

## **Seasonal Family Ritual: Lent/Holy Week**

### **Blessing of the Family Cross**

Your family may have special crosses or crucifixes that hang on the walls or sit on shelves in your home. Or you may have received special crosses as parish family events, such as at the Stories of God for Kindergarteners Lent event. Begin a tradition of moving one of these crosses to a special prayer space during the season of Lent.

### **Arrange a Lenten Prayer Space**

- Use purple cloth (purple is the liturgical color for Lent), a Bible, a candle, and other symbols for Lent (such as desert symbols) on a small table.
- Place the cross on the table. (If you participated in the Stories of God's Love for Kindergarteners Lent event and received a cross, finish decorating it together, and place it on the table. Also place the diorama your family created at that event on the table.)

### **Pray Together**

Gather around the prayer table, and pray this responsorial prayer together. (The response is "Lord, you are holy indeed.")

O Lord, holy Lord.... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

Today we bless this cross that is a reminder of your great love for us ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

May we look on this cross and remember the events of Holy Week ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your triumphant entry into Jerusalem ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember the Last Supper where you gave us your Body and Blood ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember how you taught us to serve one another when you washed the feet of your disciples ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember the Agony in the Garden, where your Apostles fell asleep, and you prayed to your Father in heaven ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your trial before Pontius Pilate ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your crowning with thorns ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your walk to the Cross ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your death on the Cross ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

We remember your burial in the tomb ... *Lord, you are holy indeed.*

### **Venerate the Cross**

Pass around the cross so that each family member may gently kiss it, at which time the other members pray, "Lord you are holy indeed."

### **Conclusion**

- Conclude the ritual by praying the Lord's Prayer and thanking the group for participating in this important ritual.