

Dear Padre,

I recently converted to Catholicism. Can you tell me more about the significance of the palm branches on Palm Sunday?

Welcome to our faith! And we are delighted to answer your questions. We can consider the meaning of the palm branches on two levels. On the first level, we commemorate a historical event—Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

In biblical times, people saw the palm as a kingly tree because of its height and majestic appearance. During festivals, the Jews carried palm branches in processions. Roman soldiers carried palm branches in their victory parades. In public games, the winners of contests and sports received palm branches as signs of victory. Thus, when people greeted Jesus with palm branches, they were greeting him in the spirit of joy and triumph usually reserved for victorious kings, armies, and athletes. It was the biblical equivalent of a ticker-tape parade!



That brings us to the second meaning for the palm branches. They do signify a joyful victory, but not in the worldly and military sense of the word. It is a victory that we can understand and celebrate only in the light of the other events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The ultimate victory of Jesus was his Easter triumph over death and sin. But it was a victory won through suffering and dying. This is the victory we recall on Palm Sunday. Even though we must relive the sad events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we know the triumphant outcome of the story. Knowing that outcome enables us to make Palm Sunday the beginning of our victory celebration.

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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to “wash our hands” at the right moment.

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY, MARCH 25, 2018



Calendar

Monday
MARCH 29
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1–7
Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday
MARCH 30
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1–6
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday
MARCH 31
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4–9a
Mt 26:14–25

Thursday
APRIL 1
Holy Thursday
Ex 12:1–8, 11–14
1 Cor 11:23–26
Jn 13:1–15

Friday
APRIL 2
Good Friday
Is 52:13–53:12
Heb 4:14–16, 5:7–9
Jn 18:1–19:42

Saturday
APRIL 3
Holy Saturday
Gn 1:1–2:2 or
1:1, 26–31a
Gn 22:1–18 or
22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18
Ex 14:15–15:1
Is 54:5–14
Is 55:1–11
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4
Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28
Rom 6:3–11
Mk 16:1–7

Sunday
APRIL 4
Easter
Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Col 3:1–4 or
1 Cor 5:6b–8
Jn 20:1–9 or
Mk 16:1–7

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)
Mk 11:1–10 or Jn 12:12–16
Is 50:4–7
Phil 2:6–11
Mk 14:1–15:47 or 15:1–39



Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
MARK 11:9

Empty Praise

How could anyone think that the joyous cry “Hosanna!” would be viewed as empty praise? Though the word has come down to us in the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb “to save” (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise?

The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but we human beings—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today’s readings describe. The passage for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out: “Hosanna!” Later, in the Gospel we hear, “Crucify him!” Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us: often afraid to take an unpopular stand lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier “Hosanna” empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ✦ How steadfast have you been in your support of others?
- ✦ Thank Jesus for his willingness to forgive your fickleness.



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)

Website: www.stjohnmany.org

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Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
Deacon: Michael Sullivan
Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
DRE: Jean Rains
Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
Housekeeper: Pam Little
Music Director: Justin Lincecum

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Pousseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Alan Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Richard DeKeyser, Trisha Adams, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Lexie King, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Brooklyn Meshell, Roy Cedars, Betty Procell Skinner, Gerry Bourgeois, Mary Jane Olsen, Caitlin Pine, Beth Prejean, Beckie Bayer, Leroy Parrie, Clauriste Byles, Sr., Tia Airhart Fontenot, Marty Starks, Trent Chaney, Ginger Mokedan & Cyndle Eyre

Please note: The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal Update

St Terence Goal: \$6000 Pledged: \$1900

St John Goal: \$21,500 Pledged: \$3660

If you have not already made your pledge in support of the Bishop's Appeal, please consider doing so today.

