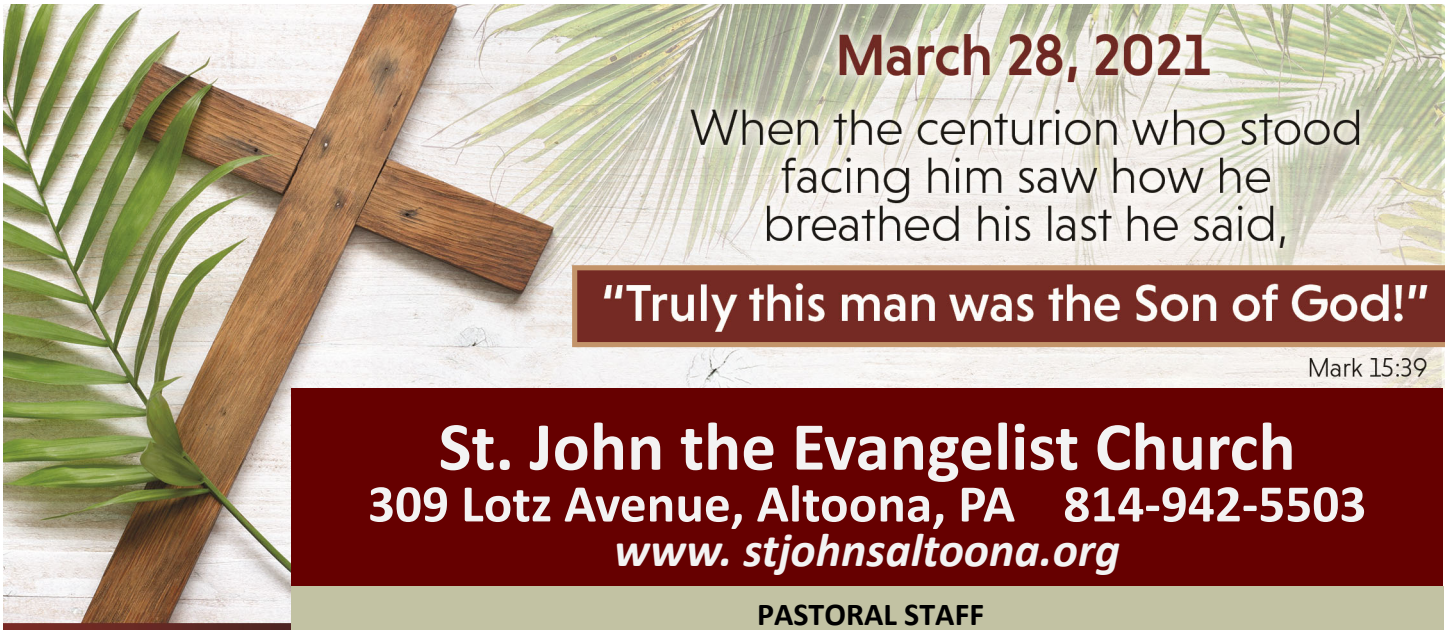

March 28, 2021

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:39

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503

www. stjohnsaltoona.org

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - *mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com*
Deacon Gene Neral - *gene@lifeinfocus.net*
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - *inaugh@aol.com*
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - *stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net*
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - *dj219@msn.com*
Diane Ryan - Administrative Assistant - *stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net*
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - *mark.krepich@gmail.com*
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Thurs. Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - Bob Olson , Russell O'Reilly
Fri. Apr. 2 - 7:00 PM - Jo Ann Semko, Mary Petrak, Bob Olson
Sat. Apr. 3 - 7:00 PM - Patrick Schurr, Russell O'Reilly, David Langguth, James Krug, Bob Olson
Sun. Apr. 4 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Apr. 4 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Barbara Bundy

ALTAR SERVERS

Thurs. Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - Mai Linh Do, Ethan Miller, Emily Miller
Fri. Apr. 2 - 7:00 PM - Ryan Donoughe, Nicholas Helsley
Sat. Apr. 3- 7:00 PM- Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 4 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Ethan Miller, Emily Miller
Sun. Apr. 4 - 11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

