

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020

MASS READINGS

MONDAY IS 42:1-7, PS 27, JN 12:1-11

TUESDAY: IS 49:1-6, PS 71, JN 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY: IS 50:4-9, PS 69, MT 26:14-25
EASTER TRIDUUM

THURSDAY: *EX 12:1-8, 11-14, PS 116, I COR 11:23-26, JN 13:1-15*

FRIDAY: *IS 52:13-53:12, PS 31, HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9, JN 18:1-19:42*

SATURDAY: *EASTER VIGIL (SEE MISSAL)*

NEXT SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD-RDGS: ACTS 10:34A, 37-43, PS 118, COL 3:1-4, JN 20:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ST. ANN PARISHIONERS. MAY GOD BLESS YOU, KEEP YOU SAFE AND IN HIS LOVING CARE AT THIS MOST TRYING TIME.

CONSIDER THE THREE DAYS OUR LORD SPENT IN THE TOMB FOLLOWED BY HIS TRIUMPHAL RESURRECTION.

SPEND YOUR DAYS CONTEMPLATING HIS GREAT POWER AND LOVING KINDNESS AND ALL WILL BE WELL!

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

All members of St. Ann's parish, families-living & deceased: (Leonard/Mary/Anita Eckman, Donald & David Bogan). (Chet & Francis Albrechts). Alvessa Treviño). (Hank/Jean/Michael Corbin, Gene/Genevieve Bullock). (Norb/Mark FitzSimons, Larry White). (Judy/Ed Buckles, Andy & Vera Houston, Larry/Mary/Larry Johnston). Dorothy Nelson. Marian Schwartz. Bob Bohan. Robert W. Bennett. Jerry/Thomas Butz. Charles Connor

GOSPEL REFLECTION

One doesn't need to be a famous person, just a public one to realize how quickly folk's attitudes and opinions change especially when it comes to opinions about yourself. No sooner had Jesus showed his face in Jerusalem that people began waving palm branches shouting their love and admiration for him than in just a few hours the same crowd would be yelling for his death. There is more than just a valuable lesson, there is a wealth of revelation to last a life time when it comes to consideration of just who are we supposed to please in this life. From a young age we are to "make people proud", certainly not to cause shame to those we represent and so on and so forth. We are to be "true to our school, our flag, our job, our country and all sorts of interests attempting to claim some part of us. In short we certainly may not think for a moment that we belong entirely to ourselves. There is certainly nothing wrong with loyalty, allegiance and all manner of ties we establish throughout our lives. There is however, one thing to remember and that is above all else we belong to GOD. The psalmist reminds us that He made us, we belong to Him. In this we then weigh up every other allegiance, great and small, and place it under our one true allegiance, namely God. And that is precisely what Jesus did as he rode into Jerusalem. Having lived his whole life, up to that point, in complete fidelity and allegiance to his Father he was not about to give it all over to crowds who favored him one day and cursed him the next, and neither should we. We have heard it said in a variety of ways that we are known by the "company we keep", or conversely by the "company we avoid". Nowhere is it more important than constantly keeping the company of the Lord who is our very strength and salvation, in Him do our souls find rest and whose opinion of us never changes, his love is steadfast in the face of a very fickle and wayward world. So trust not in mortal man in whom there is no help for our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020



They waved palm branches as He passed
And hailed Him as their King;
Yet, they knew not of the sorrow
The coming week would bring.
The glad acclaim would soon give way
To jeers and mockery;
In Pilate's court He'd be condemned
To a cross on Calvary.
But Jesus knew He was the price
In God's redemptive plan,
The Sacrificial Lamb come down
To die for sins of man.
The centuries have passed and still
He seeks those lost in sin,
Pleading with unyielding hearts
To repent and follow Him.
On this day we shout our praise,
O, let us not delay;
The palm-strewn path of long ago
Still leads to Him today.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Palm Sunday at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

By Deb Wagner

FORT WAYNE — “In the account of our Lord’s Passion and Death, we learn how Jesus has loved us,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said to the faithful who gathered for Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Palm Sunday includes the reading of the Passion narrative and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Mass began with the blessing of palms in the Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on the cathedral grounds followed by a short procession to the palm-adorned cathedral.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades added: “In the cross of Jesus, we see the depths of God’s love for us. There is no greater event of love in human history than the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God’s total and perfect love for us.”

