## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

## **What is the meaning and significance of Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord.**

Palm Sunday is the day we remember and honor Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem a week before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. As Jesus entered the city on a donkey, people gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across Jesus’ path, shouting: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” It is also significant because it fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. For example, Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9. **It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of lent.**

## **When was Palm Sunday first celebrated?**

The earliest evidence of Palm Sunday being celebrated dates back to the eighth century.

## **Why do we use palm branches on Palm Sunday?**

The palm symbolized victory in the ancient world. All four Gospels (Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–44, and John 12:12–19) tell us that people cut branches from palm trees and laid them across Jesus’ path and waved them in the air as he entered Jerusalem triumphantly a week before his death. As the Church enters Holy Week, the faithful use palms to commemorate his victory and Jesus’ passion liturgically.

## **Prayer of Peace and Comfort in God’s Love**

**A prayer based on Psalm 23**

**Heavenly Father, You are my shepherd, and I am your beloved sheep. You guide me through the ups and downs of life, and I trust in your loving care.**

**You provide for me in every way. You quench my thirst with your living water, and you restore my soul when I am weary.**

**When I encounter problems in life, I do not fear, for you are with me. You provide comfort and protection, and your presence brings me peace.**

**When I am facing difficulties, you provide solutions for me. You bless me and draw me closer to you.**

**Thank you for your unfailing love and faithfulness. May I continue to follow you all the days of my life, and may your name be praised forevermore. Amen.**

**From Jay’s desk:**

**This issue marks the beginning of the 5th year of “What’s going on at Christ of the Desert” bulletin. What started as a means to keep everyone inform during the pandemic. It has now evolved into all-inclusive informative interactive communications vehicle to keep everyone in the loop as we go about our weekly activities at Christ of the Desert. I have really enjoyed being the editor of the “bulletin”. It has allowed me to be in touch with all of our parishioners each week. The “bulletin” now goes out to more than 425 (we started with 20 parishioners) full time, snowbirds, in Europe (Ireland) and occasional visitors.  Thanks to everyone for your input and support of “our” weekly communications.**

**OUR 2024 DDF GOAL WAS $12,200.**

**To date, we have collected $23,200. We are #1 again!!!**

**Thanks for everyone’s commitment in meeting our DDF goal for 2024.**

* **Last year we collected $20,746.**

**REMINDER:**

* **You can always donate at any time. Any Sunday (basket will be in the back of the church) or dropping off your donation during the week in the slot in the door on #4 office or sending in your donation until the end of March.**

**Our mailing address is “Christ of the Desert”: 43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**ATTENTION: Next Ladies Guild Members luncheon is April 10th:**

**Christ of the Desert Women’s Guild:**

**The next gathering will be on Wednesday, April 10th at 11:30. Menu TBD. Cost is $5 and if you are unable to afford the lunch, please see Crys Mueller or Cindy privately and we will take care of the cost for you. We don’t want anyone to miss out!**

**Cindy will be taking signups starting March 24th, after Mass. You can also make a reservation by calling the office (760-346-0089) or emailing Cindy at** **chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com**

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE AT CHRIST OF THE DESERT & SACRED HEART CHURCH:**

* + **March 24th - Palm Sunday. Christ of the Desert: Mass at 9:30. Korean Mass at 11:15.**
	+ **March 24th – Palm Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart Church.**
		- **Masses: 6:00AM,8:00AM,9:30AM,11:00AM,12:30PM (Spanish),2:30PM (Latin),5:30PM & 7:00PM (Spanish).**
	+ **March 28th – Holy Thursday. No services at Christ of the Desert.**
	+ **March 28th- Holy Thursday. Sacred Heart Church. Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 6:00PM.**
		- **Adoration at Altar of Repose following 6:00PM Mass.**
		- **No 7:45 AM Mass on Holy Thursday.**
	+ **March 29th - Good Friday. Stations of the Cross at Christ of the Desert, led by Paulette Quaid, at 12:30. No Healing Mass.**
	+ **March 29th – Good Friday - Sacred Heart Church:**
		- **No 7:45AM Mass.**
		- **2:00PM – Liturgical Service including Unveiling & Veneration of the Holy Cross & Holy Communion.**
		- **6:30PM – Live presentation of the “Way Of The Cross”. (Bilingual) in the Salta Center Gym.**
	+ **March 30th – Holy Saturday – 8:00PM Easter Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church (Bilingual).**
		- **No 7:45AM Mass at Sacred Heart Church.**
		- **No Easter Vigil Mass at Christ of the Desert.**
	+ **March 31st - Easter Sunday at Christ of the Desert. Mass at 9:30. Korean Mass at 11:15.**
	+ **March 31st – Easter Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart Church.**
		- **Masses: 6:00AM,8:00AM,9:30AM,11:00AM,12:30PM (Spanish),2:30PM (Latin),5:30PM & 7:00PM (Spanish).**

