



Council Updates



Chaplain's Message

Palm Sunday begins our celebration of Holy Week and this year, it falls on March 28th. Each year, Palm Sunday commemorates the day that Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem amidst cheers from a crowd that has gathered to celebrate the Passover.



*Council Chaplain
Rev. Anthony Kuzia, CM*

Jesus enters the city on a donkey, a prophetic sign from the Jewish scriptures that would identify the coming of the King of Zion. The crowds recognize this prophetic sign and respond enthusiastically with cries of joy and celebration. "The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" [MT 21:9] The people are caught up in the hope that Jesus will now lead the Jews to their rightful place in the world.

Jesus did not try to mislead anyone. The expectations and preconceived notions of the people, including the disciples, led to a misunderstanding of Jesus' role as Messiah. Instead of listening to what Jesus was really saying, they were projecting their own will for the future upon the events as they were unfolding. The disciples became like the fickle crowd, they sang his praises one minute and then abandoned him to the Romans. Only in hindsight, in light of the Resurrection, did they perceive the true nature of their salvation. It was not freedom from an oppressive regime, but a spiritual freedom from sin.

How often do we make things out to be what they aren't? Like the disciples, we should look back at the events of our lives – both good and bad – and find greater understanding of God's will through them. There is a lesson to be found there of God's hand upon us and his amazing love for us.

This Easter season, I pray that all of us will consider the unfolding events of our lives first through the lens of Jesus' teachings; assuming always that God's plan for us is different – and greater – than we alone can possibly imagine.

Let us live Holy Week as a holy week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil provide an opportunity for us to come together and relive what Jesus did for us through His crucifixion, death and resurrection. Let us share these events together by participating in the Holy Week Triduum. These liturgical celebrations commemorate the central mysteries of our faith.

Also, just as a reminder..... After they have received First Communion, Catholics are bound to make their Easter Duty; this is the obligation to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season which, this year, will conclude on Trinity Sunday, May 30th. Catholics are also bound to confess serious [mortal] sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

Happy Easter!