SACRISTAN

Thurs. Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - Dolores Capriotti
Sat. Apr. 3 - 7:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sun. Apr. 4 - 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 4 - 11:00 AM - NOT FILLED

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Thurs. Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - Barbara Bundy, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, Donna Moyer, Susanna Tomlinson
Sat. Apr. 3 - 7:00 PM - Connie Baker, Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti, Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Apr. 4 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky,
Sun. Apr. 4 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark, Cecelia Bloom, Kenneth Gorman, Donna Moyer, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Thurs. Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - Connie Baker, Helen Miller, Ginny Reeder, Darlene Scarpaci
Fri. Apr. 2 - 7:00 PM - Darlene Scarpaci, Jane Strasser, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sat. Apr. 3 - 7:00 PM - John Becker, Jane Becker, Charlie Moore, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Apr. 4 - 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Mike O'Neill, Darlene Scarpaci, Ed Stoltz
Sun. Apr. 4 -11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Mary Grace Horton, Patrick Podoletz

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A Few Words from the Pastor:

HOLY WEEK BEGINS - Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It's more sacred than Christmas! This is because Holy Week commemorates the final week of Our Lord's life, the very purpose for which Christmas happened. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem) and culminates with Easter Sunday. As Holy Week progresses to its final days the solemnity heightens.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM - Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*. The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. *The Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us: "Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery"* (USCCB).

HOLY THURSDAY MASS AND ADORATION - The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated. Due to Covid-19, the washing of the feet will not be done this year. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," in our Day Chapel, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated, and will continue until 10PM.

GOOD FRIDAY - This is the day of the Lord's crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. **-** This is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. The parish altar looks very different on Good Friday: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, reminding us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer. The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass—it is a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered.

HOLY SATURDAY - On this day Christ is in the tomb. There is no daytime Mass on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday. In the Apostles Creed we pray "He descended into hell" (translated hades, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection. Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday to save the righteous souls—the Old Testament patriarchs, for example—who died before his crucifixion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Jesus' descent into the realm of the dead "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission," during which he "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." Before Holy Saturday, there were no souls enjoying the beatific vision of God in heaven! Christ's work on Holy Saturday is also known as the "Harrowing of Hell."

THE BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKET -This has been a cherished Catholic ritual for centuries among families of Eastern European origin and adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. On Holy Saturday, families prepare their Easter Baskets to be later blessed at church. After Easter Sunday's Resurrection Mass, the family and guest would share this blessed fare and exchange good wishes. Our Easter Basket Blessing here at St. Joh's will take place on Holy Saturday at noon. Please come and bring your baskets!

THE EASTER VIGIL - A vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Sunday, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil: the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church. The vigil is divided into four parts: 1) the Service of Light, 2) the Liturgy of the Word, 3) the Liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

EASTER SUNDAY - The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes it this way: "Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of Feasts', the 'Solemnity of Solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of Sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him."

CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK – I will be available for Confessions this Holy Week on Wednesday both before and after the 6:00 PM Mass. Have you you're your Lenten Confession?

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

April 1 - 7:00 PM Mass of Lord's Supper
April 2 -8:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
April 3 - 7:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass
April 4 - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM Mass
April 4 - No Class this week.
HAPPY EASTER!

Wednesday, April 14 - 7:00 PM - Confirmation Mass
April 18 - First Communion Retreat
April 18 - Last Class (Lessons will be emailed Monday & Tuesday, April 19/20.
Sunday, April 25 - 11:00 AM - First Communion Mass

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Jesus' mission as a steward was to fulfill his Father's mission. He humbly and obediently submitted to that mission for each one of us. We, too, play a unique role in our Father's mission. It simply begins with the witness of our lives. Jesus chose the path of service of humility, and ultimate sacrifice and love. He gave us everything in that moment. How can we share our gratitude with the Gracious Giver?

We can bring service, humility, sacrifice and love into all areas of our lives: our homes by the way we treat our family members, into our church by the way we welcome and serve our neighbors and in to our workplace by the way we speak and act. Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. No matter our state in life, we are all called to be faithful stewards through prayer and service.

