



## Family Connections

### Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus (Year B)



Mark 14: 12 - 16, 22 – 26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks, “Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my Body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my Blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



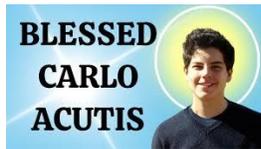
Reflection:

The Passover was/is one of the central feasts for Jews. It marked the day that the angel of death “passed over” the homes of the Israelite slaves and killed the firstborn male child among the Egyptians. This event finally convinced the King of Egypt to release the Israelite people from 430 years of slavery. God asked the Jewish people to remember this event by a special meal. On the night before Jesus died, He celebrated the Passover meal and added a new meaning, the New Covenant between God and us by Jesus death on the cross, to be remembered by a special meal whereby bread becomes His Body and wine becomes His Blood.



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

Marking an event with a meal is not unusual. “What are some events that you celebrate with a meal?”  
“Do you have a favourite one?”



**Blessed Carlo Acutis** (Bedtime Story):

Carlo was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1991. He tells the story that, when his grandfather died, his grandfather appeared in a dream and asked Carlo to pray for him. Carlo was only four years old.

Carlo’s parents were surprised at the interest he took in all things dealing with Jesus and the Catholic faith. Religion wasn’t a big part of their lives and they had not encouraged it among their children. It was Carlo who convinced his parents to help him receive his First Holy Communion when he was seven. It was Carlo that brought his parents back to church.

In most things, Carlo was an ordinary child. He loved computers, video games and hanging out with friends. But he was also someone who cared for those who were left out of games and took time out of his activities to be involved with fundraisers and efforts to help the poor. Each day Carlo would set aside some time for prayer. He loved spending a few minutes of quiet time in front of the Blessed Sacrament at Church.

Carlo used his love for computers to discover more things about his Christian faith. In his research he learned about the many miracles that have been reported around the Blessed Sacrament. Carlo became fascinated by the way God used these miracles to teach that the host truly became the actual Body of Christ, and how the wine became Jesus’ Blood. He used his knowledge with computers and his love for the Sacrament of Jesus’ Body and Blood to develop a webpage to teach others about these many miracles.

Carlo wanted to visit all of the places where God had performed these miracles, but he never got the chance to do so. Carlo fell sick and was unable to travel far from home. During his illness, Carlo didn’t complain or grow angry with God. In fact, Carlo loved Jesus all the more. The only thing he wanted was to finish his webpage; the only thing he wanted was that others might discover the great love he had found in loving God, especially in learning about, praying before and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

Carlo died on October 12, 2006. He was only 15 years old. And, yet, during his short life he showed such great faith, hope and love in God and for others that people began wondering if he should not be recognized as a Saint. The first step took place in 2020, when God performed a miracle in Carlo’s name. A young boy, suffering from a terrible sickness, was cured after his parents asked God to heal him through the prayers of Carlo Acutis. The young boy was cured and the miracle proved true. Exactly 14 years after his death, he was enrolled among “The Blessed” in the Church. It will only take one more miracle, proven to be true, and Carlo Acutis, the young boy who combined his love for Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, his love for the poor and his love for computers, will be declared a saint.

## Prayer:

Blessed Carlo Acutis, as we remember your love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, your love for those in need and your desire to use your love for computers to share your Christian faith, we ask that, through your prayers and by your example, you may help us to grow in our love for Christ and His presence in the Sacrament that he left us. We ask this Christ our Lord. Amen.

## From Carlo's Sayings:

- "Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies."
- "Why do people worry so much about the beauty of their own body and not about the beauty of their soul?"
- "Before receiving Holy Communion: "Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!"
- "Golgotha is for everyone. No one escapes the cross."
- "If we only knew what eternity is, we would do everything to change the course of our lives."
- "You, too, can be a saint. But you need to want it with your whole heart."
- "Everything passes away... What alone will truly make us beautiful in God's eyes is the way that we have loved Him and our brothers and sisters."
- "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."
- "Holiness is not the process of adding, but subtracting: less of me to leave space for God."

