

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOLY WEEK

9 April 2017



TODAY

- Nursery (Room #102) during 10:30 Mass
- Middle School Edge (DH) 5:30pm
- Living Stations of the Cross (Church) 7pm

MONDAY | April 10

Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11

- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am

TUESDAY | April 11

Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

- Mass in Chapel (+Francis Homrig +Pat Kosiara) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm
- Light Weigh (PC LL #4) 9:15am

WEDNESDAY | April 12

Is 50:4-9 / Mt 26:14-25

- Confessions 5:30-7pm
- Cantor Practice 6pm
- Choir Practice 7pm

HOLY THURSDAY | April 13

- See right column for the **Triduum** schedule➔

GOOD FRIDAY | April 14 ☉ Day of Fasting and Abstinence

(regulations are on page 3)

- See right column for the **Triduum** schedule➔

HOLY SATURDAY | April 15

- See right column for the **Triduum** schedule➔

Note: The Sacrament of Penance is not celebrated on Holy Saturday and there is no 5:30 pm Mass

EASTER SUNDAY | April 16 | Resurrection of the Lord

- See right column for the **Easter** schedule



Grandville, Michigan

SPXCATHOLIC.ORG

REAL PEOPLE + REAL PRESENCE

TRIDUUM

2017

APRIL 13 14 15 16

Triduum is Latin for "three days."

It's the heart of the year for Catholic-Christians.

Arrange your calendars now so your family can participate in the PASSOVER OF OUR LORD through these holy days.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13

7 p.m. — Mass of the Lord's Supper

with the washing of feet

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15



- ♦ This is the one time each year when we enact the Last Supper according to the Gospel of John.
- ♦ Please bring your **Rice Bowl** offering and/or **nonperishable food** for the hungry
- ♦ Bring a **bell** to ring during the Gloria
- ♦ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the McDuffee Room until 10 p.m.
- ♦ **Night Prayer** at 10 p.m. McDuffee Room

GOOD FRIDAY



Friday, April 14 ☉ Day of Fasting and Abstinence

- ♦ Noon — Stations of the Cross inside
- ♦ **1:30 p.m. — The Passion of the Lord** with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion
Is 52:13-53:12 / Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9 / Jn 18:1-19:42

EASTER

The Vigil ~ 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15

- ♦ We gather around the Easter bonfire, then process inside to hear key Bible passages of our faith. We welcome our newest members through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation before celebrating the Resurrection with Eucharist. Reception following.

Gn 1:1-2:2 / Gn 22:1-18 / Ex 14:15-15:1 / Ez 36:16-28 / Rom 6:3-11 / Lk 24:1-12



Easter Sunday ~ Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Acts 10:34, 37-43 / Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418
616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340
www.spxcatholic.org

Parish & Formation Office Hours:

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays
(Formation Summer Hours: 9:30-4:30pm Monday-Thursday)

Parish Book of Prayer — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

Parish Membership — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or parishoffice@spxcatholic.org.

Infant Baptisms are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: www.foryourmarriage.org/

Pastoral Care of the Sick — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Rosemary Beahan or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Chris Rouech | Pastor
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Marilyn Beckwith | Business Manager
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Sandy Grandy | Secretary, Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 118 | youth@spxcatholic.org

Kim Lobert | Director of Maintenance
538-2600, ext. 116 | maintenance@spxcatholic.org

Holy Week at 40th & Wilson

FR. CHRIS ROUECH
frchris@spxcatholic.org



If I could offer one tidbit of spiritual advice for Holy Week, it's this: be mindful of the contrasts within each day.

For instance, you probably noticed how the Masses for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion illustrate life's contrasts: The liturgies began with a jubilant procession of "Hosannas" followed by "My God, why have you abandoned me?" After the joy of Holy Communion, we are dismissed in silence.

All of life is pain and joy, fasting and feasting. Roman Catholic liturgy is designed for us to practice that in worship to help us experience viscerally how we are yoked to the Passion of Jesus Christ. ("Passion," as in his Passover days of Last Supper, arrest, trial and crucifixion, and to his wondrous love.)