As we begin this Holy Week let us take some time to reflect on the life of Christ as he is our model Steward, and may we strive to imitate Him daily.

(*Stewardship Bulletin Reflection,* Catholic Stewardship Consultants, March 1, 2021)

March 14, 2021

Envelopes	$	3,671.00
Loose Offerings	$	297.00
Children's Offerings	$	1.00
Catholic Education	$	1.00
Easter Flower Offering	$	332.00
Catholic Relief Services	$	196.00
Food Bank Collection	$	370.00
Subtotal	*$*	*4,868.00*
Online Giving	$	1,690.00
Total Offertory	**$**	**6,558.00**

Restore*Repair*Rejoice
Payments/Donations $172,057
Pledge Payment Committed 13,556
Total Pledges/Donations $185,613

2021 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - $42,813.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your statement.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need*:

Aiden • Cari Ann • Amy B.• Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney
Jim DeStefano • Michael DeStefano • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Leann Frazier • Ken Hartman
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson
Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone
Susie Miller• Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore
Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko
Linda Pletcher • Ron Peschock • Connie R.
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Vicki Riley
Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel
Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten
Milan & Family

HOME WITH THE LORD

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:
Joseph Louis Saad, Sr. - son of Bonnie Saad Stevens
May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

ONLINE GIVING UPGRADE: Our Online Giving is getting an upgrade to a newer, easier-to-use platform! If you currently give online, you will soon be receiving an email with instructions on how to log into the new system. Best of all, your existing payment and donation information will be migrated over so you will not have to set up your gifts again! Keep an eye on your email for more information coming very soon.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:
Catholic Charities

The 2021 Catholic Ministries Drive encourages us to "Be a Disciple of Hope." People in this area get the help that they need because of your support towards Catholic Charities. Each year, 100% of the gifts made are allocated to the 14 ministries throughout our diocese and one of those ministries is the Catholic Charities.

In 2019-2020, Catholic Charities received $480,000- making it possible to help nearly 8,000 individuals by providing hot meals, warm beds, and open hearts during the most difficult year for local communities. These services are available to those in need regardless of their religious affiliation, race, disability, etc.

Help Catholic Charities today by mailing your gift, placing it in the parish offertory, or donating online at dioceseaj.org. 100% of your donation will go to the ministries to give help, build hope, and change lives.

SERVING THE SUFFERING CHRIST: As we enter Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday, let's reflect on how our Lord suffered from our indifference: those who proclaimed him king of Jerusalem were the same who called to crucify him. We recognize we are all one human family. Are we contributing to the suffering of our sisters and brothers with our indifference to their realities? How does our faith inspire us to care for them and share the gifts that God has bestowed on us?

Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl by placing it in the basket in the Gathering Space or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: *(Mark 14:1-15:47)* The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.
Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH: You are invited to join our Women's Outreach Group, if you have not already done so. This is a unique club - no dues, no meetings, no official titles, no agenda! WE HELP. Yes, we offer support to the parish, to individuals or families in the parish & community. When we learn of a need, an email is sent to you giving all details. You may agree to help by replying to the email. No pressure to respond to every need. Some of the programs/support we have assisted: Toasty Toddlers, Teen Shelter, baking or helping out with various events in the parish, gardening or yard work - to name a few. Also, we like to socialize with each other, so we may schedule an outing/lunch/dinner (Bell Mansion Tea House was a favorite).
If you'd like to become a member, please contact the office (814-942-5503), Barb Bundy, Ginny Reeder or Deb Johnson. We hope you will join us!

