

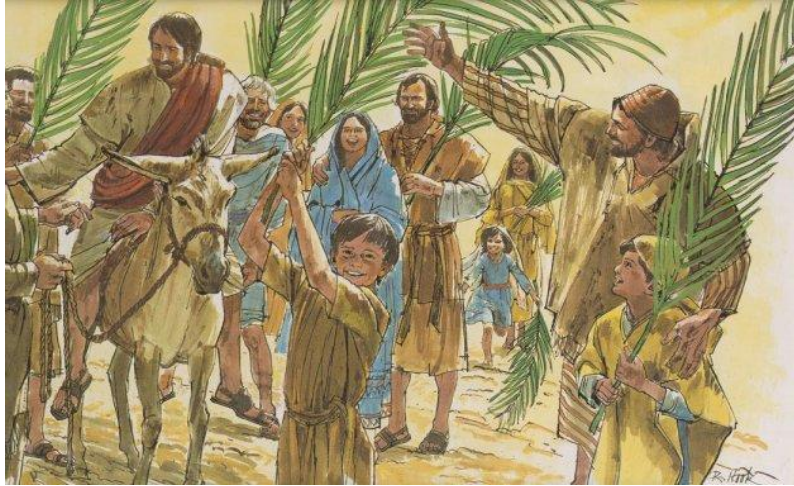
2024-3.2-EASTER

KNIGHTS' CHAPLAIN'S CORNER -- MARCH 2024 3.2

Some reflections, background, and suggestions for celebrating Holy Week & Easter season in family. Please take time to plan your family's celebration of the Easter season.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY



Source: Liturgia Diaria, Abril 2017

Palm Sunday is a day of praise to the Lord, of reaffirmation, of our faith, of joy for the triumph of Jesus. What is this triumph? The triumph of the cross, symbol of forgiveness and mercy, of love and the total dedication of life in favor of others. The palms, symbol of this day, remind us of the commitment to follow and imitate him in his generous service, Lord and King of our thoughts, of our affections, and of all that we are, we bless you and give thanks for all that you give us. .

The Church commemorates the entry of Christ, the Lord, into Jerusalem to consummate his Paschal Mystery. For this reason, in all the masses this entrance of the Lord is remembered, through a procession or solemn entrance before the main mass, or through the simple entrance before the other masses.

Palm Sunday is fundamentally a Sunday. Like every Sunday of the year, celebrate the fact of the Resurrection of the Lord, his victory. The characteristics of this Sunday can help us discover the meaning that Christians have always given Sunday. In particular, the procession is like an acclamation before the victory of the Lord, something that we also celebrate every Sunday. The Passion narrative stresses the point that Christ's victory is won through suffering, service, and death. The palms and branches – popular signs of victory – show that death on the cross is the way to victory, and victory itself, since this death destroyed death.

Jesus, when “the hour” has arrived, decides to go to Jerusalem. And his entrance is at the same time the entrance of the SERVANT, who walks to death, and of the LORD, who is going to be glorified. It is necessary to insist on the fundamental meaning of the procession. It is about celebrating the messianic entry of the Lord into his paschal triumph through death. The procession, therefore, does not simply have the purpose of remembering a past historical event, but rather of making a solemn profession of faith that the cross and the death of Christ are ultimately a victory. The red color of the priestly vestments, on this day, points to death and his victory.

Palm Sunday opens Holy Week. On this day the Church celebrates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem to fulfill his paschal mystery. The four evangelists recount this event and underline its importance. Jesus is presented with King-Messiah, who enters and takes possession of the city from him. But he does not enter as a warrior king but as a meek and humble Messiah, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah (9.9): “Behold, your king comes to you; he is just and victorious, humble and mounted on a donkey.”

