



# Palm Sunday

Dear Friends,

Hopefully everyone has received a copy of our Lent & Easter Letter, giving the complete schedule of all the events of this Holy Week and of Easter. The full schedule is also printed elsewhere in this Bulletin. Please tape it to your refrigerator and refer to it often, and join us for these great events.

Today we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The people proclaim His praises and honor and worship Him. Their shouts of “Hosanna in the highest,” and their waving of branches, show their respect and admiration for Jesus, whose word they have heard and whose miracles they have experienced. Yet how fickle these same people will be in only a few days.

On Holy Thursday we recall the Lord gathering His disciples to celebrate the Passover meal, His Last Supper. One great sign happens at the beginning of their gathering, as Jesus *himself* bows down and washes the feet of each of His disciples. Peter is mortified. No way would Jesus do this to him! But Jesus, showing us the need to be servants to one another, presses Peter to accept. We, too, will have this opportunity (if we wish) to participate in the washing of feet – each of us serving another – as a reminder of how we, too, are called to serve.

And as we continue to remember the Last Supper, during this historic and memorial meal, Jesus brings a new experience into our lives. He takes the bread from the table and says, “This is my Body.” He also takes the cup and says, “This is my Blood.” So we, too, are given this sacred Nourishment in the Eucharist, to give us courage and strength to carry on in our Faith.

On Good Friday we recall Jesus’ Passion and Death. By our listening once again to the Word of God, and by our Veneration of the Cross, we recall His great act of Love for each of us, as He suffers and dies so our sins may be taken away.

On Holy Saturday we rejoice in Christ’s victory over sin and death, and we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. And along with our candidates for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, we re-commit our lives to the Lord, who suffered, died, and rose again for our salvation.

I invite all of you to participate in these great Mysteries of our Faith. Each event offers special blessings, but all Three Days (called the *Triduum*) provide a deep, spiritual encounter with Christ, our Lord.

May God bless each of us this week, and fill us with His Grace!

*Father Fred*