

# Welcome to Week 6!

## Palm Sunday and Holy Week

### Palm Sunday

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Gospel - Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*

Palm Sunday liturgy opens with the crowds hailing Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. The mood quickly becomes more sombre. In the Gospel we encounter Jesus at the Last Supper, offering himself in the form of bread and wine, and making the agony that follows an eternal sacrifice, an eternal covenant with us, sealed in his blood for all time.

***Jesus, in reflecting on the sacred mystery of your Passion, may I come to understand the depth of your love for me and for the whole world, and to appreciate ever more the Sacrifice of Holy Mass.***

### St Isidore of Seville (April 4th)

Saint Isidore was a very learned man who lived in Spain where he spent many years as bishop of Seville. The Visigoth Kings of Spain were Arians who did not believe that Jesus was fully God as well as fully man; Saint Isidore is famous for helping to convert them to the Catholic faith. He lived in a time when the Roman empire was falling apart, and he worked hard to preserve for future generations the literature and learning of the ancient world, which would otherwise have been lost in the chaos. As bishop he created a school which became a model for the first universities. He liked writing, and is the inventor of the full stop, the comma, and the colon.

Saint Pope John Paul II named Saint Isidore as patron saint of the internet, perhaps because Saint Isidore freely gave away much of his learning, and we can use many resources on the internet free of charge.

***Do I need help wisely to use the internet, my school, libraries, and other opportunities for learning? Can I think of ways to use my talents and knowledge for the good of others?***

***Saint Isidore pray for us.***

## **Maundy Thursday**

### Gospel - John 13:1-15

*Now he showed how perfect his love was*

Jesus knows that the time of his sacrifice on the cross is approaching, and that Judas will betray him. At supper, he assumes the role of a servant, and kneels before the disciples to wash their feet, a sign of the greater sacrifice he is about to make for us. Peter refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet; when Jesus says that unless he does this Peter can have nothing in common with him, Peter expresses his passionate love by asking Jesus to wash his hands and head as well! How poignant that in just a few hours Peter, in his weakness and fear, will deny Jesus three times.

***Jesus, may I never deny my love for you, come what may. Help me always to follow your example and offer myself in the service of others. If I am ever called to leadership of any kind, or hold any authority, however small, may I remember that you are a servant king.***

## **Good Friday**

### Gospel - John 18:1-19:42

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*

How familiar to us is John's account of Jesus' passion, and yet it remains an ever-new treasure house wherein we may gaze on God's love for us if we dare to look. We hear Jesus utter the words "I am he" to the soldiers who fall to the ground; he is proclaiming himself God in words similar to those heard by Moses "I am who am". We are reminded of our own frailty and sinfulness as we listen to Peter's heart-breaking denials. We hear Pilate incriminate himself in an all-too-modern denial that such a thing as absolute truth even exists. We look on Jesus' humility, simplicity, silence, and nobility in the face of unjust accusations, and his eventual condemnation by the rage of the crowd and the malice of the authorities. We look at Jesus hanging on the cross, incomprehensible and scandalous, and yet the only Way. We see Jesus give Mary and the Disciple who He Loved to each other, and so give us Mary as our heavenly mother. We hear John describe Jesus' last breath "he gave up his spirit", the perhaps intentionally ambiguous words reminding us of the gift of the Holy Spirit that is to come.

***Jesus, help me to enter into the inexhaustible mystery of your love for me. Help me to look upon your cross unflinching, and through it participate in your self-sacrifice of love for the world. Help me to accept the love of Mary my heavenly mother and let her lead me to you.***

## Belong and Believe!

### Activity

- ❖ **Easter Garden** - If you haven't already, you could make an Easter Garden. You could use a large plant pot or tray, sticks and twine for the crosses, a small plant pot or cup for the tomb, pebbles, and a large rock to cover the entrance. Add anything else you would like. On Easter Sunday, the children will roll the rock away, and they can place flowers there too!
  
- ❖ **Washing of the Feet** - Before the evening meal on Maundy Thursday, the family gathers for a simple washing of the feet. All that is required is a bowl, a jug of water and a towel. The account from the Gospel of John 13:1-17 is read and then Christ is imitated by washing the feet of the family members. It starts with the father washing the mother's feet, the mother washing the eldest child's feet and so on until the youngest child washes the father's feet. You may like to remind them that we are imitating Christ being the servant of all, and that in our families we are called to love and serve one another. Just a little bit of water (even on just one foot) will suffice.
  
