

# Dear Padre,

I recently converted to Catholicism. Can you tell me more about the significance of the palm branches on Palm Sunday?

Welcome to our faith! And we are delighted to answer your questions. We can consider the meaning of the palm branches on two levels. On the first level, we commemorate a historical event—Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

In biblical times, people saw the palm as a kingly tree because of its height and majestic appearance. During festivals, the Jews carried palm branches in processions. Roman soldiers carried palm branches in their victory parades. In public games, the winners of contests and sports received palm branches as signs of victory. Thus, when people greeted Jesus with palm branches, they were greeting him in the spirit of joy and triumph usually reserved for victorious kings, armies, and athletes. It was the biblical equivalent of a ticker-tape parade!

That brings us to the second meaning for the palm branches. They do signify a joyful victory, but not in the worldly and military sense of the word. It is a victory that we can understand and celebrate only in the light of the other events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The ultimate victory of Jesus was his Easter triumph over death and sin. But it was a victory won through suffering and dying. This is the victory we recall on Palm Sunday. Even though we must relive the sad events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we know the triumphant outcome of the story. Knowing that outcome enables us to make Palm Sunday the beginning of our victory celebration.

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*,  
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[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY, MARCH 25, 2018



## Calendar

**Monday**  
MARCH 29  
Monday of Holy Week  
Is 42:1–7  
Jn 12:1–11

**Tuesday**  
MARCH 30  
Tuesday of Holy Week  
Is 49:1–6  
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

**Wednesday**  
MARCH 31  
Wednesday of Holy Week  
Is 50:4–9a  
Mt 26:14–25

**Thursday**  
APRIL 1  
Holy Thursday  
Ex 12:1–8, 11–14  
1 Cor 11:23–26  
Jn 13:1–15

**Friday**  
APRIL 2  
Good Friday  
Is 52:13–53:12  
Heb 4:14–16, 5:7–9  
Jn 18:1–19:42

**Saturday**  
APRIL 3  
Holy Saturday  
Gn 1:1–2:2 or  
1:1, 26–31a  
Gn 22:1–18 or  
22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18  
Ex 14:15–15:1  
Is 54:5–14  
Is 55:1–11  
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4  
Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28  
Rom 6:3–11  
Mk 16:1–7

**Sunday**  
APRIL 4  
Easter  
Acts 10:34a, 37–43  
Col 3:1–4 or  
1 Cor 5:6b–8  
Jn 20:1–9 or  
Mk 16:1–7

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)  
Mk 11:1–10 or Jn 12:12–16  
Is 50:4–7  
Phil 2:6–11  
Mk 14:1–15:47 or 15:1–39

## Empty Praise

**H**ow could anyone think that the joyous cry "Hosanna!" would be viewed as empty praise? Though the word has come down to us in the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb "to save" (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise?

The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but we human beings—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today's readings describe. The passage for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out: "Hosanna!" Later, in the Gospel we hear, "Crucify him!" Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us: often afraid to take an unpopular stand lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier "Hosanna" empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*



## For Reflection

- \* How steadfast have you been in your support of others?
- \* Thank Jesus for his willingness to forgive your fickleness.



Rectory & Parish Office  
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com  
Website: saintanthonylakin.org

March 27, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
March 28, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
April 1, 6:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
April 2, 3:00 p.m.	Volunteers
April 3, 8:30 p.m.	Volunteers
April 4, 9:00 a.m.	Karen Burden
April 10, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
April 11, 9:00 a.m.	K of C Members
April 17, 4:00 p.m.	Alvin Bergkamp
April 18, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones

***Thank you so much for your ministry!***

Louise Miller, Bookkeeper	jingles@pld.com
Molly Shelden DRE	451-0548
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Mar. 29	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Hoffman
Tuesday, Mar. 30	NO MASS	Chrism Mass in Dodge
Thursday, Apr. 1	6:00 p.m.	Special Intention
Friday, Apr. 2	3:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
Saturday, Apr. 3	8:30 p.m.	S.I.—Conversion
Sunday, Apr. 4	9:00 a.m.	For the People

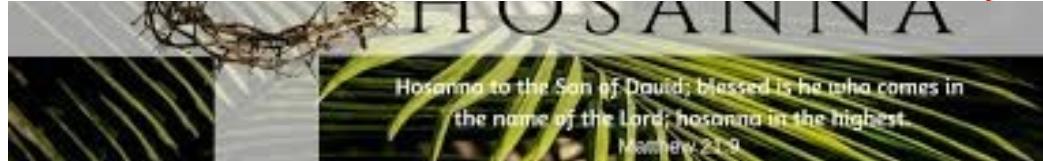
**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION—MARCH 28, 2021



**“ELOI, ELOI, LEMA SABACHTHANI?” - “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”**

My friends, this Sunday is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. In many ways the pattern of this week --- what we call the Paschal Mystery ---- is not just the “plot” of Jesus’ story. No, it is so much more than that. It is actually the story of each of our lives --- a deep and abiding truth that is a kind of template -- informing and shaping and transforming all that we do and all who we are.