The bouquets are not a talisman or a simple blessed object. In a beautiful text that appears in the Office of Readings of this day, Saint Andrew of Crete explains to us what is the symbolism of the branches and palms:

“Let us run, then, with Him who goes quickly to the Passion, and let us imitate those who came out to meet him. Not to carpet the path with olive branches, rugs, hands, and shovel branches, but to put our own persons under his feet, with a spirit humble him to the fullest, with a sincere mind and purpose, so that we can thus receive the Word that comes to us and make room for God, whom no one can contain . . . Let us also acclaim him, as children did, waving the spiritual branches of the soul and saying one day to the next: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.”

HOLY THURSDAY – THE LORD’S SUPPER



In the morning the bishop concelebrates with his presbyters and the people the chrism mass where priestly promises are renewed and the holy oils (catechumens, sick, and chrism) are blessed. In the evening, the LORD'S SUPPER is celebrated, which commemorates the institution of the Eucharist mainly as a living symbol of: the continuous presence of Jesus, reconciliation, forgiveness, union, and service.

According to ancient custom, all masses without people are prohibited. The community with all the ministries must be fully involved.

With the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Church begins the Paschal Triduum by remembering that Last Supper in which the Lord Jesus, on the night he was to be delivered, offered God the Father his Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine and gave them to the apostles as food for salvation; ordering them and their successors in the priesthood to repeat this same gesture in commemoration of him.

All the attention of the spirit is focused on the mysteries that are remembered in the mass: that is, the institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the priestly order, and the Lord's commandment on fraternal charity. These are the points that must be meditated so that such great mysteries can penetrate more deeply into the heart of all goods.

At the Last Supper Jesus wants to perpetuate his presence among us in a sacramental way, fulfilling the promise to stay with us until the end of time. In this Supper the Lord offers in an anticipated and bloodless way, the self-sacrifice of his Body immolated and his Blood spilled that will take place the following day on Calvary.

The Eucharist is the most precious gift that the Lord Jesus has left us, since it "contains all the spiritual good of the Church, that is, Christ himself, our Pasch and Bread of Life, who gives life to all through the Holy Spirit."

Within the celebration, the gesture of washing the feet is a beautiful sacramental that expresses the lowering of Jesus who inaugurates the paschal path that will find its moment of maximum humiliation and surrender on the Cross. It means the service and love of Christ, who "has not come to be served, but to serve" (Mt 20:28) and reminds us, among his followers, they must also be humble servants of his brothers.

After finishing the mass, a simple but expressive procession with the Blessed Sacrament is organized from the altar to the place of reserve. Then a few hours of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament begins.

We pray before the tabernacle either individually or in groups – symbolically accompanying Jesus in the Gethsemane before he is arrested.

VIERNES SANTO – LA PASION DEL SEÑOR



During the morning and afternoon we pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

There are many pious traditions that help us deepen our meditation on the cross on this day: the visit to the seven churches, the Ways of the Cross, processions, or the predictions about the seven last words. All of them are recommended, but above all, participation in the Celebration of the Lord's Passion in the local parish should not be missed.

According to ancient tradition, the Eucharist is not celebrated today or on Holy Saturday. The altar must be completely bare.

On Good Friday the Church celebrates the glorious and victorious death of Jesus. The liturgy of this day is austere and sober, while not exempt from majesty. It focuses on the immolation of the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world and on the Cross as a sign of reconciliation.

The center of the liturgy of the day is occupied by the meditation around:

the Passion and Death of the Lord,

the intercession for the salvation of the world, and

the adoration of the Cross that commemorates the birth of the Church from the open side of the Savior. (Cf. Jn 19:34).

Good Friday is a day of fasting, but not a penitential fast, like that of Lent, but rather a fast looking to Easter (cf CS 110), because it makes us live the transition from the Passion to the Resurrection. This fast is not just a secondary element of the Pascual Triduum, but it is central. For this reason, the Church recommends when possible that fasting be kept on Holy Friday and also throughout Holy Saturday, as was done in the past. It is important that each father/mother proclaim and explain this fast to the family.

