

February 28, 2021



## Reflection for Palm Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the beginning of Holy Week, the most significant period of the Church's year. If you don't have one of the excellent monthly reflection booklets which includes the daily readings for Mass, you can find them for any day of the year at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' website.

Today is Palm Sunday when we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with people grabbing palm branches with which to welcome him. (You'll notice that the palms we'll give you as you leave church aren't perfect and neatly trimmed as we are accustomed to, but came from Rick Rolfes' trees, delivered by his good friend Johnny! I'm figuring that the ones which greeted Jesus undoubtedly weren't perfect either.)

If your life is crazier than usual these days and you don't have time to read the whole Passion account, you might want to read and reflect on the second reading for today: Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2, verses 6-11. This hymn of the young Christian community expresses the heart of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In Mark's gospel, the disciples don't grasp who he is, even after all his miraculous healings. The only person (besides the demons he expelled) who recognizes his identity is a pagan soldier, the Roman centurion who exclaims at the foot of the cross, "Truly, this is the Son of God."

Sometimes, perhaps, we might wonder why Jesus had to undergo such suffering and death. We who are believers have the blessing of uniting ourselves with the sufferings of Jesus when we undergo our own trials or serious disappointments in ourselves or others. We believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God and truly a human being like ourselves, so he had to trust that the Father whom he loved and who loved him would amazingly bring life out of his death. Knowing that Jesus has gone before us and understands what we are experiencing can surely lighten the darkness in which we sometimes find ourselves. Do we have that same trust? Can we believe that our loved ones who have died have risen with him and that we will one day, too?

Let us pray for each other and for all who are suffering from the untimely deaths of loved ones from whatever cause. Peace, Sr. Seral

**Holy Thursday, we'll recall, is our celebration of the Last Supper with his disciples, the first Mass.**