

Dear Friends:

Palm Sunday greetings from Our Lady of Lourdes! It is hard to believe that Holy Week is upon us. Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday. It is a somber and sobering day. I am always touched by the fact that the Gospel reading begins with Christ triumphantly entering Jerusalem, with the people shouting "Hosanna, hosanna." But three days later, that same crowd of people shouted out "Crucify him; crucify him!" I have often wondered what I would have done if I had been in Jerusalem at the time. Would I have had the courage to be present at the foot of the cross or would I have run away?

Please see the other areas of the bulletin for the **Holy Week and Easter schedule**. I urge you to come to some of the Holy Week services. We have something for everyone (young and old, morning, noon and night!). If you have never been to a Holy Thursday or Good Friday Service, you should! They are very moving, powerful services. Take this opportunity to walk with Christ from Holy Thursday through Good Friday to Easter Sunday. Open your heart up to the Lord and allow Him to touch your life.

I highly encourage families with children to come to the various Children's Liturgies that are being offered during Holy Week. We need to slowly expose our children to the Holy Week experience and our Children's Liturgies are a most excellent way to do that. Please bring the kids and help them to walk with Jesus to Easter Sunday. I especially would like to point out what is taking place in every Catholic Church on Long Island: Suffolk, Nassau, Queens and Brooklyn.

On **MONDAY, APRIL 15th from 3:00pm – 9:00pm**, every parish on Long Island will offer the opportunity to go to Confession, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Maybe you have not gone in 6 months; maybe you have not gone in 30 years. Take advantage of this opportunity or next year it will be 31 years! God loves us and one of the ways in which God shows His love for us is by forgiving us. Allow God to love you! Allow God to forgive you! Please note that Confessions will be available at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at other times during Holy Week as well. See the Bulletin for these confession times. If none of these times is convenient for you, simply call the rectory and we can arrange for a private confession.

Also, please see an "Examination of Conscience" and "How to Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance" aid in other parts of the bulletin to help you. Remember:

Together, we can do something beautiful for God!

In Christ,

Fr. Brian

**PS:** *POPE FRANCIS* has said: "Holy Week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty ... For a good Easter, Christians must do more than simply recall the passion of Jesus during Holy Week; they must enter into the mystery of the Easter Triduum and make Jesus' feelings and attitudes their own."