**March Upcoming Events:**

* **March 7th was the Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **March 9th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **March 10th  was Day Light Saving Time. Change you clocks before going to bed. Spring forward.**
* **March 13th was the Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon.**
* **March 14th was Christ of the Desert’s Quarterly Finance Council meeting.**
* **March 17th is St. Patrick’s day.**
* **March 20th was Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **March 24th is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.**
* **March 31st is Easter Sunday.**
* **April 15th the Tax Man Cometh. Taxes are due.**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**March 24, 2024**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

A few months before they married, my twenty-three-year-old sister and her fiancé planned a cross-country road trip to visit his family. My parents told them that they could only go if they slept in separate hotel rooms, offering to foot the bill. It might sound prudish, but my parents wanted the young couple to understand that their approaching unity was close, but not yet. Patience solidifies love.

What could this possibly have to do with Palm Sunday? It’s usually overlooked, but the Gospels tell us that, after entering Jerusalem, Jesus **“looked around … and since it was late, went out to Bethany with the twelve”** **(Mk 11:11)** for the night. Who cares? Why include this detail? Jews in those days believed that the new Davidic King would one day re-enter and “marry” the city. A new future marked by fidelity would begin for God’s people. Israel’s God would be in union with His people forever. Without over-sexualizing the metaphor, perhaps Jesus refused to sleep in Jerusalem to remind us of his *marital* purpose. He was entering Jerusalem as the bridegroom-king. It was almost time, but not yet. Soon he will sleep in Jerusalem in the tomb and then something new will begin: his one body, his Church.

**Lenten challenge:** This Holy Week, I challenge you to keep this image in your mind all the way until Easter Sunday: Jesus is the faithful bridegroom who patiently prepares his bride for their new life together. Go to the Good Friday liturgy and kiss the cross. When you do, let that gesture be the long-awaited “I do” to our faithful God, who always waits for us.

*— Father John Muir*

**March 24th – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.**

The readings for Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) focus the sacrifice which Jesus Christ made for me and you.

The reading for the procession of the palms tells of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

The first reading from Isaiah foretells Jesus' suffering.

The psalm sings "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?", which is the Psalm Jesus prayed from the cross.

The second reading from Philippians speaks of the how Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

And in the gospel we hear how Jesus first celebrated the Passover, and then became the sacrificial lamb for us.

Palm Sunday weaves together a rich tapestry of themes that resonate deeply with the Christian experience, reflecting on the final days and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Mass Readings for** **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.**

* **Procession**- [Mark 11:1-10](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/triumphal-entry-into-jerusalem/): As Jesus neared Jerusalem, He sent disciples to fetch a colt, instructing them on how to respond if questioned. Successfully bringing the colt to Jesus, they prepared it for Him. Entering Jerusalem, Jesus was greeted exuberantly by crowds laying cloaks and branches before Him, acclaiming Him with shouts of "Hosanna" and recognizing Him as the herald of God's kingdom, fulfilling a messianic prophecy and symbolizing His kingship in a humble manner.
* **Alternate Procession** - [John 12:12-16](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/triumphal-entry-into-jerusalem-2/): As Jesus approached Jerusalem, a large crowd welcomed Him with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna," recognizing Him as the prophesied King of Israel. His choice of a donkey fulfilled ancient prophecy, though His disciples understood its significance only after His glorification.
* **First reading** - [Isaiah 50:4-7](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/the-servants-resolve/): Endowed with the gift of speech by God, I encourage the weary and listen to His teaching daily. Despite suffering, I stand firm, supported by God, confident in facing humiliation without shame.
* **Responsorial Psalm** - [Psalm 22](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/cry-for-divine-presence/): In my deepest despair, scorned and wounded, I feel abandoned. Yet, I call for God's swift aid, promising to proclaim His greatness to those who suffer, urging them to praise and honor Him.
* **Second Reading** - [Philippians 2:6-11](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/christs-humility-and-exaltation-2/): Christ, though divine, embraced humility, becoming human and obeying to the point of death on a cross. Consequently, God elevated Him, ensuring every being honors Jesus as Lord, glorifying God the Father.
* **Gospel**- [Mark 14:1-15:47](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/final-days-and-crucifixion/): Jesus' final days were marked by betrayal, the Last Supper, and teachings on readiness. After being betrayed by Judas, Jesus faced trials, denial by Peter, and crucifixion. His death on the cross, amidst mockery, fulfilled prophecies and demonstrated profound love. Buried by Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus' sacrifice offered hope beyond death, emphasizing redemption and eternal life for humanity.

