



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY April 9 & BEYOND

Truly Enter into Holy Week



This Sunday we'll enter into Holy Week, which begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, takes us through His passion and death, and culminates with the celebration of His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. I intentionally say "enter into" because Holy Week isn't just a collection of memorials on the calendar.

Just as the Jews' celebrated the Passover as a spiritual participation in the actual crossing of the Red Sea, we participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus whenever we celebrate the Eucharist and Holy Week gives us its proper context.

The special liturgies of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil on Saturday all help to draw us even more deeply into that reality, and for that reason they're a great gift of our tradition. To make the most of them, though, we need to bring the drama of Holy Week into our lives. One way is to step up our existing Lenten disciplines. Another is doing as much as possible Monday through Wednesday – running errands, cleaning the house, preparing meals, etc. – so that we can focus on prayer and worship Thursday through Sunday.

Most especially we need to spend time with the gospel readings for the days of the week, so we can follow the sequence of events and watch what's happening in the people involved. For example:

- Imagine Judas trying to arrange the arrest of Jesus without being found out, only to have it be obvious what he's done when it happens. I'm always struck by how painful it is to watch him try to use Jesus to curry favor with the Pharisees, refusing to see that they're only using him. By the time they explicitly reject him, he's slid so far into sin that he can't accept himself, even though his sin could never be greater than God's mercy.

- Imagine the 8 disciples that remain apart in the Garden while Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him to pray. They've left everything to follow Jesus, but he keeps saying that he's going to be taken from them. What are they doing? What are they talking about?
- Imagine the state of the remaining 11 apostles, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the other disciples and holy women on Holy Saturday. No one had seen Good Friday coming – Jesus was arrested in the middle of the night, tried, condemned and executed by 3:00, and in the tomb before sundown. How would you comfort them?

Finally, no matter what challenges you might encounter while trying to enter into Holy Week, don't get discouraged. St. James tells us, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you," (James 4:8) which means that if we'll just open our hearts, Jesus will be happy to enter into us.

Father J. D. McQueen II

Readings for this Sunday – Palm Sunday

Ezekiel 37:1-3, 11-14 Psalm 130 Romans 6:16-23 John 11:18-44

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)
6:00p Stations of the Cross, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament,
Soup Supper

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
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