OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings
March 29, 2021

Holy Week

Yesterday, with the celebration of Palm/Passion Sunday, we began our annual journey of Holy Week. To the original community, this must-have seemed to be anything but holy. It began well, with the adulation of the crowd as Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem. We know the fickleness of the crowd who shouted Hosannas on Sunday and Crucify him on Friday. Isn't that one of the dangers if we try to join and follow the crowd? As the week progresses, we see some of the low moments of human behavior: betrayal, denial, false accusations, abandonment, suffering, and death. What is so holy about all this?

This Holy Week, I ask us not to focus on the betrayal, denial, abandonment, suffering, and forsakenness which Jesus experienced. Instead, I am trying to focus on the fidelity Jesus demonstrated in the face of some of the most painful, lonely, and excruciating moments a human can face. What tests our faith, challenges our commitment to God, or causes us to lose faith or hope in God's promises to be with us always and to offer us the gifts of love and life now and forever?

Holy Week is aptly named only because of the great love shown by Christ and the God who loves Him and each of us. Please do not focus on Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, the disciples' fear and abandonment but on the incredible power of God's love to show that love and life win – in the resurrection of Christ and in His first words to the disciples after the resurrection: "Peace be with you!" Love and life win. Let us choose that anthem this Holy Week and be at peace.

Live Jesus!
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In Christ - Stronger Together

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