My friends, living a faith-filled life is really hard. This week shows us that in a very concrete way. But it also shows the life-changing and world-changing power of loving as God loves. May each of us approach not only this week but also approach every cross that comes our way in this life with the kind of love perfectly shown through Jesus’ saving act. That’s what faith looks like. Put simply --- our individual struggles, heartaches, tragedies, sin, and even death itself is ultimately powerless in the face of great love. God wins. Goodness wins. Love wins. Every time.

And so as we journey with Jesus this week, as we contemplate these mysteries with grateful hearts, may we come to recognize just how badly God wants each of us to follow the example of Jesus --- follow him up Calvary --- trusting that when we love without reservation or condition, incredible things can and will happen for us, for others, and for the world.

So, let’s use this week wisely --- use this week to interweave each of our individual stories with the Greatest Story Ever Told. They should fit together perfectly. After all, that’s the pattern of every human life --- a pattern, a mystery, a profound truth we encounter, and embrace, and stand in awe of this week.

Have a blessed Holy Week everyone.

Fr. Peter Tran

**COLLECTION** for March 21, 2021: Envelopes: \$615.00; Loose: \$159.15; Online Giving: \$262.45; Total \$1,036.60; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (-724.57) **Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.**

**PARKING LOT PROJECT** Good News! Yes. our Parish Parking Lot is under construction. We hope to complete it before Easter. Thank you so much for your love, patience, and generosity to make this project become a reality. Sorry for the inconvenience if you have to find a parking space a little bit further than usual. Please pray for the safety and the success of this project. Together, let's pray and work to build our loving parish even stronger and more united. St. Anthony, our Patron, pray for us!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS** Finance Parish Council: April 5, Pastoral Council: April 7, and K of C: April 7. All meetings will be held at Parish Hall.

**CHRISM MASS** With Bishop Gerald Vincke, our Apostolic Administrator, celebrating Chrism Mass with us, there is a change in the day we will celebrate this year. Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 30. The Chrism Mass will be live streamed on the Cathedral and Diocesan Facebook pages. Keeping in mind the pandemic is still alive and well, we are not asking for parish representatives to attend and are limiting the invitation to the priests of the diocese and the staff of Cathedral and Chancery Office.

**LENT—CONFESIONS** Please make an extra efforts to reconcile with God, the Church, and with others in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ready for Easter Celebration. Fr. Peter will be available every Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. and every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. or by appointment.

**EASTER FLOWERS** If you want to send flowers in memory of a Loved One for Easter, please put your donation and names into the regular collection.

### **2021– TRIDIUM, EASTER CELEBRATION**

**Holy Thursday—April 1** at 6:00 p.m. in Lakin (Eucharistic Adoration: right after Mass to 10 p.m.); 6:30 p.m. (MT) in Syracuse; **Good Friday—April 2** at 3:00 p.m. In Lakin; 6:00 p.m. (MT) in Syracuse; **Easter Vigil Saturday—April 3** at 8:30 p.m. in Lakin; **Easter Sunday Mass – April 4** at 9:00 a.m. in Lakin; Deerfield at 9:00 a.m. & Syracuse 10:30 a.m.(MT)

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES –APRIL:** 7, 14, 21, 28—Last day of CCD. FIRST COMMUNION MASS will be April 10 at 4:00 p.m. Mass. Please pray for our parish kids who are going to receive Jesus in the Form of Bread and Wine for the first time.

**VOCATION VIEW** We are presented with two options in today's Mass: do we welcome Christ into Jerusalem or scream out to crucify Him? Our willingness to give testimony to Christ helps determine where we are.

**STEWARSHIP THOUGHT** Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ – emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (adapted from St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori) My Lord Jesus Christ, you have made this journey to die for me with love unutterable. Many times I have abandoned you, but now I love you with my whole heart. Because I love you, I sincerely repent for ever having offended you. Forgive me, my God, and permit me to accompany you on this journey. You go to die for love of me. I wish also, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of you. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to you. Amen.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (Mark 15: 25-39)**

**Forsaken** Rome readily crucified those it believed were a threat to its power and stability. People were crucified in public places as a warning to others not to rebel against the empire. Because Jesus was crucified, many Jews, at least initially, couldn't believe he was the messiah. Jesus is thus mocked by everyone: those walking past, the Jewish authorities, and even the other two victims. His male disciples have already fled (14:50). By quoting Psalm 22, Jesus voices his utter isolation.

