

PASTOR'S NOTE

APRIL 5, PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"

Hosanna! This week, all over the world, even though we are still unable to come to Mass because of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Christians will be celebrating the great mystery of Christ's love for us. In the Gospel of Matthew today we read for the procession how Jesus enters Jerusalem with "Royal Treatment" as a humble king and gentle Messiah. Today, we bless the palm branches and carry them (spiritually) in high honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and today is the only Sunday that we read two gospel passages. Our liturgy is divided into three parts: commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem, Liturgy of the Word, and Liturgy of the Eucharist. We end our readings with Matthew's Passion story of Jesus. We hear in graphic detail how Jesus is betrayed, judged and crucified. Although similar to Mark, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus, in spite of what is done to him, remains the master of his destiny. He embraces it in obedience and fidelity to God.

Jesus is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee but he is also the Messiah, the Son of David, and the Son of God. Writing for an audience made up primarily of Jews who believed in Jesus as their Messiah, Matthew draws on their own heritage to show how Jesus fulfills it. Jesus is totally in control of the situation throughout the Gospel.

The passion and death of Jesus is the manifestation of God's infinite love for us. The cross was for Jesus and is for us a threshold that opens onto the glory of God.

As we enter into this most sacred week, let us open up our eyes and see the beauty of what God has done. As we continue to pray for all those suffering from the virus, and pray for our scientists, researchers, doctors, nurses, and all those in the medical field to find a cure. We pray for healing, calm and peace. We also pray for our men and women serving in our military keeping us safe from harm. Let us continue to pray for all of our elected officials, those local, state and national that we may all be one. Let go of the political fighting and be united and not divided. Pray that we may all be one. **Hosanna!**

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Even though our churches are currently closed, we have Palm branches available at the Parish Office, located at 509 S. Dallas Avenue in Point Breeze. Feel free to stop by to pick up a Palm, bulletin and the new mediation booklet Living Faith. Please remember to continue to support your parish and the Parish Share Program by mailing or dropping off your offertory envelopes or participate in our on line giving program Faith Direct. We appreciate your financial support.

Something to Think About... Sticks and stones are thrown only at fruit-bearing trees.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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