

SAID ED April 13, 2014

Palm Sunday

Today we begin the most solemn part of our Liturgical year. Holy Week is a time that is most powerful for those who follow Christ. The events of this week offer us the opportunity to walk with Christ as he spends his last days with his chosen disciples. During this week he will give us the Holy Eucharist, provide us a model of service, suffer, die and rise again from the dead. In the end we will all rise with him by the power of God's love through our participation in the "Sacred Mysteries" of our faith.

But first we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This solemn event is filled with symbolism and power for those who walked that first Palm Sunday and for all of us who walk this journey with the Lord. This Holy Week will be filled with opportunities to draw closer to the Lord as we celebrate his life-giving death and resurrection. Please make it a priority to be part of our celebrations.

Holy Thursday marks the beginning of The Sacred Triduum. The word "Triduum" is Latin for "three days." The three days referenced are Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil. To emphasize that this is essentially one Liturgy spread out over three days, I will be the presider and preacher for the "three days."

Our Holy Thursday liturgy begins at 7:00 pm with the presentation of the Holy Oils, blessed for us by Bishop Matano at the Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Our readings recall for us the institution of the Eucharist, and Jesus' profoundly humble act of washing his disciples' feet. He asked them "Do you understand what I am doing? You ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you example: as I have done for you, you should also do." We are all invited to follow the Lord's example, washing one another's feet as a sign of our call to service.

On **Good Friday** we have the solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00pm and Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. In the afternoon we have the wonderful tradition of the Way of the Cross in our Village along with many other church communities. It is a powerful sign of the common vision of the sufferings and death of the Lord which we share as his followers.

Easter begins with the **Solemn Vigil** at 8:00pm on Holy Saturday night. It's at this mass that our Catechumens are baptized and our candidates are welcomed into the community of our church through the Easter Sacraments. If you have never come to this celebration, you owe it to yourself to give it a try.

Easter Sunday will begin by welcoming the risen Lord at our "Son"rise Service at **6:30am**. This lively celebration is a joyful start to a morning of upbeat praise and worship. Additional Masses will be at **8:30am, 11:00am and 12:30pm**. Please note that we are adding a Mass to accommodate the large number of visitors who join us. There will be no evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

Have a great Holy Week.