## Storytime

### The Passover (Bedtime Story):

God sent Moses to speak to Pharaoh (the King of Egypt): "Let my people go." But Pharaoh wouldn't listen. "No, no, no." So God turned all the water to blood, so the Egyptians couldn't drink. "Let my people go," God said. But Pharaoh said, "No, no, no." This went on for quite a while, first frogs, then gnats, then flies, God sent. But Pharaoh was not convinced. "Let my people go," God said. But Pharaoh said, "No, no, no."

Then God struck down their cows, they were as sick as sick could be; then he sent festering boils to break out upon their skin. God followed with thunder and hail, destroying every crop they had, the locusts ate up whatever was left before darkness covered the land. Each time God sent Moses to speak, to tell Pharaoh what he must do. But each time Pharaoh was asked, he answered, "No, no, no."

God wasn't done, of that I'm sure, he was going to do one more thing. "I will cause the Pharaoh grief. I'll send my angel, who'll strike the land, killing the first born of man and beast." "You wouldn't dare," Pharaoh spoke, he still wasn't convinced, until his eldest son lay dead. Then, in his rage and in his grief, he let God's people go.

How did God's people escape all this, they, too, lived in the land? They were asked to sacrifice a lamb, eat the meal with hurried haste, then smear the blood upon their doors; so when the angel saw the

blood, he left them undisturbed. They called it “Passover”, for that is what the angel did. Passing over them, while striking the Egyptians’ dead.

“Please go and leave the land I rule, please go and let us be. Please take your wives, your children, too, your sheep and cows as well. Please take your clothes, your tents, your bags. Please leave us now at once.”

And so the people packed in haste, they packed up all they had. They packed their bags, they packed their trunks, they packed them all on carts. And, in their haste to leave their homes, they packed some bread in sacks. Without the yeast to raise the dough, the bread remained quite flat.

Out into the desert they fled, away from Pharaoh’s land. Towards the waters of the Sea, now free from Pharaoh’s hand.

But, not so fast, it wasn’t done, poor Pharaoh changed his mind. “Send out the troops, send out my men, go in pursuit of them. Send out my horses, my chariots, too; let none of my slaves escape.” And so it was, and so it went, Pharaoh in hot pursuit. When nightfall came and the moon came up, the army had now drawn near.

With an army in the East and a sea to the West, God’s people were kind of stuck. “We cannot fight, we cannot swim, we don’t know what to do. Our carts are heavy, are bags are, too, we don’t know what to do.”

“Listen to my people,” Moses said to God. “Listen to my people, and hear their cry for help.” And God replied and God did speak, telling him what to do. “Stretch your arms, your staff as well, stretch them over the sea. For on this night, this glorious night, I will set my people free.”

All that night and well past dawn and wind blew over the sea. So that, by the time the morning came the sea had split in two. A wall on the right, a wall on the left, and a dry path in between; God led His people through the sea and rescued them from harm.

“Not so fast,” Pharaoh said, “I will not be undone.” And in his anger and in his haste, he followed in pursuit. But once his troops stepped on the path, walls of water on either side, the walls came down and drowned his men, never to be seen again.

This is the story of the Passover, the feast Jesus celebrated with his friends. And, just as God had saved us once, delivering us from Pharaoh’s hand, so through His cross, and this sacred meal, He saves us once again. Not from armies and not from men, but from sin and death this time. Not just once, but for all time, all people and all ages.

Come and join us in this sacred meal, the gift of Jesus given. “Come and eat, come and drink, my Body and my Blood. You will find your life in me, there is no greater love, but to lay down your life for your friends, to love as I have loved you.”

**Prayers to develop a greater love for the Body and Blood of Christ:**

Lord God, on the night before He died,  
Jesus told us: "Take, eat, and drink,  
This is my Body, my Blood for you,  
Do this in remembrance of me."  
Help us now, and grant us love,  
to do as you have said,  
so that with hearts and eyes on you  
our bodies may follow the head.

Lord God, as St. Paul once said,  
the bread we break and the cup we bless  
become the Body and Blood of your Son,  
so, as we now prepare ourselves  
to receive you once again,  
fill our hearts and minds with love  
for Jesus' gift to us.