**Portents** The eclipse signals the enormity of what's happening: creation understands the meaning of the crucifixion even if the people do not. The tearing of the temple veil signifies the temple's elimination. Temple worship is no longer necessary because people now encounter God through Jesus, his Son.

**Elijah** A confusion of languages means that some people think Jesus is calling for the prophet Elijah. Some Jews believed that this ancient prophet would help those who were in desperate situations. Elijah, however, had already come: he was John the Baptist, who prepared a way for Jesus. This way led toward the cross, not away from it.

**Only on the cross** People ridicule Jesus as a false king and messiah. In their minds God's chosen one should vanquish the Romans and restore Israel's sovereignty and strength. The opposite seems to be happening: the Romans are brutally killing Jesus. Yet it is precisely now, at the moment of Jesus' terrible death, that someone finally "sees" that Jesus is God's Son. Up to this point in Mark's Gospel, only God and the demons have known this. Jesus' disciples understand that he is the messiah, but they don't see beyond this. Although Jesus healed and expelled demons, it is only when he is on the cross that he is correctly recognized as God's Son – and by the very person who oversees his death. God's Son expends himself utterly in order to bring people into a kingdom that is infinitely greater than anything they expect. [oursundayreadings](#)

## QUESTIONS CATHOLIC ASK

### HOLY WEEK 2021

**Holy Week** is an important time for Christians throughout the world. But not everyone knows every detail about why it's celebrated or what exactly it's composed of. So here are the answers to questions about Holy Week you were afraid to ask.

#### **What is Holy Week?**

Holy Week is a time when Catholics gather to remember and participate in the Passion of Jesus Christ.

The Passion was the final period of Christ's life in Jerusalem. It spans from when He visited Jerusalem to when He was crucified.

#### **How do Catholics celebrate Holy Week?**

There are four special ceremonies during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday recalls Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Parishioners typically form a procession and carry palms.

**Holy Thursday** commemorates Judas' betrayal and the Last Supper, when Jesus consecrated bread and wine. In the morning, bishops gather with priests from their diocese for the Chrism Mass. They bless holy oils during the Mass. The washing of the feet takes place during the Mass of the Lord's Supper later that day.

**Good Friday** is one of the darkest days of the year for Catholics. It covers Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. His death and burial are also memorialized. There is no Mass.

**Holy Saturday** remembers the day which Jesus spent in the grave resting. There are no ceremonies at all, but the Easter Vigil takes place at the end of the day.

#### **Why is my Church decorated the way it is?**

On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, noticeable changes to take place in the way churches are decorated. Many churches cover decorations in purple or black, or simply remove the decor. In Italy, crosses are covered a week before. Holy water and the Eucharist are also taken from churches on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

#### **When did Catholics start celebrating Holy Week?**

Holy Week celebrations have existed since the beginnings of the Church. As early as the 4th century, reports existed of Christians in Egypt, Palestine, and present-day Turkey and Armenia reenacting the Passion. It's likely that the celebrations took place for years before the initial recorded reports. Holy Week celebrations spread to Europe by the 5th century.;

#### **When is Holy Week?**

Holy Week is the final week before Easter. Put another way, it's the last week of Lent. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday. This year, Holy Week takes place from March 28 to April 3. Easter takes place on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. This year, it is on April 4.

### **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD REMEMBER KINDLY**

None of us needs a reminder that life is full of suffering and loss. We'll all have a generous share of sorrow before we're through. What bears constant reminding is that seeds of kindness are sown each hour as well. In the final days before his Passion, an unnamed woman anointed Jesus with costly perfumed oil. It was a symbolic act, signaling his role as God's anointed and one prepared for death. It was also a gentle act in a week that would hold much cruelty. Seed the world with small kindnesses to testify against the darkness. (Prepare the Word)

### **DOMINGO DE RAMOS DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR RECUERDA AMABLEMENTE**

Ninguno de nosotros necesita que le recuerden que la vida está llena de sufrimiento y pérdidas. Todos tendremos una generosa cuota de dolor antes de desaparecer. Lo que hay que recordar constantemente es que las semillas de la bondad se siembran también a cada hora. En los últimos días antes de su Pasión, una mujer sin nombre ungido a Jesús con un costoso aceite perfumado. Fue un acto simbólico, que señalaba su papel como ungido de Dios y preparado para la muerte. También fue un acto de bondad en una semana en la que habría mucha crueldad. Siembra el mundo con pequeñas bondades para dar testimonio contra las tinieblas.