We often have a very difficult time allowing contrast. Many people find silence unnerving so they leave their television sets on all day. I am among many people who struggled to abstain from some of my favorite treats during Lent. We do everything possible to distract ourselves from, well—ourselves! But your true self, the naked one with absolutely nothing to listen to, nothing to watch,

nothing to do, nothing to say, is the one whom Jesus died for. That is the "you" he will raise again. Again, be mindful of the contrasts within each day. Laughter and tears, Cacophony and silence, Hot and cold...

For the sake of your soul and this faith community, I also urge you to participate in the Triduum—the extended liturgy that begins on Holy Thursday evening. A parishioner sent me the following remark after reading my recent bulletin column encouraging attendance at those liturgies, especially the Easter Vigil. She asked that I not use her name:

"In spite of all the mistakes our parents made and the subsequent messes we all became, I would not trade the love for God, for his church, and for the mysteries of Holy Week that they fostered in me for a perfect childhood. Never."

Missing the Crosses? This is the first year in decades that we have not placed the crosses around the parking lot for Holy Week. If someone would like to offer their time placing them next year, that would be most welcome.

Have a blessed Holy Week!

WHY PRACTICE GENEROSITY? By Craig Loscalzo, Generosity Expert



The St. Pius X Parish capital campaign, "Now is Our Time: To Give, To Grow, Together," begins April 22.

A successful campaign is not based on equal gifts but on **equal sacrifice**. Holy Week is an excellent time to reflect on how this campaign is an exercise for the Christian practice of generosity. **How so?**

► God Has Been Generous to Us

We practice generosity because God has generously blessed us in every way. Our generous giving is a response to God's outrageous goodness.

► We Give Generously to be a Blessing to Others

The Apostle Paul reminded us of this certain truth: "In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

We practice generosity in order to share the blessings of God with those who are in need of every kind. Our generous giving provides a place for worship, food, shelter, medicine,

clothing, comfort, and hope.

► We Practice Generosity to Expand God's Kingdom of Love

Jesus Himself told us:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life . . . But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." ~Matthew 6:25, 33.

Our generous gifts empower our parish mission of sharing the good news of God's love for all as we work for justice, righteousness, and peace.

► We Give Generously to Discover True and Lasting Joy.

St. Paul shares this life-changing insight: "Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." ~2 Corinthians 9:6-7

When we learn the lessons of generosity and practice them in our lives, we discover new joy and cheerfulness. Generosity brings Easter joy!

The \$3 million plan features a new youth-multipurpose room, expanded gathering area and new parking lots and boilers. Craig Loscalzo is the generosity consultant hired to guide us through this exciting process.



Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST
epost@spxcatholic.org

FIRST COMMUNION is almost upon us! If your child has been preparing for First Communion, please contact the Formation Office at 538-2600 to set up a time to celebrate this sacrament.

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES will resume on April 19.

"FILL THE BUS" FOR HAITI! At the end of April we'll hold our 3rd annual pop can drive to fill the entire bus with returnable cans or bottles! This is an effort to raise money to help support Sr. Luvia and the children in Haiti. We will be collecting on **Wednesday, April 26 and before and after weekend Masses on April 29 & 30.** Start saving now!



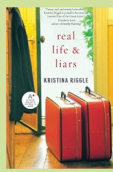
LOOKING AHEAD ~ Vacation Bible School will take place the week of July 24. Volunteers will be needed and can be going in to the 6th grade or older.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE ~ Sunday 5:30-7:30pm

- Tonight (4/9), April 23 & 30 ~ EDGE
- There is no EDGE on April 16

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS: Now is the time to schedule your Confirmation interview with Elizabeth! Signup with the formation office by April 15.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE DAY: Middle School students will be participating in a day of service on April 22.



NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB meets at 7pm Monday, April 24 in McDuffee to discuss *Real Life and Liars* by Kristina Riggle. Contact Linda Stray (249-8034 or lindastray@yahoo.com) or Mary Boehm (538-9635 or meb2904@aol.com) with inquiries.

High School Youth Ministry

ASHLEY ROTTMAN
arottman@spxcatholic.org



LIVING STATIONS: Tonight (4/9) at 7pm, the High School Ministry will be presenting Living Stations of the Cross for the parish. Practice will begin at 2pm today (4/9), with pizza provided for dinner. All high school and 8th graders are invited to help, not just leadership team members. Email me or sign up on the parish website spxcatholic.org/events.