- ❖ **Simple Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday** - Maundy or Holy Thursday is one of the biggest feasts in the Church year, since it commemorates the institution of Holy Orders and of the Holy Eucharist. Sunday-best should be worn by participants and the table should be beautifully decorated, with a white tablecloth (in imitation of the white vestments used at Mass) and even the good china and silver. Before or during the dinner, **Exodus 12:1-20** is read (the story of the first Passover). Then the New Testament reading about the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist is read from either **Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26 or Luke 22:7-20**.

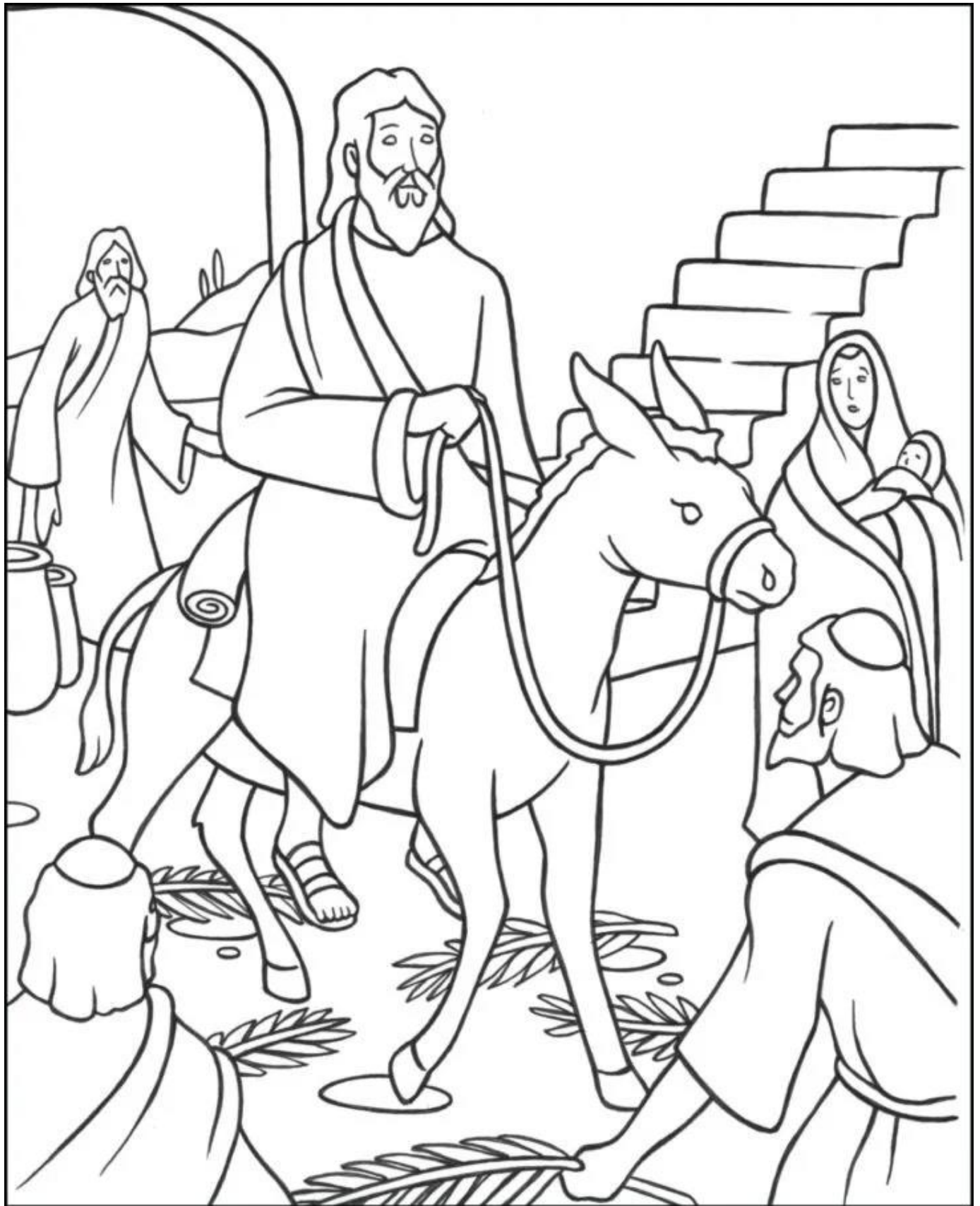
### **Simple Menu Suggestion:**

- ❖ **Bitter Herbs:** Cooked spinach and raw celery sticks dipped in salt water
- ❖ **Haroset:** Applesauce with cinnamon and raisins
- ❖ **Unleavened bread:** Crackers or store-bought matzohs or pita bread or homemade unleavened bread (see recipes)