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

All weekday Masses cancelled during February

Saturday March 27th

By appointment Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday March 28th

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Tuesday, March 29th

No 5:00 PM Mass

6:00 PM Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

Wednesday, March 30th

8:00AM Mass

8:30AM-6:00PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, March 31st

6:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 - 9:00PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, March 26th

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM The Passion of our Lord

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the office

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 27th

- 4:00PM
1. + Mikey Mancil
 2. + Raymond Remedies
 3. + Fr Kenneth Williams
 4. +Janice Murphy
 5. +Jim & Jewel Phillips
 6. + Fr. David Richter

Sunday March 28th

- 8:00AM
1. The Parish Family
 2. +Christy Wriborg
 3. Tia Airhart Fontenot (SI)
 4. Rufus Shuff (SI)
 5. Cyndl Rowe Eyre (SI)

11:00AM

1. + Taylor Ledoux
2. + Flora Bass
3. Peter, Maria Loan and Hoa Nguyen
4. + Janice Murphy
5. +Ann & Philip Rivers & Kim Bedsole
6. Ione Durr (SI)

Wednesday March 31st

- 8:00AM
1. +Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Peterson & Wimer Fly

Thursday April 1st

- 6:00PM
1. +Fr Ken Williams
 2. +Bobbie & Billy Ezernack
 3. +Janice Murphy

Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)

March 20th—21st 2021

St John	\$ 5175.00
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St Terence	\$ 2693.00
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Cancellations: There will be no CCD during Holy Week.

Server Meetings

There will be a brief meeting after the Stations of the Cross on Friday for those involved in the Easter weekend liturgies. Practice will be held on Holy Saturday at 11AM for all Easter weekend servers.

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY, March 28th

Normal weekend schedule of masses

TUESDAY of Holy Week, March 30th

No 5PM Mass

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of

St. John Berchmans, 6PM

HOLY THURSDAY, April 1st

(No Morning Mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper – 6:00PM

Eucharistic Adoration – until 9PM

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd

(No Morning Mass)

Stations of the Cross, 2:00PM

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Communion

and Veneration of the Cross, 3PM

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3rd

Solemn Easter Vigil, - 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 4th

Mass of the Resurrection, 8AM at St. Terence

11AM at St. John the Baptist

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fr. Francis will be hearing confessions before and after the weekend Masses and by appointment.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Janice Murphy and Mary Campbell, mother of Greg Yokell.* "Eternal Rest grant unto them O' Lord and Let the Perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace." Amen.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet this **Sunday, March 28** for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Reminder

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Catholics are bound by a grave obligation to observe a solemn fast on Good Friday. Every person, 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat.) To fast means to consume only one full meal a day

Upcoming Special Collections

Special collection for the Holy Land will be taken on Good Friday. Your contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. A second collection will be taken on Easter weekend for the Diocese of Shreveport Church Vocations. Please be generous.

Easter Lily Donations

St John the Baptist is welcoming donations for Easter Lilies. If you would like to contribute in memory of or in honor of a loved one, there are flower envelopes available in the back of the church. Lilies are \$20 each.

Donations Needed for New Ice Machine

At long last, we will be replacing the ice machine in the cafeteria. If you would like to donate to defray this expense, all help would be appreciated. You can drop off your contribution at the church office, or place it in the contribution basket and clearly mark it "COLD DRINKS."

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be held on **Good Friday at 2PM. The Passion of our Lord will follow at 3PM.**

Saint Terence Easter Flowers

Saint Terence is currently accepting donations for Easter Flowers. If you are interested in donating, please contact Chris Moran-Blanchard or Mary Beth Tarver. Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Divine Mercy Novena

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which begins on **Good Friday.** There are copies of this powerful novena located in the back of the church. Feel free to pick one up.

Divine Mercy Sunday

There will be a Divine Mercy Service on **Sunday, April 11th, beginning at 3PM.** We will have the Chaplet of Divine Mercy as well as veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. Jesus told Saint Faustina "It is My desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." He also promised that everyone who went to Confession and received Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy would receive complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. Please join us!

Holy Week Server Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 1, 6PM: Brandy Soileau, Braxton and Marion Koss

Good Friday, April 2, 2PM, Stations of the Cross: Clauriste Byles, Robert Remedies and Reese Koss; **3PM, The Passion of our Lord:** Brandy Soileau and Marion Koss

Holy Saturday, April 3, Easter Vigil, 8PM: Masen Starks and Juan Plascencia

Easter Sunday, April 4, 11AM: Reese Koss, Jerry Mitchell and Brandy Soileau



The Sanctuary Candle

Week of March 21st—March 27th

St John + Fr. David Richter

St. Terence + Richard Dartez