

PALM SUNDAY 2008

FAITH HABITS- COME WALK WITH ME

Today it's snowing and I am trying to write about Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Where is springtime? Oh, it's just Michigan weather. We have the privilege of four seasons, which helps us understand how endings lead to new beginnings.

So it is with our own experiences of following Jesus to the Cross this week. We venture through a valley of beginnings and endings, Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, His trial, torture, and crucifixion, and when we think it's over, we visit the tomb, only to find us still searching, that our expectations have not been met, and that the story is not finished. The Tomb is Empty! His story, our story, continues, unfinished, right into our present lives.

Our lives have beginnings and endings, and take many directions before they are complete. Throughout our lives, we strive to find much meaning and spiritual fulfillment as we pursue the agony of Jesus and His resurrection. This Holy Week, I encourage you to look for and find, that sense of meaning and fulfillment at the empty tomb, as we pursue and understand what Jesus tolerated for our sins. Let us all join Fr. Jim and our fellow parishioners throughout this Holy Week as we walk with Jesus into the streets of Jerusalem.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday is a great time to attend Mass and have Fr. Jim hear your confession. How long has it been since we recalled the importance of taking care of our "Easter Duty"?

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lords Supper at 7:00 P.M., a very special service that finds Fr. Jim washing the feet of twelve men, as Jesus did on Holy Thursday. This is truly a humbling experience. Following this service, there will be Adoration in the school hall until Midnight. This is always a very special time to be exceptionally close to Jesus. You will never forget Fr. Jim's closing prayers at midnight! The atmosphere of this night is unforgettable and most inspiring!

Good Friday: Walk with Jesus through the Stations of the Cross at 12:00 Noon, followed by the liturgy of the Lord's Passion Readings, Fr. Jim's usual most inspiring homily, the veneration of the Cross, and opportunity to receive the Eucharist. There will be the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 P.M.

Holy Saturday: There will be the Blessing of Easter Food, and at 9:00 P.M. Easter Vigil. This is a great time to place yourself in the Hands of Jesus, and spend some very special quiet time in a good conversation with our connection between His suffering and our personal problems! Be sure to take time to listen to His reply.

Easter Sunday: He is Risen! What a wonderful time to tell Jesus: Thanks! The personal sacrifices of Lent have passed. We now move onward to a new spiritual time of our life.

Remember: The morning mass schedule is as usual, but there will be No Sunday evening Mass on Easter.

Our Lenten season is soon coming to a close. St Mary Faith Community has had a wonderful assortment of services, time for confession, special evenings for spiritual enrichment and much effort has been put forth to these very special times. Surely, our faith has been greatly improved!

Our Faith teaches us that within Holy Week, Jesus found His Apostles, began our Church as we now know it, forgave us our sins, gave us the Mass, the Eucharist, and established priesthood. He also died, was buried, and rose from the dead! And we think we will have a busy week????

Please take full advantage of this wonderful on-coming Holy Week. We deserve it!!

Dale Cousino