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis
Fundamental rights
We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00 AM - Mass for *David Ganz* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder
11:00 AM - Mass for *Nicholas Podoletz* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

Monday, March 29 – Monday of Holy Week
6:00 PM - Mass for *Joseph Saad* requested by Carol & Morley Cohn

Tuesday, March 30 – Tuesday of Holy Week
8:30 AM - Mass for *Helen Fornwalt* requested by The Leamer Family

Wednesday, March 31 – Wednesday of Holy Week
5:30 PM - Confessions
6:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Roseanna Weyer

Thursday, April 1 – Holy Thursday
7:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Friday, April 2 – Friday of the Passion of the Lord
12:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday
12:00 PM - Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets
7:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22;
b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;
c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;
d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;
f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;
g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;
h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

March 28, 2021

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:39

A PREVIEW OF HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and previews its themes and events. Today's liturgy begins with the commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Roman Missal gives three options for how this can be done, the most elaborate of which begins with the priest, ministers, and the entire assembly outside. The Gospel account of the entry is read, after which palms are blessed and distributed. Then everyone enters the church in procession, singing songs or psalms. However, the joy is temporary; the Passion narrative recounts how, after an intimate meal with his disciples a few days later, Jesus is arrested, tortured, crucified, and buried. The reading from Isaiah is one of four Suffering Servant songs, while the psalm likewise gives voice to the suffering of the innocent. The reading from Philippians affirms the Incarnation as God's embrace of the entire human situation, including suffering and death.

SUFFERING . . .

It may be Palm Sunday, but the Passion is far more prominent in today's liturgy, which invites us to follow Jesus from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to his crucifixion and burial. It simply overflows with the sorrow and intimacy that will be dominant themes in Holy Week.

The first reading from the book of Isaiah gives voice to the suffering of an innocent person—perhaps a prophet—or the people as a whole. The refrain for the Psalm is Jesus' cry from the cross (Mark 13:14), a cry of absolute, existential loneliness. The great kenotic (emptying) hymn in Philippians provides a stunning portrait of Jesus' ultimate emptying, simultaneously intimate and cosmological.

. . . AND INTIMACY

All four Gospels have a Passion narrative. While there is agreement on the main events—an intimate meal shared by Jesus and the disciples, betrayal by Judas, prayer in Gethsemane followed by Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion—each Gospel has unique variations that give it a particular meaning or tone. In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman in the house of Simon the leper. All the Gospels have Jesus being anointed by a woman, but only Mark puts this scene just before the Last Supper. Jesus says the anointing is preparation for his burial; it is as if the woman could see a prophet's suffering in Jesus' life and feel it in his presence. Moved by compassion, she empties her jar of expensive nard on his head, pouring out her love in a profoundly intimate act. Perhaps she will also join the women who witness the crucifixion from afar (Mark 15:40–41), after the Twelve seem to be long gone.

Palm Sunday invites us to follow Jesus through the rest of Holy Week. By moving us to feel the injustice and the suffering endured by Jesus, this week's liturgies and devotions present us with those same choices. Perhaps, like the unnamed woman, we can open ourselves to others' suffering and respond with love and compassion. Or perhaps, like the Twelve, we will be conspicuous by our absence.

TODAY'S READINGS

Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16
Isaiah 50:4–7
Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24
Philippians 2:6–11
Mark 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1–39]

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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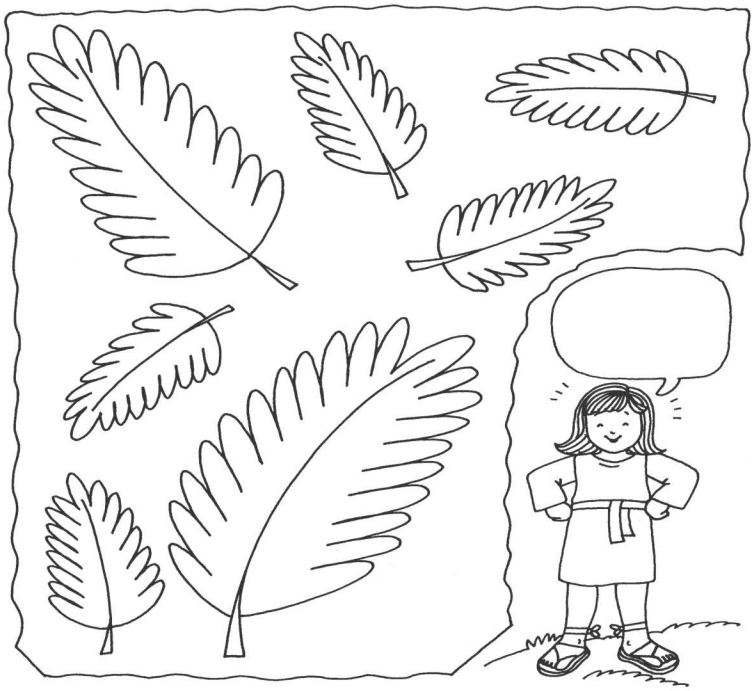
When people learned that Jesus
was coming to Jerusalem they were excited.
They waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!"
Color the big palm branches dark green.
Color the little palm branches light green.
Count how many branches in all.
Write that number inside the girl's speech bubble.