NON-PROM SLEEPOVER ~ April 22 at 8pm to April 23 after the 8:30am Mass: Not old enough to go to prom? Or maybe prom isn't for you! Either way, all high school teens are welcome at the *Non-Prom Sleepover* for movies, snacks, games, karaoke, and general shenanigans. This is just a fun opportunity to hang out with your St. Pius X family. Permission slips and registration can be found online.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE OPEN HOUSE ~ April 30 ~ 7pm

This is our last official SNL for the year; we are going out with a bang! We want to show your parents, the 8th graders, and the entire parish what we do during SNL. The St. Pius X family is invited to join us for snacks, games, and Catholic Trivia! We will close the evening with a special send-off for our graduating seniors!

Pastoral Care, Outreach & Initiation

ROSEMARY BEAHAN
rbeahan@spxcatholic.org



I'm not fully initiated yet?? If you are a practicing Catholic but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation, you are not "fully initiated." The Sacrament of Confirmation completes our initiation into the Roman Catholic Church and equips us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

So what are you waiting for? We're beginning a three-week series 7-9pm Mondays on May 1, 8 & 15. Confirmation will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Andrew at 7pm May 23. **Please contact me via email or 532-9344, ext. 106 if you are interested in becoming a "CONFIRMED CATHOLIC."**

HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING MASS but aren't Catholic?

Do you know anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and possibly becoming Roman Catholic? We are here for you! **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is a journey whereby an individual becomes a full member of the Catholic Church. Those making this journey come from a variety of backgrounds: some are baptized, some are not; some come from other Christian churches or religious beliefs. Whatever the situation, all are experiencing the call of Jesus Christ and share a common spiritual journey. Another **Catholic Inquiry series begins in June.** **Please contact me if you are interested.**

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF: This is a support group for those who have suffered a loss and will deal with the myths and realities of grief along with providing support. This group is open to the community at large so if you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, join us for five consecutive Thursdays beginning, **April 20—May 18 from 7-8:30pm**, in the Parish Center Lower Level Room #1. You are welcome to bring a guest. Interest-ed: please email or call me at 532-9344 x106.



If you can provide a snack for any of the 5 grief sessions, please contact me in the Parish Office.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 7pm TONIGHT ~ 4/9
High School students invite parishioners to join them as they pray the Stations of the Cross as they enact them in word and body.

The Roman Catholic Rules for Fasting & Abstinence

■ **FASTING** is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** by everyone 18 years of age and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday.

On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals—enough to maintain strength—may be taken, according to each one's needs. But together they should not equal another full meal. **Eating between meals is not permitted**, but consuming liquids, including milk and juice, is allowed.

■ **ABSTINENCE** is observed on **Ash Wednesday and ALL Fridays of Lent** by everyone 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed.

Note that when one's health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR
arebollar@spxcatholic.org



THAT MAN IS YOU! Will NOT meet on Holy Saturday. The final meeting of the semester will be April 22. It's never too late to join (or come back).

EASTER RECEPTION HELP NEEDED... Every year we host a reception in Danner Hall following the Easter Vigil (4/15) for our newest Catholics, their families, sponsors, leaders, and parishioners. We need help in the following areas.

- **Food Prep** will happen for a few hours during the day of April 15.
- **Serving & Clean Up:** A few "night owls" are needed to help during and after the reception. The reception starts at 11pm and we are done with clean up around 2am.
- **Sides, Salads & Finger Foods:** These foods are used to serve at the reception; you don't need to attend to help. We're looking for lighter, easy to eat foods.

Any help would be appreciated...email me or call 532-9344.

50+ ~ GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM ARCHIVES TOUR

Join us April 25 for a behind the scenes walking tour of the Grand Rapids Public Museum Archives. This tour is a "peek behind the curtain" of the archives collections. The cost for the trip will be about \$10 (depending on how many sign up). We will carpool from St. Pius X at 10am...after the tour, we'll grab lunch...and return around 2pm. RSVP to the parish office by April 19.

WELCOMING BRUNCH: Have you joined the parish in the last year and are interested in meeting others or finding out what happens at St. Pius X? Then come to our Welcoming Brunch on **Sunday, April 30**, in Danner Hall following the 10:30 Mass. RSVP to the parish office at 532-9344 or parishoffice@spxcatholic.org or online <http://bit.ly/springbrunch17>.

Mass Assignments for April 15 & 16

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR THE TRIDUUM: Please volunteer to help out at our Triduum liturgies, which begin on April 13. Sign up in the back of church, through Ministry Scheduler, or call Sandy Grandy at 538-2600.

Mass Coord.	8:30pm	8:30am	10:30am
	Diane Remenak	Dave & Mary Bristol	Linda DiCesare
Greeters	6 Volunteers Needed	Ruth Lobert 3 Volunteers Needed	Judy Konopka/Joe Michael Nadean & Sammi Moore 3 Volunteers Needed
Servers	Katie Galer-Sampson Mikayla Koetsier Anne Slezak Noah Ziegler	Sarah Kelly Noah Kelly Samantha McIntyre Ava McIntyre	Jonathan Fuller Emma Jaworowicz Loren Wilkie Rachel Wilkie
Eucharistic Ministers	John Chirco Tony Grandy Debra Neff Tara Pankratz Kris Phillips Diane Remenak Kate Ruemenapp Jacob Ruemenapp Michele Stutzky Karen Tinning 3 Volunteers Needed	Nancy Benson Dave Bristol Mary Bristol Betty Cole Mark Henderson Val Henderson Pat Milanowski 6 Volunteers Needed	Elaine Albrecht Connor Fischer Sharon Love Mary Tracey 9 Volunteers Needed
Lector	Lynn Zabler Rachel Provost Avery Robinson Rick Verburg Brenda Bargaquist	Jan Sartorius Jim Thrall	Bob Becker Helena Signore
LOW			N/A
	USHERS NEEDED	USHERS NEEDED	USHERS NEEDED

real people + real presence

Growing in Christ

Weekly Stewardship Report

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: We are at the doorsteps of Holy Week where we remember Christ's passion. Jesus humbled himself and let go of everything, emptying himself for us. During this time of Lent, how have we joined the Lord? Has our prayer, penitential practices and almsgiving moved us to humble ourselves before the Lord? Have we let go of things that keep us from being authentic stewards of Christ Jesus? How have we "emptied" ourselves so that when we do approach the table of the Lord, we can be nourished by His body and blood? As disciples of Christ and stewards of His gift of faith, it is time to evaluate our lives under the cross. *from the April 2017 ICSC Catholic Stewardship e-Bulletin.*

Time and Talent

MASS ATTENDANCE

April 1 & 2: 5:30pm—307 | 8:30am—215 | 10:30am—379

THANK YOU SO MUCH for lifting us up in prayer and kindness in planning our mom, Rose Reilly's, funeral. Every detail was beautiful. The St. Pius X family treated all of us with warmth and compassion. We have grateful hearts. *The family of Rose Reilly*

THE BRADFORD FAMILY wishes to thank the parish for the lovely luncheon prepared for Bernie's funeral. The food and desserts were enjoyed by all. We would also like to thank the choir. The choir was a special touch to the Mass, as Bernie was a former member. The Bible Study members sent Bernie cards over the past few months; she enjoyed those very much! The friendships made during our 28 years as St. Pius X parishioners have provided many memories to be cherished during this sad time. *Ken Bradford & family*

EASTER FOOD BASKETS will be put together by the Christian Service Food Pantry. Please remember the pantry when doing your holiday shopping. Drivers are also needed on Friday, April 14, to deliver baskets to St. Joseph the Worker. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help at 532-9344.

DONUT HELPERS NEEDED: We are looking for families and individuals to help with our Donut Sunday hospitality to make sure it continues. It's a great way to get involved and meet new people in the parish. If interested or have questions, contact Sue VanGessel at suevangessel@gmail.com.

Treasure

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL: Our Catholic faith is a gift that unites our parish family with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids—and the world. With generous responses to date, we have reached **49% (\$61,941) of our parish goal of \$126,517 with 226 (23%) of our households responding.** Our goal is 100% participation, which means a completed pledge card from every household. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!



