

Dear Parish Family,

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (cf. Gospel of Matthew 21:9)

Today we welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. We carry palms. We sing hymns. We proclaim Him King.

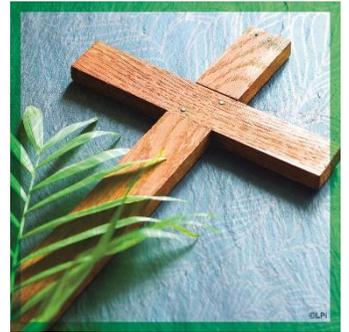
But Holy Week does not allow us to remain in celebration alone.

The same crowd that shouted “Hosanna” would soon cry out, “Crucify Him.” The Church places both cries on our lips because discipleship is tested not in moments of enthusiasm, but in moments of cost.

Christ enters Jerusalem as the prophet foretold:

“Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on a colt” (cf. Book of Zechariah 9:9). He does not seize power. He does not flatter the crowd. He does not soften the truth to secure approval. He comes to reign — from the Cross.

As Saint Paul writes, “He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross” (Epistle to the Philippians 2:8). In a world obsessed with self-assertion, Christ reveals that true authority is self-giving love.



Palm Sunday reveals a difficult truth: we want a Savior — but not always a Lord. We want comfort without repentance. Mercy without conversion. Resurrection without crucifixion. But there is no Easter without Good Friday.

This week the Passion confronts our hearts. We live in an age of noise and division, where truth is often traded for popularity, where dignity is measured by usefulness, and where conscience is dulled by convenience. The temptation to follow the crowd has not disappeared; it has simply taken new forms.

So, we must ask ourselves:

- When truth becomes costly, do we stand with Christ — or step back to protect ourselves?
- When fidelity isolates us, do we remain — or quietly drift away?
- When the Cross appears in our own lives, do we embrace it — or resent it?

The Cross is not decorative. It is decisive.

To take up our cross this week requires something concrete:

- Examine your conscience sincerely and seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Fast not only from food, but from anger, gossip, and needless criticism.
- Forgive someone you have kept at a distance.
- Defend the dignity of the vulnerable, even when it is inconvenient.
- Be present at the liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday — not as spectators, but as participants.

The palms we hold today will dry and become brittle. So too does faith that remains only emotional and never sacrificial.

Yet take heart: the Lord who goes to the Cross goes willingly — for us. He is not surprised by our weakness. He saw Peter’s denial and still chose him. He sees our inconsistencies and still calls us disciples. His mercy is not fragile. It is stronger than our failures.

Even in the shadow of the Cross, the Church prepares for new life.

We give thanks for the 11 Elect of 2026: Maria Camacho, Cayden Dortelus, Jayden Dortelus, Travis Kelley, Javier Luna, Lia Luna, Grayson McCaskill, Bryce McLean, Marelis Peña, Eric Peña, and Andre Permenter.

These catechumens have been chosen to receive the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil. As they complete this final period of preparation, let us pray for them and their families. Their journey reminds us that the Cross is not the end of the story. It is the doorway to new life.

This Holy Week do not remain in the crowd.

Draw near to the Crucified.

Stand with Mary.

Stand with John.

Stand where love remains faithful.

If we remain with Him in His suffering, we shall witness what the world cannot give: life stronger than death, mercy greater than sin, and hope that does not disappoint.

Remain with Him.

With prayer for your steadfast faith,

Fr. Vilaire Philius, Pastor