



Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." - Mt 21:9-11



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord /April 5, 2020

SUNDAY'S READINGS -

Processional Gospel:

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." (Mt 21:9b)

First Reading:

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced. (Is 50:7a)

Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:8)

Gospel:

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mt 27:11-50-51)

Readings for the week of April 5, 2020

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: *Chrim Mass:* Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: *Vigil:* Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Faith Formation Resources for Families

~Use clothespins and yarn to make a **donkey craft** for Palm Sunday, to commemorate Jesus's entry into Jerusalem:

www.freefuneeaster.com/easter-crafts/clothespin-donkey-craft/

~Make palm branches in several different ways:

1) using **tissue paper** (www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalmcollage.htm), 2) tracing and cutting out **handprints** (mommynippets.com/hosanna-branch-wavers/), 3) melting old **green crayons** with a warm iron to make a window sun catcher (www.freekidscrafts.com/palm-leaf-crayon-sun-catcher/), 4) coloring with **green markers** on coffee filters, then spraying with water to make a "watercolor" palm branch (www.theidearoom.net/coffee-filter-craft-ideas/), and 5) gluing **green construction paper** strips to a popsicle stick or wooden paint stirrer (see the above photo): <https://mrmarksclassroom.com/palm-leaf-craft/>.

~For Holy Week crafts, check out www.catholicicing.com/holy-week-crafts/ for creative ideas, including a **Holy Week timeline** using purple ribbon, **Holy Week handprints**, a **Last Supper craft**, and much more.

~**"Holy Week at Home,"** a PDF for download, can be found here: https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy_Week_at_Home.pdf. It's a resource that helps families pray through Holy Week together.

~Every Monday morning at 9 A.M. (ET), musician and composer **David Haas** offers a live stream song and prayer session. Find it here on his Facebook page: www.facebook.com/www.davidhaas.us/.

~View **Bishop Scharfenberger's message** about turning to the Holy Family to accompany us during this difficult Lenten season: www.facebook.com/DioceseOfAlbany/videos/160578588422167/.

~If you have palm branches at home already, you can raise your hands over them and **pray a blessing**: *"Almighty ever-living God, sanctify these branches with your blessing, that we, who follow Christ the King in exultation, may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."*

Staying Connected

Please know that phone messages and emails are being checked regularly. Please call or email St. John's if you have any questions or concerns during this time of uncertainty.

Offertory Envelopes or donation can be mailed to the Church office .

Online giving will be available soon, so watch for details.

Check our website for links to Fr. George's online Masses and other related information.

If you are not online and would like to receive a bulletin or know someone that would please contact the office.

The church phone number, mailing address, email address, website, and Facebook can be found on the front of the bulletin.

Pastor's Blog :

While we will begin a Holy Week in a way we never have before, it's *timelessness* and *timeliness* that strikes me at my very core. While the Roman Missal has a new translation, I am struck by the traditional words used to introduce the Palm Sunday liturgy. The introduction by the priest explains the solemnity of Holy Week and invites the faithful to take full part in the celebration:

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today, we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

By all accounts, we enter this sacred time prepared to suffer with our Messiah as never before. A recent death, perhaps associated with the virus, from the New York area has rocked me and people who I love. As a priest and friend, I am not sure how to console -- but I do know that God's embrace will bring the comfort we need as we continue our journey together. Christ's suffering is our suffering, yes -- but Christ's triumph is our triumph as well. Each Palm Sunday, "We joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

Palm Sunday processions are ways in which we invite all into full participation. This is not possible this year, yet all of us can continue to celebrate together in spiritual communion. As we face our own pandemic, 'Spiritual Communion' is a concept that was actually conceptualized by the Roman Catholic Church during the Black Plague and other catastrophic events centuries ago, including periods of religious persecution. It is rooted in the desire for us to share in the Eucharist, even when that is not possible. Pope St. John Paul II described this as the constant desire for Jesus in the Sacraments, particularly in the ultimate perfection of Eucharistic communion.

Our understanding of the Body of Christ also includes all the baptized -- and in moments like this, all of humanity. We are drawn together in ways that we can no longer take for granted, especially as physical distancing isolates us. Still, spiritual communion unites us with our common desires to be one with Christ and to be Christ for one another.

I would like to thank you all for your prayers and the many ways you continue to reach out to each other. I am particularly grateful to the parish staff and leadership at each of our churches for holding your concerns and your wellbeing at the forefront of their hearts and minds. Together, we will journey to the true promise of Easter Sunday -- even if the road is hard and is in God's time, not ours. We will rise again.

I will close with a Prayer for Spiritual Communion that I found on the website of the Archdiocese of New York. May God be with us as we continue to be there for each other. God bless you. -Fr. George



Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

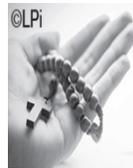
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep in your prayers the sick and homebound of our parish and those who care for them:

- Paul Amyot, Oksana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, John Brady, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, Susan E. Cotsonas, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Concetta Florientino, Michelle Foutch, Donald Gaylord, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, Michele Hauser, Ed Helfer, William Hernandez, David Jaffarian, Craig Kingsley, Doug LaBudde, Jack Law Jr., Pinky Laviano, Kristen Law, Kevin M. Lynch, William Lindberg, Dominick Lizzi, Cindy Mahony, Erica Matthies, Kevin McCann, Gary McDonald, Edin Mercado, Ann McIntyre, Marianne Martinez, Judy Martino, Kaylee Rose Meyer, Luba Myktyiw, Amelia Nabozny, Richard Norton, David Nichlos, Rita Paladino, Tommy Palmer, Elise Panico, Bonnie Pelizza, Lisa Piazza, David Picchione, Pam Polashenski, Helen Rayve, Claire Renn, Tim Renn, William Robinson, Lisa Rossello, Rita Ryan, Alice Salvatore, Eileen Scott, Paul Seney, Frances Shields, Maddi Sidarus, Ralph Sitzer, Special Intentions, Bonnie Sperl, Sean Spicer, "anonymous", Kevin Sutton, Jeanette Tator, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Chrissy Wills, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon.

St. John's Mass Intentions

During this time when all Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany have been cancelled until further notice, please know that our pastor, Rev. George Fleming, is holding everyone in prayer and will continue to celebrate daily liturgies in private, paying special attention to the Mass intentions of the day. All Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

PALM SUNDAY

