

FROM FATHER JOHN: *“Our own ears have heard, O God, and our fathers have proclaimed it to us, what you did in their days, the days of old: how with your own hand you swept aside the nations and put us in their place, struck them down to make room for us. It was not by their own swords that our fathers took over the land, it was not their own strength that gave them victory; but your hand and your strength, the light of your face, for you were pleased in them. You are my God and my king, who take care for the safety of Jacob. Through you we cast down your enemies; in your name we crushed those who rose against us. I will not put my hopes in my bow, my sword will not bring me to safety; for it was you who saved us from our afflictions, you who set confusion among those who hated us. We will glory in the Lord all the day, and proclaim your name for all ages.” ~ Psalm 43*

Happy is the man who ponders the law of the Lord!!!



Palm Sunday is one week from today. We begin the celebration of Holy Week with our celebration of Palm Sunday. Holy Week is that week of the year where we focus our lives and our liturgical celebrations on the commemoration of the Passion of our Lord Jesus. The week begins with the celebration of our Lord's Messianic entrance to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Holy Week is good time for each of us to take stock of our lives and the practice of our Catholic Christian faith in preparation for the celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. We fix our hearts, minds and souls on our Lord Jesus and his passion as he is crucified, dies and then rises on the third day.

St. Leo the Great wrote that “No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ. His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him. How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance. ... The age-old night of sin has given place to the true light. The Christian people are invited to share the riches of paradise. All who have been reborn have the way open before them to return to their native land, from which they had been exiled. Unless indeed they close off for themselves the path that could be opened before the faith of a thief.”

Our salvation is at hand and we gather together during Holy Week to celebration the redemption and salvation that our Lord offers us. Our Lord Jesus made a promise to us that will be fulfilled in the sight of all people, *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I too will acknowledge him before my Father who is in heaven.”*

I cannot encourage you enough to join in our parish’s celebration of Holy Week. It is a great opportunity to reflect on our Lord’s sacrifice on our behalf. I assure that the spiritual benefit to you and your family will worth the time you devote to the Lord here at St. Ann’s. The following is our schedule for Holy Week.

- April 9 and 10: Celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord at 4:00 pm on Saturday and 8:00 am and 10:00 am on Sunday.
- April 13: Confession & Adoration from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm. This is the last chance for confession before Easter.
- April 14: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 pm followed immediately by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- April 15: Good Friday Cross Walk at Lyons Park at 10:00 am
- April 15: Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord at 3:00 pm
- April 16: The Blessing of Easter Baskets in the Parish Hall at 11:00 am (Entrance #4)
- April 16: Celebration of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at 7:00 pm
- April 17: Celebration of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