He said: “The story of the Passion begins with the Last Supper when Jesus gives us the amazing gift of the Holy Eucharist, His very Body and Blood. So much does He love us that He desired to leave us this great sacrament so that we can share in His sacrifice and be strengthened by this spiritual food in our journey through life. So much does He love us that He allows us to participate, like the apostles, in the sacred banquet, which gives nourishment for our souls.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “Pope Benedict calls the Eucharist ‘the great school of love.’ He says that ‘when we participate regularly and with devotion in Holy Mass, when we spend a sustained time of adoration in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, it is easier to understand the length, breadth, height and depth of his love that goes beyond all knowledge.’”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of Catholics’ obligation to love: “As Catholics, as loving disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to join in this revolution, the revolution of love. Remember the words of Jesus: ‘Just as I have loved you, you also should love on another.’

This is our calling; this is our common vocation, to love as Jesus loved. This is how people are to know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, by our love for one another. This includes loving our enemies as well as our friends.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020

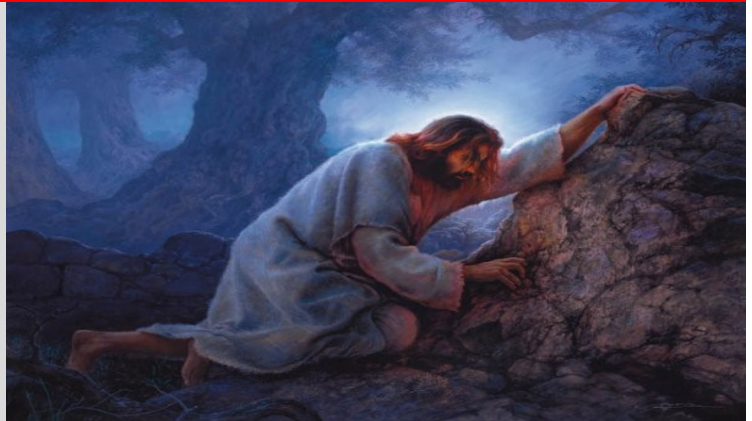
FROM FRONT PAGE

“And true love means sacrifice, especially for the poor and the needy, the sick and the suffering, the rejected and the outcasts,” Bishop Rhoades added. “It includes love for our unborn brothers and sisters, for our immigrant brothers and sisters, for our Jewish and Muslim neighbors, for all people created in God’s image and likeness. We are to proclaim the Gospel of love in word and in deed. This is how we testify to our love for Jesus, by loving one another as He has loved us. As followers of Christ, we are called to imitate the One who vanquished hatred and death forever through love.”

Bishop Rhoades, who just returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, witnessed the tension, fears and animosity between the Jewish and Arab people. He said he asked himself if there will ever be peace in the Holy Land.

“Christ teaches us the way to true and lasting peace — it is the way of mercy and reconciliation, the way of love,” he said. “And this applies not only to the situation among nations and peoples, it applies to each one of us in our individual lives, in marriage and family life, and life in the community of the Church and in society. We need to learn to love as Jesus loved, which includes love of enemies. Yes, it can be difficult. We can only love in this way with the help of God’s grace. The Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of love, gives us the strength we need to love as Jesus loved.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the faithful to make Holy Week a truly “holy” week by spending extra time in prayer and reading, meditating and reflecting on the Gospel of the Passion. He also encouraged the faithful to attend the Holy Week liturgies. He said, “My prayer is that the Lord will fill you with a greater awareness of His love, that you will experience deep in your hearts the depth and intensity of God’s love for you. This is what motivates and empowers us then to love one another. The cross of Jesus Christ is the sign of the victory of God’s love!”



Let us notice Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was a lonely prayer. He withdrew even from His three best friends about a stone's throw. Believer, especially in temptation, be much in solitary prayer. As private prayer is the key to open Heaven, so is it the key to shut the gates of Hell. As it is a shield to prevent, so is it the sword with which to fight against temptation.

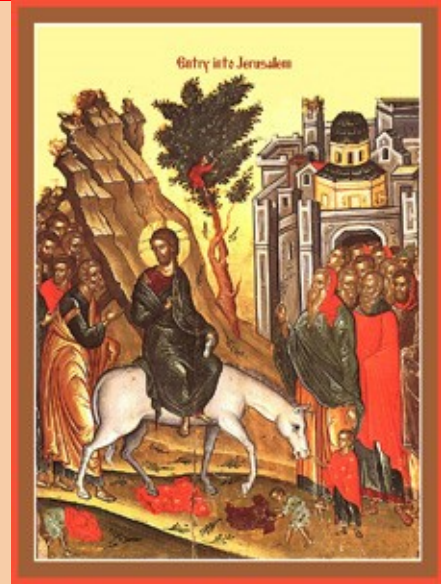
Further, it was Son's prayer. Matthew describes Him as saying, “O My Father.” Mark puts it, “Abba, Father.” You will find this always a stronghold in the day of trial to plead your adoption. Hence that prayer, in which it is written, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” begins with, “Our Father which are in Heaven.” Plead as a child. You have no rights as a subject. You have forfeited them by your treason, but nothing can forfeit a child’s right to a father’s protection. Be not, then, ashamed to say, “My Father, hear my cry.” Again, observe that it was persevering prayer. He prayed three times, using the same words. Be not content until you prevail. Be as the importunate widow, whose continued coming earned what her first supplication could not win. Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

