



Holy Thursday, April 18

We remember the Last Supper

CONNIE CLARK

Would you wash your best friend's feet? Hmmm. But Jesus did that for his friends. And once a year, priests all over the world do the same. Why would anyone do this?

Believe it or not, in Jesus' time, foot washing was a sign of welcome. If you were a guest in someone's home in those days, you probably would have walked there. You'd have shared the dusty, dirty road with sheep and oxen. By the time you arrived, your feet would be pretty sweaty and grimy. Yuck! Your host would welcome you by having a servant wash your feet.

Jesus took this servant's job to show us that when our souls get mucked up with sin, he alone can get us sparkling clean. On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus poured water into a basin, washed each of the disciples' feet, and dried them with a towel. Jesus said, "If I ... have

washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

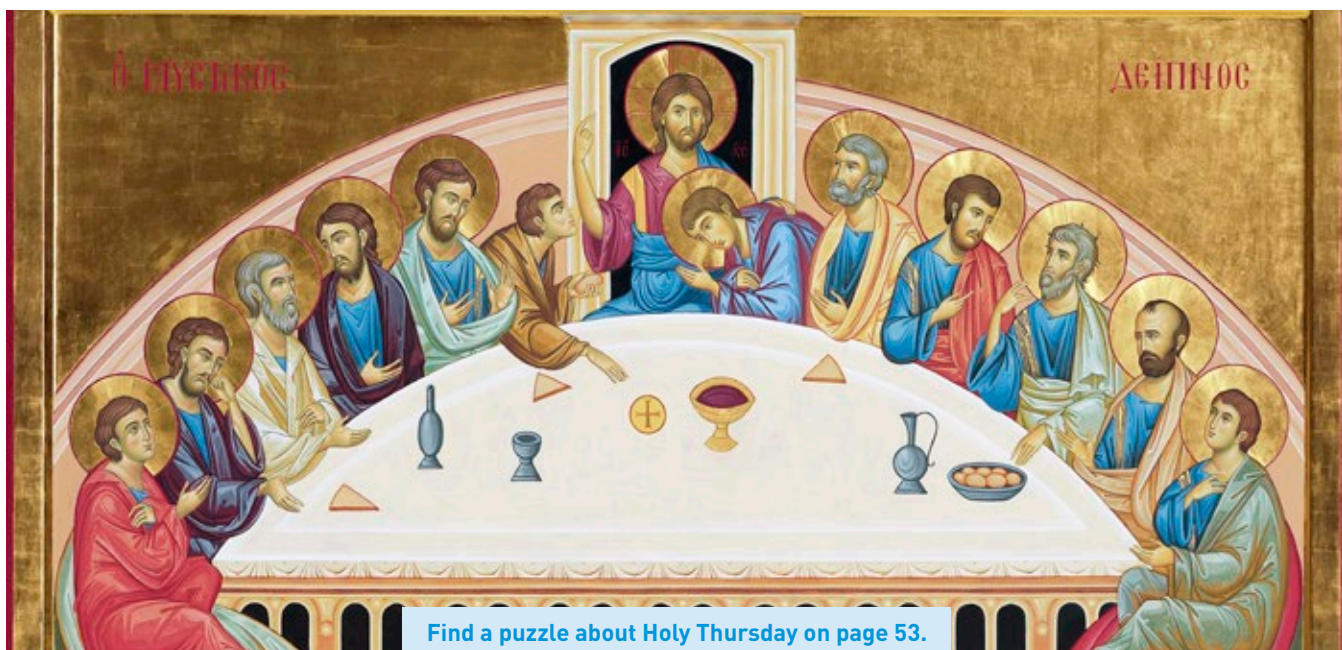
On Holy Thursday, we remember Jesus' words and actions. At parishes around the world, priests wash people's feet. Even the pope does this! It all happens at the evening Mass of the

Last Supper. Now, you already know that at every Mass, we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus shared his Body and Blood in the bread and wine. But on Holy Thursday, we especially remember when it all began. After Mass, we spend time in adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist, remembering how the apostles stayed with Jesus while he prayed in the garden on this night.

We also remember that after he'd washed the disciples' feet, Jesus said, "As I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:15). Every day, but especially on Holy Thursday, we remember all that Jesus has done for us. We ask ourselves, what can we "also do?" What will you "also do" to serve others in Jesus' name?



CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a quarterly magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.



Find a puzzle about Holy Thursday on page 53.

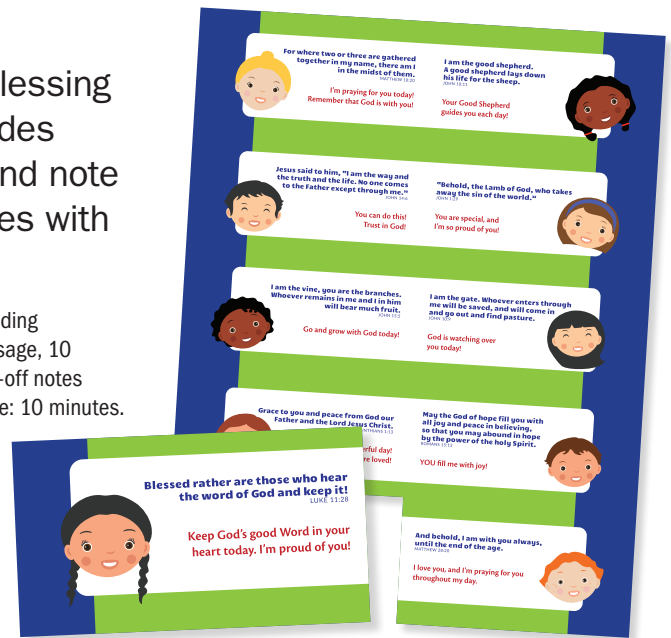
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Start next school year IN JESUS' NAME!

Launch kids into the new school year with parish participation to celebrate Blessing of the Backpacks. Celebration kit includes commissioning ceremony, tag-alongs and note cards, reminding students that God goes with them every day of the school year.

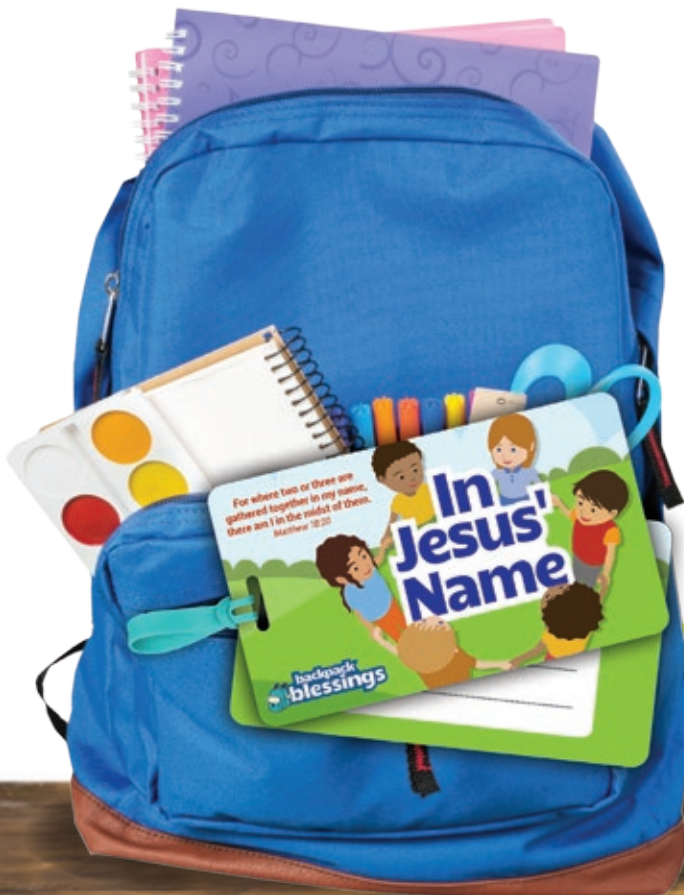
Gather In Jesus' Name—Matthew 18:20—with our easy-to-use kit including instructions and script to lead a responsive prayer and children's message, 10 luggage tags to attach to backpacks and 10 sheets of perforated tear-off notes parents can use to encourage students throughout the year. Event time: 10 minutes.



Kit Code **BPB19** • \$14.99

Extra luggage tags and tear-off sheets are also available.

Code **BPF19** • \$9.99 per set of 10



*Backpack and supplies not included.