

PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA

Those preceding him as well as
those following kept crying out:

“Hosanna!

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!”**

- Mk 11:9

**Our Lady of Peace Church
March 28, 2021**

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN

My dear friends,

Jesus Christ emptied himself, taking the form of a slave

This weekend, with the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we begin Holy Week—a time for us to focus on the very heart of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection, Jesus of Nazareth may have been remembered as a great teacher, or a mighty prophet, but hardly the eternal Son of God. To get a glimpse of the mindset of those who thought Jesus' death on the cross was simply the end of a promising career, we can look ahead to the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35. In that passage we find two disciples heading back to their native village of Emmaus “conversing about all the things that had occurred.” As they walk along, the risen Jesus approaches and begins to walk with them. However, for some reason they do not recognize him. To enter the conversation, Jesus asks, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They ask, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?” When Jesus asks, “What sort of things?” they reveal the depths of their sadness: “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel...”

Our celebration this weekend has a two-fold character. It begins with our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Mark informs us (Mk 11:1-10) that “many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from their fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!’”

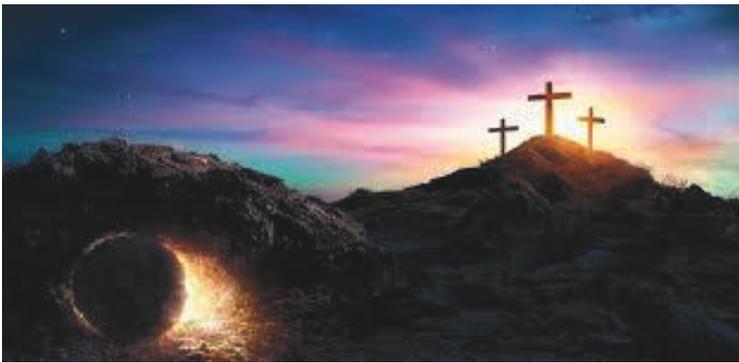
Then, triumphant palms change to passion, the story of the suffering and death of Jesus. The first reading, Isaiah 50:4-7, is one of the so called “suffering servant” passages, dealing with one who will suffer terribly: “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.” The Responsorial Psalm includes Jesus' plaintive cry from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” The words of Psalm 22 capture the change of mood that has taken place in the crowd. “All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: He relied on the Lord; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him.”

The gospel reading, the Passion according to Mark 14:1-15:47 also captures the markedly changed mood of the crowd. When Pilate asks if they want the release of “the king of the Jews,” the crowd asks instead for the release of the insurrectionist Barabbas. Pilate then questions, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?” The crowd responds, “Crucify him.”

The second reading for this Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:6-11, presents a beautiful reflection on the deeper meaning of today's celebration. Consider the beautiful, uplifting imagery: “Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Let us not forget that one year ago we basically lost out on the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. We were in lockdown mode because of the pandemic. The change in our worship and in our lives reflected how quickly things can change. Perhaps being deprived of normal worship and normal life will help us to more deeply appreciate things we quite often take for granted. The one constant among the shifting sands of time is the love of God, so dramatically commemorated during this week we call holy. Let us celebrate with faith and gratitude the dying and rising of Jesus Christ, as we recall St. Paul's “bottom line” on this central aspect of our faith. “...if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the deadest of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of human beings” (1 Cor 15:17-19).

BISHOP WILLIAM BYRNE INVITES CATHOLICS throughout the Diocese of Springfield to a special Holy Hour for Vocations following Holy Thursday Mass in every parish. Can you spend one hour with the Lord at the Altar of Repose praying for priests and for vocations to the priesthood? Join Bishop Byrne, as will Catholics throughout the Diocese, for this special hour or prayer for our priests and future priests of the Diocese—here at Our Lady of Peace Church.



Saturday, March 27—Stations of the Cross 3:00P

4:00P *Russell James*
by Theresa

Sunday, March 28

8:00A *Millie, Walter & Ronnie Traceski*
by the Creek family

10:00A *Kristen Kaczinski*
by her family

Saturday, April 3—Holy Saturday

7:30P *Lorraine Coyle* 3rd anniversary
by Joyce & Tina Phillips

Sunday, April 4—Easter

6:30A For all who have died from COVID-19

8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*
by Paul

10:00A *May Szulborski*
by the Boucher family

DAILY MASS

Monday, March 29

8:00A *Easter blessings for Paul Prunier*
by a friend

Tuesday, March 30

8:00A *Easter blessings for Louis Socquet*
by a friend

Wednesday, March 31

8:00A *Easter blessings for Jim & Judy Hartnett*
by a friend

DEANERY-WIDE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY CELEBRATION is Sunday, April 11, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Greenfield. Confessions 2:00-3:00P. Service at 3:00P. Bishop William Byrne will be celebrant and homilist.

Our Lady's Window

April 2 *Barbara Sevene*
by JoAnn Waryasz



DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEALS

In memory of *Theresa Greene* by Mary Figoli.

Holy Week Schedule

Tuesday, March 30

6:30P Holy Hour and Individual Confessions

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:00P Mass of the Lord's Supper
Due to COVID no washing of feet
or procession
Followed by Holy Hour for Vocations
Diocesan-wide time of prayer in every parish

Good Friday, April 2

3:00P The Passion of the Lord
Due to COVID no kissing of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 3

7:30P Easter Vigil
Due to COVID an abbreviated selection
of Readings

Easter Sunday, April 4

6:30A "Sunrise Service" Mass
8:00A Easter Sunday Mass
10:00A Easter Sunday Mass

**Reservations required
for these Masses**

413 863.2585

Masks and social distancing required

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 21, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$2,852.00
On-line \$869.00

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