And last, it was the prayer of resignation. “Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Yield and God yields. Let it be as God wills, and God wills it that it shall be for your best. Be perfectly content to leave the result of your prayer in His hands, who knows when to give, and how to give, and what to give, and what to withhold. So pleading earnestly, importunately, yet mingling with it humility and resignation, you shall prevail.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020

Today Christ enters the path not only of His sufferings but of that dreadful loneliness which enshrouds Him during all the days of Passion week. The loneliness begins with a misunderstanding; the people expect that the Lord's entry into Jerusalem will be the triumphant procession of a political leader, of a leader who will free his people from oppression, from slavery, from what they consider godlessness – because all paganism or idol-worship is a denial of the living God. The loneliness will develop further into the dreadful loneliness of not being understood even by His disciples. At the Last Supper when the Saviour talks to them for the last time, they will be in constant doubt as to the meaning of His words. And later when He goes into the Garden of Gethsemane before the fearful death that is facing Him, His closest disciples, Peter, John and James – whom He chose to go with Him fall asleep, depressed, tired, hopeless. The culmination of this loneliness will be Christ's cry on the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Abandoned men, rejected by the people of Israel He encounters the extreme of forsakenness and dies without God, without men, alone, with only His love for God and His love for mankind, dying for its sake and for God's glory.



The beginning of Christ's Passion is today's triumphal procession; the people expected a king, a leader – and they found the Saviour of their souls. Nothing embitters a person so much as a lost, a disappointed hope; and that explains why people who could receive Him like that, who witnessed the raising of Lazarus, who saw Christ's miracles and heard His teaching, admired every word, who were ready to become His disciples as long as He brought victory, broke away from Him, turned their backs on Him and a few days later shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." And Christ spent all those days in loneliness, knowing what was in store for Him, abandoned by every one except the Mother of God, who stood silently by, as she had done throughout her life, participating in His tragic ascent to the Cross; she who had accepted the Annunciation, the Good Tidings, but who also accepted in silence Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her heart. During the coming days we shall be present – not just remember, but be present – at Christ's Passion. We shall be part of the crowd surrounding Christ and the disciples and the Mother of God; as we hear the Gospel readings, as we listen to the prayers of the Church, as one image after another of these days of the Passion passes before our eyes, let each one of us ask himself the question, "Where do I stand, who am I in this crowd? A Pharisee? A Scribe? A traitor, a coward? Who? Or do I stand among the Apostles?" But they too were overcome by fear. Peter denied Him thrice, Judas betrayed Him, John, James and Peter went to sleep just when Christ most needed human love and support; the other disciples fled; no one remained except John and the Mother of God, those who were bound to Him by the kind of love which fears nothing and is ready to share in everything.

Once more let us ask ourselves who we are and where we stand, what our position in this crowd is. Do we stand with hope or despair, or what? And if we stand with indifference, we too are part of that terrifying crowd that surrounded Christ, shuffling, listening, and then going away; as we shall go away from church. The Crucifix will be standing here on Thursday and we shall be reading the Gospel about the Cross, the Crucifixion and death – and then what will happen? The Cross will remain standing, but we shall go away for a rest, go home to have supper, to sleep, to prepare for the fatigues of the next day. And during this time Christ is on the Cross, Christ is in the tomb. How awful it is that, like the disciples in their day, we are not able to spend one night, one hour with Him. Let us think about this, and if we are incapable of doing anything, let us at least realize who we are and where we stand, and at the final hour turn to Christ with the cry, the appeal of the thief, Remember me, Lord, in Thy Kingdom. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020

Reflections on the seven last words of Christ

The “seven last words of Jesus” are not really seven words, but rather seven incredibly poignant phrases uttered by Jesus as he died on the cross. Why are they so important? These are the last words spoken by Jesus before he died. His last words to his mother Mary, his beloved friend Mary Magdalene, the apostle who stood at the foot of the cross as he died. His last words to his Heavenly Father. His last words to the mob who captured him, beat him and nailed him to the cross. His last words to the onlookers who watched him die. They are the final utterances of a man who would be resurrected from the dead to be seated at the right hand of his Father.

Join us as we read and reflect on the seven last words.