- ❖ **Wine:** red wine or grape juice/ribena
- ❖ **Lamb:** Leg of lamb, or roast lamb, or lamb chops, or if vegetarian/vegan a dish in the shape of a lamb
- ❖ **Dessert:** You might like to bake a cake since it is a special feast.

## Prayer

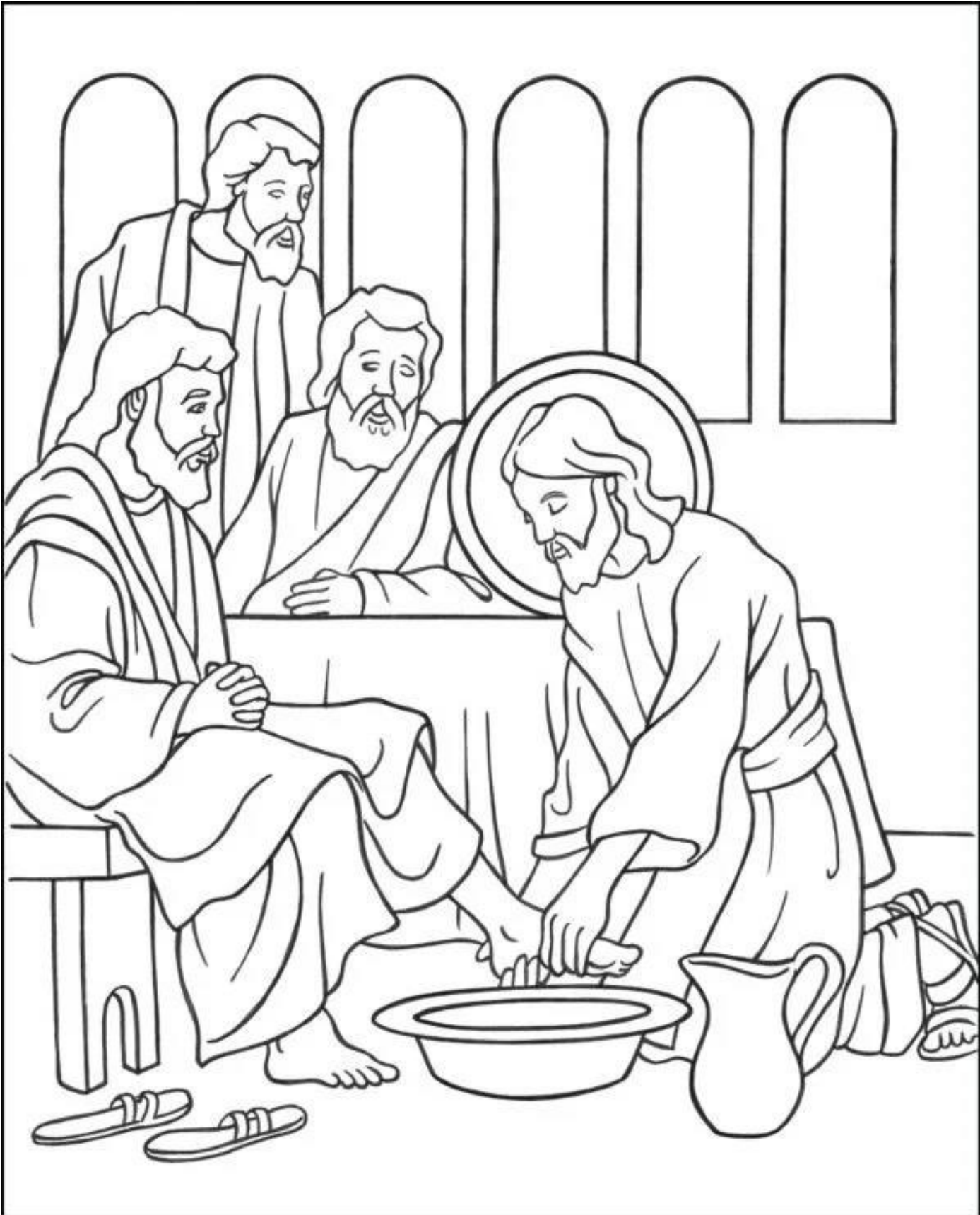
- ❖ Why not come along to the Family Way of the Cross at St Peter's on Good Friday at 9:45am where parents and children will join in with the Passion narrative in the grounds and church.
- ❖ Don't miss out on the opportunity to receive the gift of God's love and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. As well as the usual times on Saturdays, the parish Lenten Reconciliation Service will be at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at St Peter's Church with extra priests supporting to hear individual confessions.
- ❖ For the Triduum Masses and services, see the newsletter for more details: [Peterpost newsletter – 2nd April 2023, Palm Sunday – The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs \(catholicwinchester.org.uk\)](#)

