Elementary: The Greatest Event on Earth

(Week of Mar. 14)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." JN 3:14-21
"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." JN 12:20-33
The Gospels of Mar. 14 and Mar. 21 prepare our hearts, just as Jesus prepared His early disciples for His sacrifice, death and Resurrection – truly the Greatest Event on Earth.

GATHER: Hidden Pictures! Can you find all the pictures hidden in this 'Feeding Time' picture?? **CONNECT:** Sometimes the things we should be most thankful for are hidden right in front of us! Lent is a time for us to reflect on whether we are doing everything we can to be the best version of ourselves – are we remembering to pray, have we made a Lenten promise and are we sticking to it, and most importantly, are we helping others in need? Today we will remember to give thanks for our blessings – the ones we see and the ones that are hidden, and that we are called to love and help one another.

EXPLORE: Grade Level Activities

- **YEAR 1 (CH 13 and 14)** The Holy Spirit! Explore Jesus' promise of this special helper, and how the Holy Spirit comes to us through the sacraments.
- **YEAR 2 (CH 2, Blessed Communion Book)** As we draw closer to First Holy Communion, our Year 2 Lessons will be listed separately. You can find them <u>HERE</u>.
- **Grade 3 (CH 13)** The Mission of the Church. Some things we have learned (a recipe, skill or instrument) have been passed down from our parents and grandparents—possibly even great grandparents! Think of a tradition that has been passed down in your family. What we have learned about the Catholic Church has been passed down through the generations beginning with Jesus! Review the ways kids can continue the work of the Apostles on p157. After they have marked what they've done that week, have them pick one thing that they didn't do and complete in the upcoming week
- **Grade 4 (CH 12)** Doing God's Will. Jesus taught us that when we pray, we learn to understand God's plan for us. A great time to pray is before or after the receiving the Eucharist. If you are able, take a field trip to the church to see the tabernacle (front left side of church). Point out the when the red candle is lit it means that Jesus is present in the Eucharist in the tabernacle. Take a moment and have everyone genuflect and make the sign of the cross.

 @Home families, take note of the location of tabernacle & candle while streaming Mass or pop into the church after communion service one Sunday. Jump to p272 to review the meaning of each commandment.
- **Grade 5 (CH 12)** We Pray the Lord's Prayer. Talk about prayer habits with your child, both personal and family prayer time. This can include times to pray, places to pray or even how to pray. Take time to explore the meaning of the Lord's Prayer on p144.

Reflect: Read the Sunday Gospels **Jesus Brings Light** (Mar. 14, JN 3:14-21) and **Jesus, The Grain of Wheat** (JN 12:20-33) or view it on our <u>CATHOLIC KIDS CONNECTION!</u>

Live It: Jesus is preparing His friends for what is going to happen to Him – His sacrifice on the cross. Jesus died on the cross to save us – this event changed everything. His sacrifice gives us forgiveness for our sins and opened up heaven so we could have life forever. Lent reminds us that we are sometimes called to make sacrifices for others out of love. This week, as a family, let's remember those who do not have full pantries of food or money to go to the grocery store. When you come to session next week, or church this weekend, we invite you to bring donations of food to create <u>Easter Baskets of Meals</u> for families in need. The list of items needed will be provided.