

## **Life of Christ -Pascal Mysteries**

**The City of Jerusalem:** This lesson is given mainly to the older children, but some first year children may also receive a portion of this lesson. This lesson recounts the last three days of the life of Jesus starting with the last supper, and leading to His death and resurrection. This material utilizes a 3-D map of Jerusalem, complete with buildings, Calvary, and the Garden of Olives. We purposefully do not recount the crucifixion in any detail, but do state that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us and so that we could have everlasting life. The telling of Jesus' death is always followed by the joyful proclamation of His resurrection.

**The Cenacle:** Mark 14:12-17, 22-26

This lesson is given to all the children, and is the familiar retelling of the Last Supper of our Lord. The direct aim is to announce the death and resurrection of Christ, and to experience the joy of Christ who gave Himself to us in the Eucharist. This will also prepare the children for a more meaningful participation at Mass as they begin to draw connections between the Last Supper and the Liturgy.

**Mystery of Life and Death:** John 12:24

This lesson is for the third year children and will help the child understand the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ through the parable method. This lesson utilizes wheat plants at various stages of growth, emphasizing that the wheat plant grew from a single grain and had to die in order to produce new life. The force of God within the seed caused it to produce greater and greater wheat, thus helping the child to understand that the quality of Jesus' risen life is "greater" and "more" than when He was on earth in human form.

**The Empty Tomb:** Mark 16:1-8

This lesson's direct aim is to help the children experience the joy of the resurrection. This recounting of the resurrection is when the 3 women went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away. After solemnly reading the scripture, we ask questions like: how do you think the women felt when they saw that the stone was rolled away? What did the young man say? (Jesus has been raised) How did the women feel, when they heard this? What did they do next?