



## Things to Ponder

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## Reflections – Psalm Sunday & Holy Week

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Good morning, everyone:

Here we are at the beginning of Holy Week - a week that we have never ever experienced before in our lifetime. I was struck by the etymology of the word “pandemic” which means in Latin 40. Sound familiar? Lent = 40 days.

The message is so clear—we are in a time of isolation, reflection, prayer—that is leading to new growth within ourselves, our families, our community, our country. Something new is being born within us - from the darkness comes light. Isn't this the Pascal Mystery. The Easter message?

Lent (which liturgically concludes at the Holy Thursday Service) reaches its climax during Holy Week, itself a journey within a journey. The pace of the liturgical year seems to slow down until in the paschal triduum, from Maudy Thursday to the Easter Vigil, we recall the stages of Christ's passing from this world. It is a solemn passage through loneliness, betrayal, injustice and brutal/unexplainable suffering. It is a movement from life to death—something we are all experiencing in our self— isolation, fears, anxieties.

During this upcoming Holy Week, I would suggest the following as we walk with Jesus:

Read the Scriptures of the Day. Reflect. Put yourself in the story. What do the word or words say to you? What is Jesus saying to you? What does he asks of you? What needs to die? What needs to be reborn within you? Being honest with yourself demands a great deal of courage. Ask for that gift. Dare to be the person you always wanted to be! What does God want you to be! Take that leap of faith.

Also, St. Patrick Parish's Holy Week services (this coming week) will be recorded and found on our Parish website. Please participate in them. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry and Rev. Patrick Mullan will be celebrating the services.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, we find the very familiar story of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew's Gospel 21:1-11) which is proclaimed before the procession of palms. Again, I was struck by the word, "Hosanna," which literally means in Hebrew: "Save, please!" I was also impressed by the attitude of Jesus: He is a man of courage, of guts. He could have turned away, run back to Nazareth, lived a

simple and quiet life. But he faced Jerusalem. He did not waver from his convictions, his mission, his calling. He was "all in." I have been reflecting on that a lot these past few days. How determined am I to not only hear the call of God but to act on it? What "Jerusalem" am I being called to? Will I face it? Or turn away?

What word or words pop out at you? Speak to you? What gives you comfort from this passage? What challenges you? What are you hearing during your pandemic experience? What are you doing with the call you hear?

Take time to ponder this rich passage for Palm Sunday. You are walking with the Lord this coming week. And it is indeed a special holy and sacred week.

I am here for you.

We are here for each other.

Deacon David

"Hope does not disappoint!" (Romans 5:5)

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