



*Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Partners in Faith Newsletter*

17-20 April 2011



Prayer of the Week
(Palm Sunday)

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

Lord Jesus, although you were a king, you rode on a donkey. The people praised you with their voices, but did not follow your word with their actions. As we begin this Holy Week, help us to praise you not only in our words but also in our deeds. Strengthen us through this meal we now share.

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

PALM SUNDAY

This week, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem. We remember this Sunday how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by the Jews with Palms and cloaks placed on the ground along his route. This celebration was similar to one that would be expected of a triumphant king returning from battle. In this case, Jesus is the triumphant king, not returning from battle, but entering the city that would turn on him in one short week. As the opening Sunday of Holy Week, Palm Sunday invites us to remember Jesus as our King, even as we prepare to celebrate his suffering and salvation for us.

TRIDUUM

The heart of Holy Week, the Triduum, comes from the Latin for "three days." It is a three day celebration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. This three day event is really a continuous celebration which begins on Thursday evening and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper not only commemorates the last supper with Jesus and his Apostles, but also celebrates the beginning of the priesthood and the institution of the Eucharist.

Good Friday is the commemoration of the passion and death of our Lord. It is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated in any Catholic Church throughout the world. It is a solemn day when we remember the triumph of evil over good in the form of death over life.

The final day of the Triduum incorporates the Easter Vigil Mass, the greatest celebration of our Church year! Known as the celebration of light, we hold the Easter Vigil Mass after dusk on Holy Saturday night as the first celebration of the triumph of Good over evil when Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was at the same time, the defeat of evil, in the form of death and the salvation of us as God's people. This Mass is a wonderful celebration of joy when we welcome new members into our community. Our Easter Vigil celebration continues throughout the Easter Sunday.

These are the most holy days of the year. If you can only go to one Mass in the year, come to this one. In one place, at a single time, you will see the glory of the Lord expressed through the beauty of the Mass. Our Lord is risen! We are saved! Alleluia!

SACRAMENTAL TESTING

Since we will be off next week to celebrate the risen Lord, I want to remind everyone of the upcoming testing for 1st Communion and Confirmation classes. When we return on 1 and 4 May, we will all be given evaluations. Your teachers have already been preparing you for this, so it shouldn't be a shock. Please study over the break so you can pass the first time. You will need to pass prior to your ceremony.

FALL REGISTRATION

We will begin registering for the 2011-2012 sessions on 1 May! Please check your child's paperwork, fill it out and return as soon as possible!

Mass Schedule – Saturday – 5:30pm, Sunday – 7:30, 9 am, 1045 (Spanish) and 12:30pm