

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

**Palm Sunday
of the Lord's Passion
Year B, March 28, 2021**

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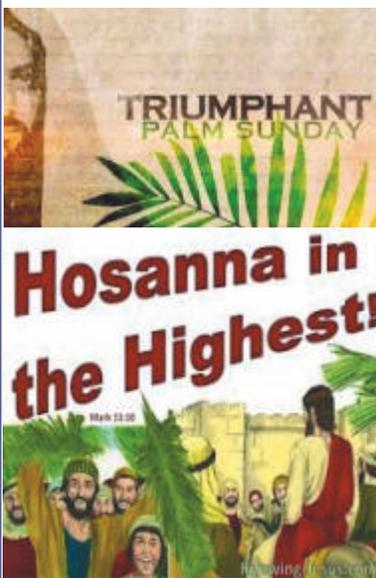
Tel: 760-572-0283

**Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor**

**Our Sunday Masses are now held inside the Church,
on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:30 AM.
Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing.**

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem: (John 12:12-16)

When the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel." Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written: Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass's colt. His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him.
The Gospel of the Lord.



At The Mass – 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. 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 Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

**"My God, my God, why
have you abandoned
me?"**

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."

R. Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

R.

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O Lord, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.

R.

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: "You who fear the Lord, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!" **R.**

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Lector: Gospel Acclamation
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Lector: Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Gospel: The Passion of the Lord according to St. Mark (15:1-39)



COLLECTIONS

will be taken at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper as well as at the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

The Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until You come again.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

THE SPIRITUAL CONTENT AND MESSAGE OF PALM SUNDAY

Today, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, HOLY WEEK begins. The liturgy of Palm Sunday is not an anniversary or an imitation of an event that happened in Jerusalem more than two thousand years ago. The external form (welcoming with palm branches and procession) is taken over from that time and place but the content is a message for today. As the people of Jerusalem recognized and accepted Jesus as their Messiah and king, so we too profess the same in our times and lives, and commit ourselves to act accordingly.

Today's liturgy shows that Jesus is a Messiah and king of a very special kind. He does not come in a powerful and threatening position like other kings who rode in chariots and on horses but Jesus came as the humble and peaceful Savior. The humility and powerlessness of the Messiah becomes very visible in the fact that after the celebration of the Messianic entrance the Passion is proclaimed. As followers of Christ and as a Christian Church we have to change and transform the world and society not by power grabbing but by humble service.

In today's liturgy also, glory and passion, life and death, acceptance and rejection are close together. This was how it was in the life of Jesus. This is also how it will be in the life of every Christian, in fact, of every human being. But the Christian is one who faces this way of life with his faith in the Lord who is in him and with him (Immanuel) and towards whom he is on the way. This is the reason for religious/catholic processions — to remind us that we are only "visitors" in this world, that our permanent home is with the Lord in heaven. Every moment of our life is a movement toward heaven. This is captured in the following anecdote:

In the last century, an American tourist visited the famous Polish rabbi Hafez Hayyim. He was astonished to see that the rabbi's home was only a simple room filled with books. The only furniture was a table and a bench.

"Rabbi, where is your furniture?" asked the tourist.

"Where is yours?" replied Hafez.

"Mine? But I'm only a visitor here." replied the tourist. "So am I," said the rabbi.

The procession symbolizes our being on the way to the Lord all our lifetime. Christians are always on the move; this is what the beautiful name "parish" expresses. It comes from the Greek word *paroikia* and means to be a guest, to be passing through, not having a fixed home here but only a temporary shelter. Our parish hymnbook is aptly titled "Journeysongs" — a good reminder of our being a *paroikia* or parish — a people on a "journey" or "procession" to the Lord. We remain aware that the Lord is with us while we are on the way to him, and thus, that we are not left alone.

A COMPASSIONATE LOVE

The first half of Holy Week is the high point of our celebration of Lent: Jesus and his passion are brought very close to us. Today, we listen to St. Mark's account of the passion and death of our Lord. The emphasis is on **the reality of suffering** in the life of our Lord to show his love for us. He identifies with us, becoming truly human that at the height of suffering he could also cry "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The most important message of today's celebration is that the suffering of Jesus **is a suffering for the sake of others which brings about genuine forgiveness. In one word, it is a passion which is a COMPASSION.**

That is why the season of Lent is characterized by prayer, penance and almsgiving in order to achieve this spirituality of compassion or suffering for the sake of others — to suffer so that others may live.

