fifty days and ends on Pentecost. That is when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. They were filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and sent out to share the Gospel with the whole world.

1. What does the Latin word Triduum mean?

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2. Which two Sacraments do we honor on Holy Thursday?

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3. What happened on the first Good Friday?

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4. What does the light from the Easter Candle at the Easter Vigil represent?

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5. What three Sacraments are received at the Easter Vigil?

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6. When does the Easter season end?

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# Last Supper Look and Find

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**Directions:** Look for the items below in the painting *The Last Supper* by Vicente Juan Macip and answer the questions.

1. Find and circle a halo. How many halos do you see in the painting? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Find and circle Jesus.
3. Find and circle the Eucharist.
4. Find and circle the chalice that holds Jesus' Precious Blood.
5. Find and circle a piece of bread. How many pieces of bread do you see in the painting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Find and circle a bottle of wine.
7. Find and circle a large jar used to pour water.
8. Find and circle a large bowl used to pour water in. Jesus used the jar and the bowl to wash the feet of the Apostles.
9. Find and circle one of the Apostles who looks like he is praying.

10. Find and circle the bag of coins Judas is holding. Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities.

11. What are two other interesting things you can see in this painting?

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# *The Last Supper* by Vicente Juan Macip





# Answer Key

## Handout A: What Is Triduum?

1. The three days.
2. Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders.
3. Jesus was put on trial, carried His own Cross, was crucified, and died on the Cross.
4. Jesus the Light of the World, who has risen from the dead.
5. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
6. Pentecost.

## Handout B: The Last Supper Look and Find

1. 12 (11 of the Apostles and Jesus have halos. Judas, in the far right corner, does not have a halo.)
2. Jesus is in the center of the painting.
3. Jesus is holding up the Eucharist in His right hand.
4. It is on the table in front of Jesus.
5. There are 5 pieces of bread on the table (6 if you count the Eucharist Jesus is holding).
6. A bottle of wine is on the right hand side of the table.
7. A jar of water is in front of the table, slightly to the left.
8. A bowl is in front of the table, slightly to the right.
9. Thaddeus (in front of the table to the left wearing pink and yellow), Andrew (standing to Jesus' right, behind Peter, and wearing a purple robe), and Thomas (seated on the far right side of the table wearing green).
10. Judas is in the far right corner holding a bag of coins in his right hand.
11. Accept reasoned answers.