

March 16, 2008

PALM SUNDAY- PASSION SUNDAY

“**Who is this?**” people asked when Jesus entered Jerusalem six days before Passover. “This is Jesus, the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee”, the crowd said. Men, women, and children ran out to welcome him waving palm branches and shouting, “**Hosanna in the highest!**” But shouts of joy become angry cries of “**Crucify him**”. **Palm** Sunday quickly becomes **Passion** Sunday.

“**Who is this?**” we ask ourselves between now and Easter Sunday. The answers we give will determine the joy of Easter and the joy of our lives.

THE TRIDUUM

The holiest three days of the church year are the **Triduum** (Latin for *three days*), **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter**. Through the centuries, Christians have set these days aside as a time of prayer, fasting, and expectation.

The Triduum is “*all one piece*,” i.e. one single celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus Christ – the **Paschal Mystery**. On **Holy Thursday** at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper we are drawn into the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus. The heart of the **Good Friday** liturgy is the Passion according to John and the veneration of the cross. In the night of **Holy Saturday** and through to **Easter Sunday**, we bless the new fire and baptism water, celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – and experience the “*passing over*” of Jesus from death to resurrection.

POTLUCK

Please join us for our Potluck Dinner on **Holy Thursday** at **6:00 p.m.** followed by **Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful way to begin the Triduum.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Please bring your Rice Bowls to the **Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday**. This will be our collection at that Mass; the money is sent to Catholic Relief Services to be used for development projects and hunger relief in poor nations and to those in need in our own country.