

**For The Bulletin Of
April 9, 2017**



From Father Robert

Fairytales include The Three Little Bears, The Three Little Pigs, and Three Witches. The third time is a charm, we say. The life cycle is birth, life, and death. The Magi brought three gifts to the infant Jesus. Time is divided into past, present, and future. Hegel taught about thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. And we could go on and on and on. Threes are all around us. Threes abound in Matthew's account of Jesus' passion as well. Judas is paid thirty pieces of silver for betraying Jesus (three times ten). Jesus takes His three favorite apostles Peter and "the two sons of Zebedee" as he goes off to pray. Three times Jesus finds Peter asleep after He asks him to "keep watch with me." One of the accusations against Jesus before the "chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin" is that He said He could rebuild the Temple in three days. Peter denies three times that he knows Jesus. Jesus and two others were crucified on that first Good Friday. Jesus died at three in the afternoon. Pilate gave orders that "the grave be secured until the third day." But no one was prepared for what would happen on that third day!

It is easy to hear only the negatives in the passion accounts: Jesus is denied, betrayed, unjustly judged. He is scourged, mocked, crucified. He suffers, dies, and is buried. Yet all through the

passion accounts, there are signs of life, promise, and hope. The night before He was betrayed Jesus gave His disciples a continuing memorial of His self-giving, His very Body and Blood for our nourishment as the sacrament of Life. He promised that He could rebuild the Temple in three days, speaking of course about the temple of His own Body. He gave us everlasting hope that by not saving Himself, He saved us.

This day – Palm Sunday – when we sing our hosannas and bow our heads in sorrow as we hear the passion account for the first time this year, we begin the holiest week of our Christian year. It is no ordinary week, for we celebrate Jesus' unreserved self-giving. Holy Week brings before us the demands of self-giving. All of our daily living throughout the year reminds us that, ultimately, like Jesus we must give ourselves over to God so that God might give us divine Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

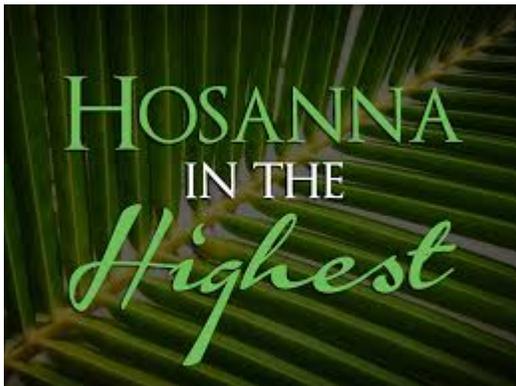
We cry this day "Hosanna!" but, unlike the people of the City of Jerusalem long ago, we need not ask "Who is this?" This is the One Who models for us the mystery of life: die to self so that we might be exalted, raised to new life. This week we celebrated in pointed liturgies the meaning of our whole Christian living: dying to self so that God can raise us up, too. This dying can be as simple as setting aside the time to participate in all the Triduum (meaning "three days") liturgies or as demanding as entering into the depths of the paschal mystery by our own self-giving.

Perhaps this week we need to stop thinking of ourselves and our own needs first, ahead of others. Perhaps we must

make Jesus the center of our lives instead of making ourselves the center of attention. Perhaps we need to calm down the frenetic pace of our own lives and cut some things out so we can concentrate on our loved ones more, or help out those in need more. In these three examples what we give up leads to a new lease on life. Most importantly, it leads to new and deeper relationships and richer experiences. This is all new Life for us. This is what this week and the three days of the Triduum are all about.

Because not everyone is able to hear the proclamation of the Passion on Good Friday, it is also proclaimed on Palm Sunday according to the tradition of Matthew. How is hearing the Passion today different than when you heard it last year?

- I betray Jesus when...I am most faithful when...
- I am able to stay awake and pray with Jesus when...for...
- This Holy Week, three things I can do to prepare myself for Easter Sunday are...



About Liturgy: Palm Sunday Triumph?

The solemn entrance for the Palm Sunday liturgy begins with a gospel

proclaiming triumph: a “very large crowd” strewed “branches from the trees” along the road and acclaimed Jesus as “the Son of David.” This triumph, however, was short-lived, for soon people were shouting “Let Him be crucified,” as we hear in the Passion account. This radical shift in mood ought to caution us: human acclaim is fleeting at best. The only triumph for which we might boast is to align ourselves with the humility of Christ that leads us through suffering and death to exaltation, from dying to being raised up. The only triumph worth shouting “Hosanna” is that of overcoming our own denials, betrayals, abandonment to stand faithfully with all that being a disciple of Jesus demands.

