

Yr 2, 3rd Sunday, Great Fast, Veneration of the Holy Cross

Mark 8:34-9:1

Opening Prayer: We bow in worship to your Holy Cross O Master, and we glorify your Holy resurrection

Хресту твоєму поклоняємося Владико, і святе воскресіння твоє славимо
(3X with a profound bow).

Gospel: [Mark 8:34-9:1](#) - Click here to read the Gospel. You can see an interpretation of this passage here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSm4v2GzXtw> or simply read this paraphrasing of the story to the children:

Jesus told people how to follow Him. He said that we cannot just do what we want to do. He said we should do what He wants us to do. Sometimes that will be hard, just like it was hard for Jesus to die on the cross for us. But if we do what God wants, we will be saved.

Jesus said that nothing on earth is better than our soul. He said we will lose our soul if we just do what we want while we're alive. He said we should not be embarrassed to follow Him. He also said we should not be embarrassed of His words. We are happy to follow Jesus!

Lesson: The cross reminds us that we are saved!

This is a special Sunday in our church called Veneration of the Holy Cross Sunday. Why do we bow before the cross? Isn't the cross a bad thing? We bow in front of it because, through the cross, Jesus saved us. That is why we think it is beautiful to have crosses all around us. They remind us that Jesus saved us!

We have crosses in our homes, cars or our jewelry. This shows others that we love Jesus, that he saved us by the cross and that we are not embarrassed about it. In a restaurant or at someone's house, we should be proud to make the sign of the cross and pray before we eat or tell others that we will pray for them or even pray with them. Today we will make a special cross to hang somewhere in our home to show others that we are proud to be a friend of Jesus!

What does Jesus mean when he says pick up your cross? Sometimes it is easier to be lazy and not do our "work" of being close to God (pray, go to church, be kind etc.) We need to keep praying that we can be strong enough, to keep going with it. This is what it means to pick up our cross.

Craft: Painter's Tape Cross Craft

In Church: Look around and count how many crosses you can see in church.