**Themes are gleaned from**[**www.young-catholics.com**](http://www.young-catholics.com/)

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**APRIL HAS 4 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**Total monies collected to date: $128,718 or 95.3% of annual budget. Last week collected $5,967\*.**

**\*Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard, Weddings & Funerals.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

        **Our Monthly expenses are budgeted at $11,250 per month or $33,750 per quarter. $135,000 annually.**

**Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**See instructions at end of Bulletin for ways to continue giving via your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR MARCH: For the new martyrs.**

**We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.**

**The Christ of the Desert “Bulletin” now appears on**[**www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](http://www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com/)**website. Open up the site and click on “church”, look down on the bottom left for Christ of the Desert. Open up this site for the “bulletin” and other information about our community.**

 **CELEBRATION SECTION:**

**There will be an information providing sheet on the table near the Chapel exit/entrance area.**

**You can always email the information to me as well.**

**You can sign up for any month NOW. I will keep a record of your special month and enter it when that month arrives.**

**WHO HAS A DATE IN MARCH & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**DISCLAIMER: If information below is incorrect, please let me know and I will correct the error.**

**MARCH BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Tiara McCoy has a birthday on March 8th.**

**Saint Patrick has a birthday on March 17th, born in 492.**

**Bonnie Morrisroe has a birthday on March 18th.**

**Helene Shaunty has a birthday on March 28th.**

**Father Marlin Connole has a birthday on March 28th.**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Daniel Pepper – March 7, 1934, Husband of JoAnn Pepper.**

**Joe Lehane – March 1st,1950. Husband of Lynn Lehane.**

**MARCH HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**George & Betty Schultz – March 20th.**

**Jim Grand & Stephen Spurge – March 23rd.**

**Jim & Anne Tufo – March 25th. 52nd anniversary.**

**MARCH  REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**Joan Warner, twin sister of Jean LaBough, passed away on March 4th.**

**Dottie DeWeese, mother of Paulette Quaid, passed away on March 12th, 2011.**

**Steve Lester’s wife, Noralyn, passed away on March 22nd, 1988.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year & Relationship to family member being remembered**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you pray for special intentions at Sunday Mass. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**The Parish prays for the following parishioners:**

**Carol Lee Evans.**

**Would you please add prayers for my friends Arnie, Ted, Karen and Mira!!! Thank you, Roxanne**

**Please pray for Lois Hickey who recently fell and broke her hip. Jay Mueller & the entire community**

**THIS WE PRAY TO THE LORD!!!**

**PAVER ORDERS:**

**Pavers can still be purchased. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. I have the tools to do the install myself now. Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!**

**Christ of the Desert office hours: 760-346-0089**

**Office hours are from 9:30 to 1:30 Monday- Friday. Please call first to be sure Cindy is available. When Cindy is in the office, the office door is locked. Please ring the doorbell “to get her attention”.**

 **SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

 **If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Thinking about selling your house or condo? Call Crys Mueller at 760 989 8732. I have been with BD Homes for the past 15 years.**

**John Maldonado is a Mortgage Loan Originator with First West Financial, Corp & a member of Christ of the Desert congregation.**

**"Your Home Loan Made Simple" We help you buy your dream home by simplifying the mortgage financing process with personalized loan options that save you time and money. If you need assistance with any type of loan, I am here to help.**

**For every loan that closes, I will make a donation to Christ of the Desert.**

**Contact: John A. Maldonado at** **jam@firstwestfinancial.com** **or call 760 636-8266. Mortgage Loan Originator,**

**NMLS #1995783,**[**WWW.firstwestfinancial.com**](http://www.firstwestfinancial.com/)

**Enedina Sutton, a Distributor of Nature Sunshine Products and a long time parishioner. Has Herbal Supplements, all kinds of Vitamins, ointments, essential Oils, disinfectant products and much more. I do the business from home. I can be reached at****760-345-3754****. I live in Sun City Palm Desert community.**

**Invented by NASA engineers, used on astronauts returning from space to rebuild muscle, bone and heal wounds “red light therapy” is now available. I am a new parishioner. Please call or email me: Rom Partyka 805-673-9235 or email at****rom1942@msn.com****for more information or to set up an appointment.**

**Need a good Catholic housekeeper? Call Elvia Pantoja at 760 698 6050. 20 years’ experience in the Indian Wells & Palm Desert area. References provided upon request.**

**ON GOING MESSAGE SECTION:**

**Please continue to consider supporting our community with the following options:**

**Mail your weekly or monthly offering to Christ of the Desert. All our regular mail goes to Sacred Heart so you would need to use that address. Make checks payable to Christ of the Desert.**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT c/o.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH 43-775 DEEP CANYON ROAD, PALM DESERT, CA 92260.**

**OR**

**Go to your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service. You can set up an automatic payment directly from there. If you have any trouble doing this or don’t have a computer, just call your bank and they can help you.**

**Please make sure that you tell the bank to make the check payable to Christ of the Desert but send the check to Sacred Heart’s address:**

**43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Jay Mueller**

**Stay Healthy! Do good work! Keep in touch!!!**

SHC & COD Finance Council Member

SHC & COD Parish Council Member

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator

SHC Parish Walk Coordinator

SHC East Valley Food Distribution Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745