



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



April 9-10, 2022

# HOSANNA SUNDAY



### HOLY WEEK – A REFLECTION BY BISHOP TOBIN

*Christ entered in triumph into His own city to complete His work as our Messiah: to suffer, die and rise again . . . Let us remember with devotion this entry which began His saving work . . . and let us follow Him with a lively faith.*

These words from the liturgy on Palm Sunday introduce not only the day, but they also provide an excellent summary of the principal themes of Holy Week. First, we are told that “Christ entered His city to suffer, die and rise again.” This draws our attention to the very core of Holy Week, the Paschal Mystery, in which Jesus suffered and died for our sins and then rose again in glory. These are the events that manifested God’s special love for us, events that accomplished our salvation. These are the events that form the heart of the Christian Faith.

Our faith is certainly founded on the great deeds of the past, but those deeds also point us inevitably to the future. The victory of Christ lifts our hearts and minds beyond the limited horizon of the present moment with all of its difficulties and problems, to the future we anticipate as followers of Christ, an

ever-so-peaceful future. It seems to me that our troubled world needs that vision, that hope, now as much as ever. The Palm Sunday introduction then invites us to “remember with devotion” Christ’s entry into Jerusalem, words that apply just as well, it seems to me, to the entire week. In other words, Palm Sunday sets the stage for the drama that would follow.

On Holy Thursday we gather with the Disciples around the Lord’s Table to celebrate the Last Supper and to thank God for the holy gifts He gave us on that occasion – the Eucharist, His own body and blood which would be sacrificed on Calvary the next day; and the Ministerial Priesthood, in which He chooses and consecrates men to be good and holy shepherds, to share in His sacrificial ministry of God’s People.

On Good Friday we enter into the Passion of the Christ who endured rejection, humiliation and intense physical pain for the forgiveness of our sins. We follow Jesus as He carries His cross and with Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, we stand at the foot of the cross to witness the sacrificial death of the Lamb of God. How can we not be moved if we recognize our responsibility for the death of Christ. “It was our infirmities that He bore, our sufferings that He endured,” The Prophet Isaiah pointedly reminds us. And on Easter Sunday we join with the Christian Church all over the world to proclaim and rejoice in the new life of Christ. It is the event that refreshes our spirits and gives new hope to a tattered, weary world. It is the event that speaks

to us of living forever and thus makes our lives here and now more tolerable, even promising.

So, we “remember with devotion” all of these events of Holy Week. But not only do we “remember” these events as relics of the past but actually enter into them and share in their life-giving spirit once again. That’s the power and glory of Catholic liturgy.

Finally, the liturgical introduction on Palm Sunday points us to Jesus and urges us to “follow Him with a lively faith.” A “lively faith” – that’s a real challenge for us, isn’t it? Too often our Christian Faith is stagnant, boring and dead. How many baptized Christians betray the Lord with sinful, scandalous lives? How many Catholics compartmentalize their faith, leaving their public lives untouched by their

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

***“There is no affliction, trial, or labor difficult to endure, when we consider the torments and sufferings which Our Lord Jesus Christ endured for us.”***

*St. Teresa of Jesus*



**Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon**

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**OFFICE HOURS:** The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

commitment to Christ? How many regular church-goers deny the Lord in subtle, sometimes unintended ways, by embracing a secular, worldly mindset? But what then does that “lively faith” entail? Well, it means that it’s not enough for us to follow Jesus in the liturgy only – that’s the easy part. It means that we follow Jesus with the commitment of our daily lives! How different you and I would be if our faith came to life and took hold of us! And in turn that “lively faith” would motivate us to change the world.

At the end of his newest book, “Jesus of Nazareth,” Pope Benedict reflects on God’s revelation to the world. These are words that can help us appreciate the significance of Holy Week as well: “It is part of the mystery of God that He acts so gently, that He only gradually builds up His history with the great history of mankind; that He continues to knock gently at the doors of our hearts and slowly opens our eyes if we open our doors to Him. . . . And yet – is not this the truly divine way? Not to overwhelm with external power, but to give freedom, to offer and elicit love.” During the liturgies of Holy Week let us recognize the One knocking at our door, and let us open our hearts to welcome Him. After all, He comes to save us.

