## Handout #1

## Symbols of Our Faith

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| Symbols | Meaning for Me | Meaning for Us  as Catholics |
| Light & Fire |  |  |
| Water |  |  |
| Oil |  |  |
| Shared Meal |  |  |
| Bread |  |  |
| Wine |  |  |
| Ashes |  |  |
| Palm Tree |  |  |
| Cross |  |  |
| Thorns |  |  |
| Lily |  |  |
| Desert |  |  |

## Handout #2

## Lent in Word and Symbol

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|  | Word | Symbols |
| Ash Wednesday | Joel 2:12-18  2Corinthians 5:20—6:2  Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 | Ashes |
| First Sunday of Lent | Matthew 4:1-11 (A)  Mark 1:12-15 (B)  Luke 4:1-13 (C) | Desert |
| Second Sunday of Lent | Matthew 17:1-19 (A)  Mark 9:2-10 (B)  Luke 9:28-36 (C) | Easter (new) clothes |
| Third Sunday of Lent | John 4:5-42 | Water |
| Fourth Sunday of Lent | John 9:1-41 | Light |
| Fifth Sunday of Lent | John 11:1-45 | Tomb  Resurrection, new life |
| Passion Sunday  (Palm Sunday Processional) | Matthew 21:1-11 (A)  Mark 11:1-10 (B)  Luke 19:28-40 (C) | Palms |
| Holy Week Chrism Mass | Isaiah 61:1-3, 6:8-9  Revelation 1:5-8  Luke 4:16-21 | Oil |
| Holy Thursday  (Mass of the Lord’s Supper) | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  1Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-15 | Shared meal  Bread and wine  Water (washing feet) |
| Good Friday | Isaiah 52:13-53, 12  Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  John 18:1—19:42 | Thorns  Cross |
| Easter Vigil | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2  Genesis 22:1-18  Exodus 14:15—15:1  Isaiah 54:5-14  Isaiah 55:1-11  Baruch 3:9-15, and 3:32—4:4  Ezekiel 36:16-28  Romans 6:3-11  Matthew 28:1-10 | Fire  Light  Water  Oil  Easter (new) clothes  Shared meal  Bread and wine |
| Easter Sunday | Acts 10:34, 37-43  Colossians 3:1-4 or  1Corinthians 5:6-8  John 20:1-9 | Light  Water |

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| Symbol | Liturgy | Meaning for Us |
| Ashes | Ash Wednesday | * mortality, sorrow, and penance * acknowledgment of sinfulness, our need for God and for conversion of heart * repentance—turning away from sin and evil |
| Desert | Gospel of First Sunday of Lent | * withdrawal for prayer and fasting * sin and temptation |
| Light and Fire | * Gospel of Third Sunday of Lent * Easter Vigil * Easter Sunday | * Christ’s presence * new life in Christ * Christ, the light, overcomes the darkness of sin * resurrection, victory over death * reverence and a sign of a joyous celebration |
| Water | * Gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Lent * Baptism at Easter Vigil * Holy Thursday | * washing feet as a sign of service and self-sacrificing nature of Jesus’ love * Baptism * cleansing from sin, purification * new life emerges from the water—resurrected life * incorporation into Christ’s death and resurrection |
| Palm Branches | Palm Sunday | * a show of honor, a symbol of victory * Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his ultimate victory over death |
| Oil  Anointing | * Chrism Mass * Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil | * our need for God’s help and strength * spiritual strength, receiving God’s grace * empowered for mission as a follower of Jesus * healing and comfort (Anointing the Sick) * sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit * bonding us to the person of Jesus Christ |
| Shared Meal | Holy Thursday | * Jesus’ everlasting presence—the Eucharist * sharing in the saving effects of Jesus’ sacrifice: his paschal mystery, his death and resurrection * giving thanks and praise |
| Bread | Holy Thursday | * Jesus feeds us, fills our hunger * the body of Christ, broken for us * strength to take up the cross and live the Gospel—to become bread for the world |
| Wine | Holy Thursday | * Jesus quenches our thirst * the blood of Christ, given for us * the new covenant |
| Cross | Good Friday | * crucifixion / suffering and pain * sacrifice of Jesus, giving one’s life for one’s friends * death as the instrument of salvation |
| Thorns | Good Friday | * suffering and pain * crown of the suffering Messiah |

