

Palm Sunday

“Will I get my palms this year?” Catholics have a fascination with certain sacramentals. Blessed palms are one of those things that people make sure they get every year. As a sacramental, the purpose of blessed palms is to serve as a reminder. They are a sign (“little sacrament”) of a more important reality. They remind us of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. That event was the beginning of the Lord’s great gift of self that would culminate with his passion, death and resurrection. And so the blessed palms that we take home are a small reminder to us of the Paschal Mystery. Jesus, who entered Jerusalem acclaimed as a King, became the King of the Universe and reigns now in heaven.

One of my friends recently said to me, “I **have** to get my palms! How am I going to get them this year?” I told him, “No, you don’t have to get palms. It’s a custom, not a law.” Even though our parish will make blessed palms available (as I describe below), you do not have to feel any obligation to “get your palms.” This could be the year that you do without palms. It does not change anything.

We will save palms and you can ask for some after these restrictions on direct contact are lifted.

Therefore, I am not encouraging you to come and get your palms, but we are just making the opportunity available in a safe way.

Of greater importance, the Masses (both Spanish and English) for Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion will be uploaded to our parish website. I encourage you to join in the celebration of the Mass there or through one of the many other Masses that are live streamed or prerecorded. Participating in the Mass, even from a distance, is more important than getting your palms.

For those who wish to receive their blessed palms now, rather than later, the priests of St. Patrick Parish will distribute the blessed palms on Palm Sunday morning. April 5, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

However, please **take note of the strict directions which must be followed** for the safety of our parishioners as well as our priests.

- Palms will be distributed by the priests who will be wearing gloves. **Cars may enter only through the most north Adams Street driveway** between “Ye Old Garage” and the Parish Hall (not into the main church entrance). Cars are asked to form two lines,
- You will receive the palms as you drive through. Simply open the driver’s side window and the priest will hand you some palms. **Do not come on foot or get out of your car.** You will not be allowed to park in the parking lot.
- **Cars will exit quickly onto Pio Pico**
- **The church and chapel will not be open that morning.**
- For those who would like to use this occasion **to make your regular offering** to the parish, there will be a basket where you may place your envelope, check or cash.
- **Do not linger or congregate anywhere on the property.**
- **We have plenty of palms. There is no need to get there early. We will not run out. We don’t want everybody to come at the same time.**

These procedures need to be carefully followed in order to ensure the safety of everyone and good order on the streets surrounding the church. Thank you for carefully abiding by these directions.