<https://catholicismpure.wordpress.com/2011/04/18/holy-week-a-reflection-by-bishop-tobin/>

### **PASSION WEEK DIVINE LITURGIES**

**Monday, April 11, 7:00 PM,**  
Coming to the Harbor

**Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 PM,**  
Coming to the Harbor

**Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 PM,**  
Rite of the Lamp

**Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM,**  
Holy Thursday

**Friday, April 15, 10:00 AM,**  
Signing of the Chalice

**Friday, April 15, 7:00 PM,**  
Great Friday of the Crucifixion,

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM,**  
Prayer of Forgiveness

**Saturday, April 16, 5:00 PM,**  
Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 17, 10:30 AM,**  
The Glorious Resurrection

### **Holy Thursday reflection: Dinner among Friends by Fr. James Smith A HOLY THURSDAY REFLECTION**

Tonight, we have been invited to an intimate dinner among a few friends. But these men did not begin as friends. Jesus was not a celebrity looking for fans, or a politician on the hustings. Jesus was a teacher looking for students, disciples. They didn’t have to be bright — just teachable.

So, he first chose Peter: rock-solid in his own way after he had been quarried. Loyal as a dog, dependable in crisis. He was the kind of leader that others could lean on. Jesus could count on Peter to get the job done whether it was easy or hard, whether he felt like it or not, whether he understood it or not.

On the other end of the spectrum was John. More a lover than a man of action. Someone to sit around with, talk with, pray with, be with. Not very useful otherwise. But then, what good is a new kingdom if there is no love there? John would keep recalling the others to the whole point of their message and mission.

We don’t know anything about Andrew except that he was the brother of Peter. Maybe, after Jesus told Peter to follow him, Andrew might have said: “What about me?” And maybe Jesus said, “Why not?” Sometimes in life, things are just that simple.

The other brace of brothers was James and John. They were not much into reasoning, more into emotions. They would not be the ones to plan the campaign strategy. When one village rejected them, the brothers wanted to destroy it! But if the others got lazy, the brothers would wake them up.

Thomas seemed the least likely of the group. He appeared to question everything that happened. Even after God proved Jesus was right by raising him from the dead, Thomas had to feel the wounds.

But just because of this very defect of doubt, Thomas might have been the most effective preacher. Because the audience was even more skeptical. “A crucified carpenter, you say? Rose from the dead, you say? Starting some kind of

new kingdom, you say? Hmm.” But Thomas had already worked his way through those doubts. Convinced preachers might scare people off, but people recognized Thomas as one of their own. If Thomas could believe it, so could they.

Every group needs a treasurer. Luke seems to imply that that was Judas’ downfall. But it’s hard to believe that he would sell a friend for a paltry \$30. Maybe Judas just disagreed with the method of Jesus and thought that a forced confrontation with the authorities might alert Jesus to the fierceness of their opposition. Perhaps he never thought that they would kill his friend. Things just go wrong sometimes. We never know when our ambiguous actions will take on a life of their own and lead us where we had not planned to go.

But that is just a sad footnote to tonight’s story. This is Jesus’ last night on earth, and this is how he wanted to spend it. Not in solitude, not in personal communion with his Father, not with his old friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He wanted to spend his last night with his working buddies: that hot-and-cold, off-and-on bunch who nevertheless stuck with him to the bitter end. They had simply hung around him long enough that their admiration and respect and camaraderie worked itself into friendship. It happens.

And here we are, invited among that select circle of friends. We hear the same conversation. we eat and drink the same bread and wine — and we try to rekindle that old spark of intimacy that we used to feel. It can happen.

<https://www.ncronline.org/authors/fr-james-smith>

### **LECTORS FOR HOLY WEEK**

**Monday, April 11,**

Jean Barbour/Halim Choubah

**Tuesday, April 12,**

Smitty Cabral/Jano Baroody

**Wednesday, April 13,**

Rachael Higgins/Rana Choubah

**Thursday, April 14,**

Mae Dickinson/Hiba Chedid

**Friday, April 15,**

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday April 9, @ 4:30 PM Lazarus Saturday (Feast of Saint Hermas).

Sunday April 10, @10:30 AM Hosanna Sunday, Palm Sunday (Feast of Saint Agabus).

Monday, April 11, @ 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor (Feast of Saint Antipas).