SABADO DE GLORIA



During the Holy Saturday the Church remains next to the Lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death, his descent to the place of the dead, and awaits his glorious Resurrection with hope and refrains from the celebration of the Eucharist, thus leaving the altar bare. Communion cannot be distributed to the sick on this day. While no longer a requirement, the Church encourages everyone to extend the Good Friday fast throughout Saturday until the end of the Easter vigil, at dawn on Sunday, as was done in ancient times. Lauds on Saturday morning commemorates the Sorrowful Mother. Then the rest of the day can be devoted to scrutinizing the readings for the Easter Vigil and other preparations for the Easter Vigil.

EASTER SEASON

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

Easter is the one most important celebration of the Christian faith. Over time we have lost the importance of Easter. Popular piety places more importance on Good Friday. Commercialization promotes the Easter bunny and chocolates. The importance and even existence of Easter is lost in comparison to the commercialized Christmas celebrations that emphasize infantile themes. Now a days few Christian families actually celebrate Easter. The few families that do celebrate have reduced their activities to a brief Easter dinner.

Although natural religiosity and popular piety place great emphasis on Good Friday, the Christian faith focuses on the resurrection of Christ. The light of the risen Christ is what illuminates the life of the Christian. That is why the participation of the Catholic family in the Pascual Vigil or on Easter Sunday should never be lacking.

According to the very old tradition, this is the night of vigil in honor of the Lord. The faithful, as the Gospel recommends, must resemble servants who, with lighted lamps in their hands, await the return of their Lord, so that when he arrives he finds them awake and invites them to sit at his table.

The Pascual Vigil inaugurates the Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. On this feast day, two masses are celebrated, the Easter Vigil mass that takes place during the night vigil with mass itself. Easter Sunday, the third day of the Pascual Triduo, inaugurates a time of celebration and joy that lasts **50 days** (a sign of fullness and eternity). The first eight days of this period, which constitute the eighth of Easter, form, with Easter Sunday, a single and identical "feast day", one great eight-day Sunday celebrated as the solemnity of the Lord.

The Easter vigil is called by Saint Augustine "**the mother of all vigils**" because it is the most important liturgical celebration of the Church, the apex of all the commemorations of both the Easter Triduum and the whole year.

Source: Sacred Paschal Triduum, 2017

The Pascual Vigil: The most significant night of the year. This is the night most loaded with meaning. The "passage" of God in the history of his people: the "passage" or passing of Israel through the Red Sea to the land of promise, the "passage" of Christ into the new existence. All of this is now applied to the Church of Christ and is celebrated in the readings, in Baptism, and in the Eucharist on Easter night, so that she too and every Christian "passes" from death to life and from sin to grace: all this while waiting for the definitive "passage" that humanity and the entire cosmos will take towards the new heavens and the new earth at the end of time.

DEATH	LIFE
WINTER	SPRING
EGYPT/SLAVERY	FREEDOM
SIN	RESURRECTION

-MAKE A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PREPARATION & ACTIVITIES PERSONAL/FAMILY FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS AND THOSE FOR LENT/EASTER

- CELEBRATE ALL THE 50 DAYS OF EASTER AND ALL THE FEAST DAYS
- MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CELEBRATE THE ENTIRE FIRST WEEK OF EASTER: THE WEEK OF LIGHT
- A formal dinner on Easter Sunday
- Participate in the Easter Vigil and the Vigil of Pentecost
- Parties or special meals at home and/or with other families
- Games for children with images of new life
- Songs/music at home
- Plant flowers in the garden

- Decorative flowers on the table
- Look for Easter concerts or celebrations
- ANNUAL FORMAL BLESSING OF THE HOUSE/FAMILY
- days of service
- movies, stories at home
- Visit relatives, friends, and community members to share the joy of the resurrection.
- Pray together more -- lauds and/or vespers with family or with other families or with the community/parish group
- Celebrate the Eucharist (Mass) more
- SPECIAL SUNDAY DINNERS over the 50-day season
- Trips to a park or other special place
- Easter eggs and/or chocolates
- BE CREATIVE: FOSTER A FAMILY EASTER CULTURE USING IMAGES/ACTIVITIES OF NEW LIFE

peace & all that is good, friar Chris

864-202-8740 cdunn@stfrancis.org