Palm Sunday begins the holiest of all the weeks in the year for those of us who profess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of David, our Savior. For us to enter into this week with the humility and devotion it deserves, we need to set aside all but the most necessary daily tasks and give ourselves wholeheartedly over to what we celebrate this week: Jesus’ final act of obedience – His passing through suffering and death to risen Life.



Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017

Saturday Vigil Liturgy, 5:00 p.m.

Blessing of Palms, Procession, Reading of the Passion According to St. Matthew

Sunday Eucharist, 8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.** – **PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE** – *Blessing of Palms, Procession, Reading of the Passion According to St. Matthew*

Monday of Holy Week – April 10
Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week – April 11
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week – April 12
Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday – April 13
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. *Presentation of the Holy Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration (Incense)*

Good Friday – April 14
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service, "The Seven Last Words of Christ" at 12:00 Noon

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00 p.m. *Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion*

Sung Evening Prayer and Veneration of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. (Incense)

Holy Saturday – April 15
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

The Great Paschal Vigil at 7:30 p.m.

Lighting of the New Fire, Procession, Liturgy of the Word, The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist); Incense; A Festive Reception to welcome the newly-initiated immediately follows the liturgy in the parish hall.

Easter Day – The Feast of the Resurrection – April 16
8:00 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist
Procession, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling Rite, Holy Eucharist (No Incense)

10:30 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist
Procession, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling Rite, Holy Eucharist (Incense)



Become a part of a wonderful parish tradition by helping to provide the Easter Environment! Your contribution makes possible the blooming plants, Easter Lilies, Trees, Festive Cloth Panels, the Paschal Candle, and the triptych at the Altar that celebrate the Resurrection. Your gift may be made either In Honor

of or In Loving Memory of a family member, friend, or Loved One. Please use the Easter Flower Envelope that is placed with the Easter Letter or additional envelopes that may be found on the credenza. Contributions will be acknowledged in the bulletins of the Easter Season. Thank you for helping the Art & Environment Committee to create an environment that says "Easter" for the entire seven weeks of the season.

A graphic with the words "Save the Date" in a stylized, overlapping font. "Save" is at the top, "the" is in the middle, and "Date" is at the bottom, all in a dark, bold, serif typeface.

Birthday Celebration

You are invited to join me and my family in celebrating my 70th Birthday on Sunday afternoon, April 30th, beginning at 3:00 P.M. in the parish hall. **Dorothy Lamendola is celebrating her 89th birthday the same day!!!** Together we will welcome family, friends, and parishioners to join us in this wonderful celebration of life. Our Social Events Committee, the YLI, and the Knights of Columbus are all working together to make this one spectacular event. A meal of mixed green salad, hot garlic bread, pasta, and dessert will be served, along with beer and wine, available at a nominal charge. A donation will be requested of each person attending that will benefit the YLI and its outreach ministries, including our parish. Please save the date and plan to join us for this wonderful occasion. Please be sure to obtain your ticket from the members of the YLI who will be selling them following all the liturgies on the weekends of April 1 and 2,

April 8 and 9, April 22 and 23, and April 29 and 30. **Tickets will be sold at the door.**



...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church, parish hall, and kitchen for the weekend and the week ahead: **Steve Rojek, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, Cathy Romeo, Angela Bueno, Carole Miller, Mency Osborne**

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who have taken on the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Virginia Noack, and Harlan Young.**

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who prepared the Easter Letter Mailing: **Bernice Campbell, Melodye Costanza, Mena Macedo, Jackie King, Gloria Olvera, Anthony & Claudette Gumina, Bobbie Ochang, Ruth Landry, Vangie Parrilla, Geri Chiechi, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Sherry Webb.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Jeannine Ford, Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week’s donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Bob Carvalho, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla and Belen Farin.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**

Change in Envelope Packets

The Building Fund envelope is being eliminated from the envelope packets that are mailed to all registered households. As discussed in the February town hall meetings and in the meeting summary published as part of my insert in the weekly bulletin, the parish is temporarily suspending its fundraising efforts with respect to the Building Project. We are taking this step to allow the parish time to explore alternatives for providing our programs and ministries with the additional space they need to serve the parish and our community. All donations to the

Building Fund remain restricted and will not be used for parish operations.

If you would like to continue your donations but redirect them to the effort to pay off the parking lot debt to the Diocese, please use the “red” Parking Lot envelope. The Parking Lot Debt Reduction Collection is taken the first weekend of every month. The parish is paying the Diocese \$5,000 each month to eliminate this debt. The current loan balance is \$220,000.