Tuesday, April 12, @7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor (Feast of Saints Mennas, Hermogenes and Eugraphus).

Wednesday, April 13, @ 7:00 PM, Rite of the Lamp (Feast of Saint Zosimas).

Thursday, April 14, @ 7:00 PM, Thursday of the Mysteries (Feast of Saint Hermenegild the King).

Friday, APRIL 15, @ 10:00AM, Signing of the Chalice, @ 7:00PM, Great Friday of the Crucifixion (Pope Saint Soter).

Saturday, April 16, Great Saturday of the Light, @ 10:00 AM, Prayer of Forgiveness, @ 5:00 PM, Easter Vigil (Feast of Saint Bernadette Soubirous).

Sunday, April 17, @ 10:30 AM, The Glorious Resurrection (Feast of Pope Saint agapitus).

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of April is offered in memory of James Hirst requested by Linda Hirst. May his soul rest in peace.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/11-4/16/22

### Monday:

Hebrews 6:1-9

Matthew 21:17-27

### Tuesday:

1 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Luke 13:22-30

### Wednesday:

Hebrews 2:5-12

John 11:47-54

### Thursday:

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

John 13:1-20

### Friday:

Hebrews 12:12-21

John 19:31-37

### Saturday:

Romans 5:1-11

Matthew 27:62-66

## WISH LIST EQUIPMENT FOR FESTIVAL

Dear Parishioners of OLOP:

Last year's festival was a great success for our Church, both financially and communally. As you may know, we were very fortunate to have Msgr. Jim Root and the parishioners of Saint Anthony of the Desert, who were so gracious and helpful by allowing us to use many pieces of equipment that was needed to make our festival a success.

In an effort to continue the success of our festival, we have come up with a wish list of equipment that will be of great help for the festival and other events we are planning throughout the year. You have all been so generous to the Church and as I share with you our wish list, I want to stress that it is exactly that--- a wish list.

If anyone would like to donate towards any of these items, it would be a great help and very much appreciated. All of this is to assist in making our events more successful. Once again, I thank you in advance for all your support and I pray that this year's festival will be filled with much success and pride.

Dough Sheeter for Minooshee	\$ 2,200.00
Bain Marie for Sandwich Station	\$ 600.00
Food Cart	\$ 200.00
(2) Table Top Food Warmers(each)	\$ 200.00
(2) 6 Ft Gas Grills (each)	\$ 500.00
Falafel Fryer	\$ 250.00
Food Warmer	\$ 1,500.00
Food Warmer Trays	\$ 400.00

## LECTORS FOR April, 2022

### Saturday, April 9,

Rachel Higgins/Intercession: Anna Higgins

### Sunday, April 10,

Ann Dupre /Jano Baroody

### Saturday, April 16,

Carol Maslanka

### Sunday, April 17,

Mae Dickinson /Gaby Baroody

### Saturday, April 23

Mae Dickinson /intercessions: Mariam Uwanogho

### Sunday, April 24

Jean Barbour/ Rana Choubah

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for the living and deceased members of the David & Daher families and for all the souls in Purgatory by Mariam David. Anyone who would like to offer the sanctuary candle for a loved one or special intention, this will be offered each week. An offering of a \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

## SAINT JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL

Once again it is time to support Saint Jude's Hospital as we have been doing for the past 12 years. Last year, due to your generosity, we were able to send almost \$1,000.00 to help the children who are suffering with cancer. If we set a goal this year of \$1,200.00, will you help us meet it? Please see either Mae Dickinson or George Saba with your donation. We will continue to collect donations for the next three weeks. You can also make your donation at our website by Vanco. There is a tab for Saint Jude's Hospital on the link. Thank you for all your support, both past and present. The need continues. God bless you and God bless these children.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Nicholas Awad, Natalya Sarkis, Joe Reid, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo Rodrick, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

## WEEK OF APRIL 2-3, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,460.00
Easter flowers	\$ 255.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 40.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 560.00
Donations	\$ 734.00
Memorials	\$ 1,100.00
Bulletin Ad	\$ 150.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 70.00
Candles	\$ 36.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,465.00</b>

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[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]



*Joseph & Marie Kenyon*

*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.*

*Your Loving Children*

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