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God's Word for Children

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Have you heard about Jesus' famous ride into Jerusalem?
You can read about it in your Bible at Mark 11:1–10.
Match the parts of this story to their correct pictures.
Then label the pictures 1 to 4 in the circles to show the order
in which these events happened.

They untied it and told people "The Master has need of it."	They brought the animal to Jesus. They put their coats over it.	Two disciples went to a village and found a colt tied to a gate.	Jesus sat on it and took a ride down the road among the crowds!

"Take it; this is my body."
Mark 14 : 22

CATHOLIC CORNER®

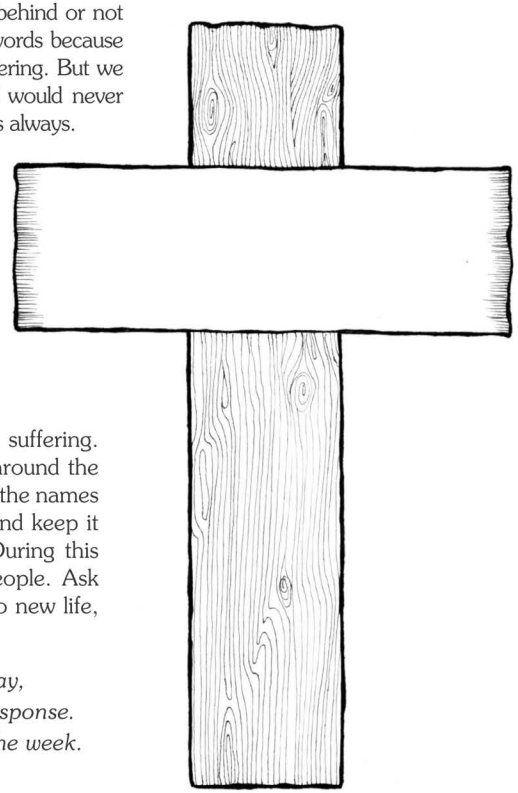
WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?

Today's Gospel tells the story of the suffering and death of Jesus. When Jesus hung on the cross he prayed the words of today's psalm.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? ***(Psalm 22:2a)***

To "abandon" means to leave someone behind or not think or care about them. Jesus said these words because at that moment he felt very alone in his suffering. But we know that God did not abandon Jesus and would never abandon anyone. God promises to be with us always.

Sometimes when people are suffering, when they are very sick or perhaps without a job, they feel the way Jesus did. But remember what happened. God brought Jesus to new life. God does the same for us in many different ways. We have to trust in God just as Jesus did, even when it is hard.



Think of people you know who are suffering. You might also think of suffering people around the world you hear about in the news. Write all the names you can think of in this cross. Cut it out and keep it on your dinner table or near your bed. During this coming Holy Week, pray for all these people. Ask God to strengthen them and bring them to new life, just as God did for Jesus.

If you sing the psalm at Mass today,
listen carefully to the melody of the response.
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.

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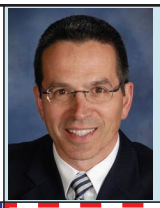
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Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE
Please Ask For Details
Receive a $25 Darden card with FREE in-home estimate
All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a $25 gift card. Retail value is $25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation.
Expires 03/31/21.

• LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE*
• Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
• Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
• Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment
Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration
CALL NOW 412-528-1877
LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania under HICPA license number PA126357 and in West Virginia under license number WV055024.
*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
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