

Dear Parishioners,

This Holy Week we celebrate our salvation which is carried out through Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Did you notice I wrote the word IS and not WAS? This was not a mistake. Yes, Jesus was betrayed, condemned, and crucified, and yes he rose from the dead in one moment of time 2000 years ago. But this is an event that is still happening; the effects of what Jesus has done continue to this day. We are still given salvation, the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

For this reason I would like to encourage you to make a special effort to attend the spectacular liturgies during this coming week beginning with Palm Sunday in which we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. During this Mass we will hold blessed palm branches as we welcome Jesus into our city, our Church, our lives in the Eucharist. We will also hear the passion read to us which enables us to reflect on how deeply we are loved.

On Sunday evening, April 9, we will celebrate Communal Penance at 5:00 p.m. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate Easter knowing our sins have been forgiven, the light of the risen Christ shines through us even as we prepare to celebrate his passion.

On Thursday evening, April 13, at 7:00 is the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We will celebrate the Last Supper with the washing of the feet, and the beautiful holy hour in which the Body of Christ will lie in repose in a special altar set up in a different room. After this Mass all signs of the presence of Jesus' body are removed from the Church.

On Friday, April 14, at 3:00 in the afternoon, we will have the powerful Good Friday Communion Service. This is not a Mass. Once again, the Passion of our Lord will be read from John's Gospel, we will venerate the cross as a community, and then we will receive Holy Communion. The hosts we will use will have been consecrated on Holy Thursday.

On Saturday night at 8:00 we will celebrate the greatest Mass of the entire Church year. In the darkness of this vigil we receive the light of the risen Christ who brings salvation to the world. We will also welcome new members into the Catholic Faith. I humbly encourage everyone to attend this Mass. It is so beautiful. At the same time, it is such a warm and generous way for our community to welcome these new members.

Easter Sunday Mass will be held at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. We celebrate, once again, the glory of the risen Christ who brings new life to the world. I hope and pray our Easter celebration will be filled with great joy.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel