

Household Celebration of Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Catechesis

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

Materials

Bible
Picture or image of Jesus (from your home or print one from the internet)
Palms (Either make your own palms from the directions on the links below or use other items around your house such as branches, blankets or coats.)

[Palm branches out of our palms](#)

[Make a paper palm tree](#)

[Paper craft palm tree \(higher difficulty\)](#)

Procession Directions

Organize members into a line in the following order asking each to carry one of the items:

Procession direction page [leader to carry]
Bible [bookmark Mt. 26:14]
Picture or statue of Jesus
Palm Branches [everyone else to carry]

Procession Movement

Procession leader moves to outside of the home and/or if weather does not permit to a central location inside the house.

Blessing of the palms: [Read by household leader]

"Almighty God, we pray you bless these branches and make them holy. Today we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

Entrance Gospel [Read by household leader]

Read [Gospel: Mt 26:14-54](#)

"We now enter our home, placing branches in each room. This represents Christ's presence in our home, our sacred space."

Procession Directions cont.

Procession Movement

Procession leader joyfully enters the home and leads the procession through every room leaving a palm or branch in each room. As each room is left, all say "Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!"

Closing Prayer [Read by household leader]

God, as we enter Holy week, turn our hearts again to remember what happened long ago in Jerusalem, remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Help us to remember to live a life of faith in Jesus, to worship and follow him all the days of our lives. Amen.

(Note: People are accustomed to seeing bishops, priests, and deacons blessing objects or persons in the name of the Church. Indeed, "the more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1669), often with the participation of the local parish community gathered in prayer. Whenever an ordained minister is present, he should be called upon to give the blessing. However, there are other blessings, like the ones contained in Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, that can be prayed by anyone who has been baptized, "in virtue of the universal priesthood, a dignity they possess because of their baptism and confirmation" (*Book of Blessings*, no. 18). The blessings given by laypersons are exercised because of their special office, such as parents on behalf of their children.)