PARISH SUPPORT	Last week	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Week 40/52	4/1 & 4/2		
Adult Envelopes	\$ 11,353	\$510,559	\$ 532,727
Electronic Giving spxcatholic.org	\$ 8,372	\$175,511	\$ 172,589
Youth Envelopes	\$ 3	\$ 308	\$ 169
Loose Offerings	\$ 609	\$ 26,788	\$ 28,549
Total Contributions	\$ 20,337	\$713,166	\$734,014
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ 2,562	\$ (10,330)	\$ -
OTHER GIVING: CRS	\$ 1,210	\$ 3,577	
Master's Mission	\$ 975	\$ 26,504	\$ 26,951

St. Pius X has 968 registered households. Last week, 350 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.

Our prayer list for healing

We pray for those listed here and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Linda Padula	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Joe Capriglione
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Judy DeVoe	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Andre Miles	Ron Geldersma	Marie Nevins
Debbie Finnegan	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzbicki
David Doxey	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Mike Sartorius
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Jack Belbot	Kim Wheat
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Gina Catania
Jennifer Hassell	Marty Schumacker	Bill Paumier	Christopher Thrall
Ann Ferguson	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Ben Baird	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	James Raap
Kathy Maslowski	Codey VandenBerg	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Scott Kowalczyk	Justin Vriezema
Ruth Lafever	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Lenore Nufrio
Marlene Strong	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummer	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Chris VanderSlice	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Jim & Mary Ann Norcutt	Leo Raap	Karen Balasclac
Neil Wouters	Allen Mulligan	Connie Alighire	Marion & Marie Rythewski
Brianne Bassett	Matt Rich	Bob Bagin	Ken Jenkins
Tom Wojtas	Joe & Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Sandy Ressel
Kerry Deboer	Donna Waters	Cindy Thrall	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Marge Hager
Ann Berg	Jane Voss	Karen Bourassa	Pam Willemstein
Arlene Dzwonkowski	Arlene VanBeek	Judy Perrin	Alberta & Vito Licari
Cleo Ruppel	J.D. Sypniewski	Janice Rabadeau	Brian Mills
Christopher Alighire	Jerry Piela	Larry Kietzman	Dorothy Kawka

Practicing Faith

Entering! We hear proclaimed again today the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem, his city and place of destiny. He did this with courage and conviction. He did not let waving branches turn his head, change his mind. We do our entering today—into Holy Week. We face, with Jesus the Christ, our own destiny.

- How can I let people's praise and adulation not "go to my head?"
- How can I face what I must face with courage and conviction?
- How will I be at prayer and reflection these holy days?

Prepare for Holy Week: Read and reflect on Sacred Paschal Triduum (beginning on pg. 183) in the "Living Liturgy" missal.



Can you hear me now? Audio receivers are available for those who have difficulty hearing during Mass. They are in the cabinet to the right of the main church entrance (center aisle). We have two types:

- ▶ **LOOP RECEIVERS** — For those whose hearing aids are equipped with the T-Coil.
- ▶ **EAR BUDS** — Small headphones for people who do not have a hearing aid, or a model not equipped with t-coil. You can also plug your own ear buds into the unit.

When choosing which businesses to patronize, please choose those who advertise in this bulletin. Their support pays for this publication.

Kristin Ruth
Remax Sunquest ~ Realtor
See our ad on back page

A Prayer to place Palm Branches in the Home

The branches that are blessed and brought home on Passion (Palm) Sunday are placed near the crucifix or the family Bible. They remind us that Lent is the slow coming of spring to the earth, the renewal of life. They are like the great "Hosanna" with which we hail the crucified and risen Lord.

On Palm Sunday, the family gathers and holds their palms.

+ All make the sign of the cross.

LEADER begins: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL respond: Hosanna in the highest!

LEADER: We have come to the last days of Lent. Today we heard the reading of the Passion. That story will remain with us as we leave Lent behind on Holy Thursday and enter into the Three Days when we celebrate the mystery of Christ's passing through suffering and death to life at God's right hand.

Then the scripture is read by the leader or family member: Listen to the words of the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

(We are) always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. Cor 4:10-11

The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

LEADER: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who are holding these branches: *Pause in silence*

Blessed are you, God of Israel, so rich in love and mercy.

Let these branches ever remind us of Christ's triumph.

May we who bear them rejoice in his Cross and sing your praise forever and ever.

ALL respond: **Amen**

Together all take the palms to the place where they will be kept through the coming year. When all have returned to the starting point, the leader concludes:

LEADER: Let us bless the Lord. **All** respond, making the sign of the cross. **Thanks be to God. +**

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