**Wishing you all a blessed and grace-filled Holy Week!**

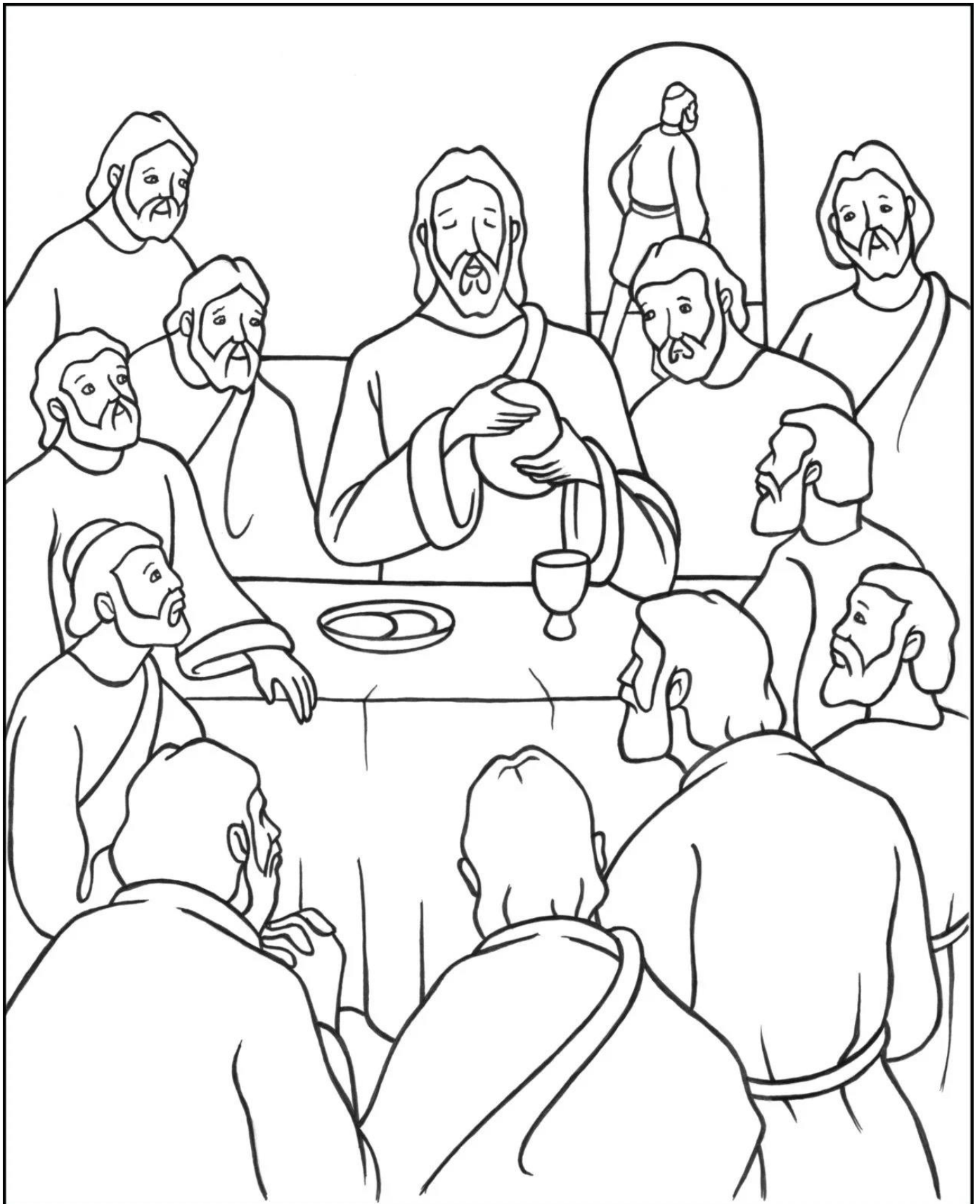


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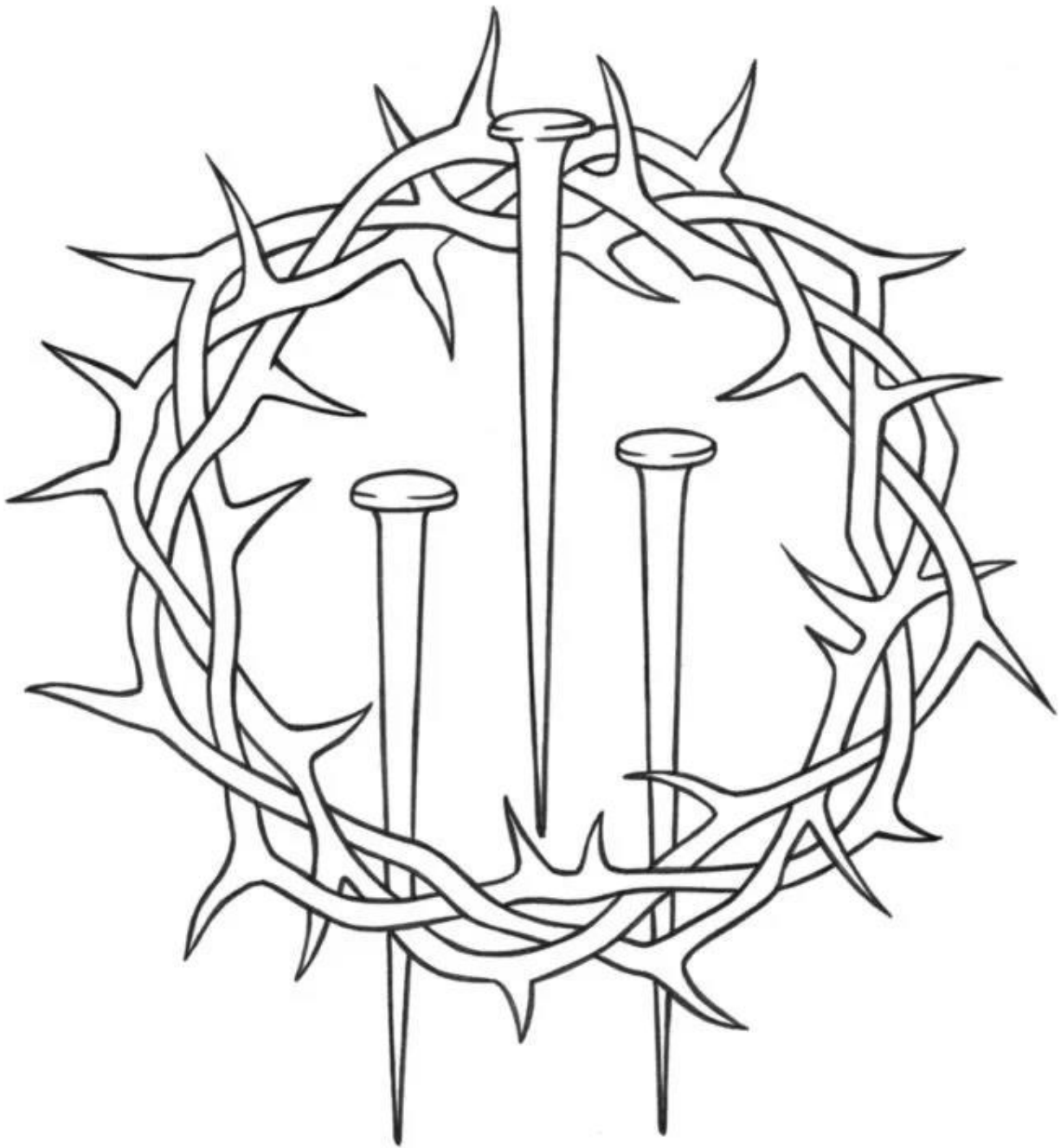




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5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com







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