We have four more days left of Lent. Now we intensely pray that when the season of Lent ends on Holy Thursday just before the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, we shall have had a genuine change of our hearts and the spirituality of compassion shall have become our spiritual "clothing" as we enter the Paschal *Triduum* (*Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday*), which is the culmination of the entire liturgical year.

Like Judas, Peter, Pilate, and the soldiers, we have a role in the passion and death of Jesus.

*

If the passion is to touch us deeply, we cannot listen to it as a story about what happened to Jesus or about what others did to Jesus. Rather, we must listen to it as a story of what we have done and what we continue to do.

*

How can we change our hearts if we cannot see our sins?

Please don't forget: The Holy Thursday collection is your support for our Parish while the Good Friday collection is your help to support Christians and maintain shrines in the Holy Land.

TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Thursday (April 1st): **6:00 pm** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday (April 2nd): **3:00 pm** – Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday (April 3rd): **7:30 pm** – Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday (April 4th): **8:30 am** – Easter Sunday Mass

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

As we enter into this Holy Week, we pray humbly for what we need and gratefully for God's love for us.

LECTOR:

1.) For all of God's holy Church, that we may be a visible sign to others as we follow the way of the cross in the world today, let us pray to the Lord.

2.) For peace in areas of the world beset by war, hostility, and conflict, especially in the lands where Jesus walked, let us pray to the Lord.

3.) For those who are in prison, that they may find comfort in the Lord and not lose hope, let us pray to the Lord.

4.) That Jesus' reliance on God through his passion and death may be a model for us in our trials and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

5.) For those who feel abandoned, who feel they have no one to turn to, that they may realize that they can always turn to God and that God will never abandon them, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

Almighty and ever-loving God, your will guided your Son while he was with us here on earth. May we accept your will as your answer to our needs, through Christ our Lord.

HOLY SATURDAY RETREAT

Join Auxiliary Bishop John Dolan for a Holy Saturday (April 4) hour-long retreat from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm for a "Holy Saturday Retreat: A walk in the Garden" via Zoom, as you anticipate Easter and God's eternal plan for you! To register, visit: <http://christ-ion.com> or Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/christinourneighborhood/>

An excerpt from Bishop McElroy's letter, read at all the Masses in the Diocese of San Diego last Sunday:

"As we approach Holy Week, I write to you in hope as a pathway for emerging from the Covid pandemic is now clear for our nation. The love of God has accompanied us throughout this painful year of sickness, death and isolation, and now God has brought us vaccines that can heal us and heal our world.

It is vitally important that all of us receive the Covid vaccine. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are safe and effective. They are fully approved for use at this moment by the teachings of our Church. And as Pope Francis has so clearly taught, receiving the vaccine is not only for ourselves as individuals. It is for everyone that we treasure, to keep them safe and healthy and bring back the joy of life to us all.

... The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we will be able to return to the many joys of our lives that we have missed during this past year of suffering. The vaccines, with our continued masking and social distancing during the coming months, will bring this hateful pandemic to an end."

A REMINDER RE CORONA VIRUS PROTOCOLS:

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person, typically through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Airborne transmission is infection spread through exposure to those virus-containing respiratory droplets comprised of smaller droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air over long distances (usually greater than 6 feet) and time (typically hours).

Also, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

When should I quarantine for the coronavirus disease?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.

Do I still need to quarantine after I tested negative for COVID-19 but was exposed to someone who has COVID-19?

Yes. You should still self-quarantine for 14 days since your last exposure. It can take up to 14 days after exposure to the virus for a person to develop COVID-19 symptoms.

A negative result before end of the 14-day quarantine period does not rule out possible infection.

By self-quarantining for 14 days, you lower the chance of possibly exposing others to COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

Financial Support

Mar. 20-21, 2021 Collections..... \$ 1,370.00

Via Online: Mar. 19—Mar. 21, 2021..... \$ 240.00

Annual Lenten Collection..... \$ 25.00

Error corrected: In last week's (3/21) Bulletin, the money in the amount of \$150.00 is the total of the contributions received online from Mar. 9 to 17, not from Mar. 1 to 7 as inadvertently reported. The total of the Mar. 1 to 7 online contributions was reported in the March 14, 2021 Bulletin.

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