## Handout #3

## Lenten Scripture Readings

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|  | Cycle A | Cycle B | Cycle C |
| **Ash Wednesday** | Joel 2:12-18  2Corinthians 5:20—6:2  Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 | Joel 2:12-18  2Corinthians 5:20—6:2  Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 | Joel 2:12-18  2Corinthians 5:20—6:2  Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 |
| **First**  **Sunday**  **of Lent** | Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7  Romans 5:12-19  Matthew 4:1-11 | Genesis 9:8-15  1Peter 3:18-22  Mark 1:12-15 | Deuteronomy 26:4-10  Romans 10:8-13  Luke 4:1-13 |
| **Second Sunday of Lent** | Genesis 12:1-4  2Timothy 1:8-10  Matthew 17:1-19 | Genesis 22:1-2, 9:10-13,15-18  Romans 8:31-34  Mark 9:2-10 | Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18  Philippians 3:14—4:1  Luke 9:28-36 |
| **Third**  **Sunday of Lent** | Exodus 17:3-7  Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  John 4:5-42 | Exodus 20:1-17  1Corinthians 1:22-25  John 2:13-25 | Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15  1Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12  Luke 13:1-9 |
| **Fourth Sunday of Lent** | 1Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13  Ephesians 5:8-14  John 9:1-41 | 2Chronicles 36:14-17,19-23  Ephesians 2:4-10  John 3:14-21 | Joshua 5:9, 10-12  2Corinthians 5:17-21  Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 |
| **Fifth**  **Sunday**  **of Lent** | Ezekiel 37:12-14  Romans 8:8-11  John 11:1-45 | Jeremiah 31:31-34  Hebrews 5:7-9  John 12:20-33 | Isaiah 43:16-21  Philippians 3:8-14  John 8:1-11 |
| **Passion Sunday**  **(Palm Sunday)** | Matthew 21:1-11  Isaiah 50:4-7  Philippians 2:6-11  Matthew 26:14—27:66 | Mark 11:1-10  Isaiah 50:4-7  Philippians 2:6-11  Mark 14:1—15:47 | Luke 19:28-40  Isaiah 50:4-7  Philippians 2:6-11  Luke 22:14—23:56 |
| **Chrism Mass of Holy Week** | Isaiah 61:1-3, 6:8-9  Revelation 1:5-8  Luke 4:16-21 | Isaiah 61:1-3, 6:8-9  Revelation 1:5-8  Luke 4:16-21 | Isaiah 61:1-3, 6:8-9  Revelation 1:5-8  Luke 4:16-21 |
| **Holy Thursday**  **Lord’s Supper** | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  1Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-15 | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  1Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-15 | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  1Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-15 |
| **Good Friday** | Isaiah 52:13-53, 12  Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  John 18:1—19:42 | Isaiah 52:13-53, 12  Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  John 18:1—19:42 | Isaiah 52:13-53, 12  Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  John 18:1—19:42 |
| **Easter Vigil** | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2  Genesis 22:1-18  Exodus 14:15—15:1  Isaiah 54:5-14  Isaiah 55:1-11  Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32—4:4  Ezekiel 36:16-28  Romans 6:3-11  Matthew 28:1-10 | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2  Genesis 22:1-18  Exodus 14:15—15:1  Isaiah 54:5-14  Isaiah 55:1-11  Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32—4:4  Ezekiel 36:16-28  Romans 6:3-11  Mark 16:1-8 | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2  Genesis 22:1-18  Exodus 14:15—15:1  Isaiah 54:5-14  Isaiah 55:1-11  Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32—4:4  Ezekiel 36:16-28  Romans 6:3-11  Luke 25:1-12 |
| **Easter Sunday** | Acts 10:34, 37-43  Colossians 3:1-4 or  1 Corinthians 5:6-8  John 20:1-9 | Acts 10:34, 37-43  Colossians 3:1-4 or  1 Corinthians 5:6-8  John 20:1-9 | Acts 10:34, 37-43  Colossians 3:1-4 or  1 Corinthians 5:6-8  John 20:1-9 |