1: *“Father, forgive them,
they know not what they do.”*

— Luke 23:34

Jesus is asking God to forgive the people who had a hand in his death — despite enduring hours of shame, intense pain, fear and sadness. Imagine that you were in Jesus’ place. Would you ask God to forgive the men who murdered you? Would you be able to do that?

2: *“Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

— Luke 23:43

We are all sinners. We know that, if we repent, God grants us forgiveness and we will be welcomed into His kingdom when we die. Jesus spoke of forgiveness twice on the cross: First, he asked his Father God to forgive those who put him to death and now, despite his pain and suffering, he offers a promise of mercy and life everlasting to the criminal hanging beside him.

Jesus offers us the same promise. So how do we make it to paradise? We pray. We repent. We live out the example of Jesus, our savior. And when we make mistakes — which we will — we ask for forgiveness.

3: *“He said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’”*

— John 19:26-27

Mary knew that when she said “yes” to God and gave birth to his only son that her journey would not be easy. She most certainly suffered a great deal as she watched him be tortured, mocked and crucified.

And again, in the midst of great physical pain, Jesus is thinking of others and not of himself when he speaks the third word. He wants his mother to know that she is going to be all right, that she will be taken care of. He tells her that John, the “disciple whom he loved,” is now her son. He then tells John that Mary is now his mother. Consider how desperately Jesus may have wanted to touch his mother, to have her comfort him one final time. Bringing John and Mary together was his way of saying goodbye to her, and “I love you.”

But Jesus did not only give his mother to John. He gave her to us, too.

4: *“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”*

— Mark 15:34

By calling out to God, Jesus showed us that he could be vulnerable. He showed us that he was human.

In today’s society, many people are afraid to be vulnerable because they think it may be mistaken for weakness. But showing our sensitive side is actually a sign of strength. It shows people that we’re not afraid to admit that we have shortcomings, because we know that God loves us anyway.

By calling out to his Father, Jesus showed us that he’s no different from us. He was scared. And in that moment, he cried out in fear to his Father.

5: *“I thirst.” — John 19:29*

Jesus was not only thirsty for drink. He was thirsty for our souls. Recall Jesus’ encounter with a Samaritan woman at the well in John, chapter 4, when he asked for a drink. The woman was bewildered, for Jews did not share drink with Samaritans. But Jesus replied, “If you know the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” It was not actual water that Jesus spoke of, but rather the promise of eternal life. He thirsted for the woman’s soul, to give her eternal peace in Heaven with God.

Jesus the man had a chance to drink wine mixed with myrrh prior to his crucifixion, but he declined. The drink would have acted as a sedative, dulling some of his pain. But Jesus wanted to experience his full suffering — so that we would never have to know that kind of pain.

6: *“It is finished.” — John 19:30*

Some onlookers believed the sixth word to be a cry of defeat. But no, this was a cry of victory! Jesus had done what he had been born to do. He had fulfilled his Father’s plan. He had saved us from our sins.

7: *“Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit.”*

— Luke 23:46

Each year, on Good Friday, we bear witness to the death of the Savior. Imagine this year that you’re standing at the foot of the cross, looking up at Jesus as he cries out to his Father in Heaven.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

APRIL 5, 2020

YOU MAY PICK UP PALMS BEGINNING FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD ON THE PORCH OF THE RECTORY. ALONG WITH AT HOME PRAYER SERVICE (FEATURED BELOW) AND THE HOLY FATHER'S URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE FOR YOUR HOLY WEEK MEDITATION. FOR EASY ACCESS PARK IN THE RECTORY DRIVE WAY AND PROCEED TO THE FRONT PORCH FOR YOUR PALMS. BLESSINGS....*FR. DOMINIC*

PLACING PALM BRANCHES IN THE HOME

The branches that are blessed and brought home on Palm Sunday are placed near the cross and Scriptures. After dinner, or at another time on Palm Sunday, the household gathers in prayer. All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: We have come to the last days of Lent. Today, we hear the reading of the Passion. That story will remain with us as we leave Lent behind on Holy Thursday and enter into the Three Days when we celebrate the mystery of Christ passing through suffering and death to life at God's right hand.

"We are always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, members of the household join in prayers of intercession:

Leader: For an evening that is perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the holy Church of God, that God may give it peace and unity and protect and prosper it throughout the whole world; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our family and friends, may we always be kind, just and forgiving; let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(You may also add any personal intentions.)

All: *Our Father, who are in heaven...*

Leader: Let us pray:

Blessed are you, God of Israel, so rich in love and mercy. Let these branches ever remind us of Christ's triumph. May we who bear them rejoice in his cross and sing your praise for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The palm branches may now be placed where they will be displayed during the coming year.