

April 8-9, 2017

Palm/Passion Weekend

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Some days start off so well....until everything crashes and burns to ash. Welcome to a handful of days, Holy Week, initiated with this Palm Sunday/Passion account of Jesus' WONDERFUL entrance into Jerusalem followed in quick succession by the events of the Last Supper, the abandonment/death of Good Friday and the forlorn waiting of Holy Saturday...this is the ultimate story of things starting off soooo well and horribly crashing and burning. This is the core story of our Catholic-Christian Faith, the core story of all Christian denominations; these are the days and these are their stories that allow Easter to occur. Within these stories, as reflected in this weekend's lengthy PASSION, our OWN human hopes, fears, betrayals, tribulations, sufferings and deaths are meant to be overlaid. Many of us have experienced high hopes and expectations similar to the Palm Sunday exultation surrounding Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem; in like manner, many of us have grasped more and more tightly as these hopes dissipate like mist in the heat of a rising sun. Is there anyone here who has not struggled to say good-bye to cherished friends or family? Betrayal and abandonment are not alien to us anymore than confusion and fear have not visited our lives. The door of death, despite our denials and medical innovations, punctuates the closure of each of our lives; while the living stumble to make sense of life without those who once filled our hours. This is THE PASSION of Jesus and OUR PASSION as well. Occurring as it does within our warming Spring breaks, holidays and getaways, the power of this week risks being lost amid our pursuit of rest, business and pleasure. Thus has it always been, 2000+ years ago life in ancient Jerusalem went on undisturbed as human salvation was occurring in their midst. As people striving to be disciples of Jesus, will we pause from our many pursuits to again hear the story, to ponder it anew within our own fresh experiences? Will we snag some fronds from the blessed branches outside, have our feet washed this Thursday, grasp the wood of the Cross on Friday and remember the times of frustrated waiting on Saturday? Some days start off so well....this is a day and week of stories that helps make sense of when they crash and burn.

Thank you for sharing our entrance into Holy Week by being part of our Santa Clara community this weekend. **You are welcome to take blessed fronds from the OUTDOOR palm branches after Mass.** As well you are invited and ENCOURAGED to come for the FULLNESS of Triduum: Holy Thursday and Good Friday especially....both evenings starting at 7pm. Triduum concludes with the Saturday Vigil which also starts at 7pm....please note there are **NO CONFESSIONS next Saturday and NO 5pm Mass**...only the 7pm Vigil. **Easter Sunday is the usual Mass schedule of 8am, 10am and 12noon**....but do expect HUGE crowds and dress for the weather in case you end up sitting outdoors. Street parking has been arranged as well as on the fenced off field but please be cautious when crossing the street or motoring among the weeds. We will be joined by numerous visitors, relatives and friends next weekend...**make sure you come to Mass with JOY in your heart and a SMILE on your face**...even if your usual seats are taken and our Hall is bursting...nothing EVANGELIZES and makes people want to come back to visit us more frequently like FRIENDLY/HELPFUL parishioners. Lastly, **please drop off your potted flower donations by this Wednesday** on the tables near the kitchen....thanks for your help. As our holiest of weeks surrounds you with story and ritual, please know that you are loved. FKB