

PALM SUNDAY - April 17, 2011

Deacon Ray Larson

As Father mentioned at the beginning of Mass our Lenten journey has come to an end, so how are you doing? Are you ready to begin Holy Week, are you ready to participate in the Passion of Jesus?

On Palm Sunday our 1st Gospel focuses on Jesus entrance into Jerusalem arriving not on a stallion or in a chariot but humbly on the back of a donkey and its colt to the shouts of the crowds "Hosanna in the highest" so we commemorate this with our palm branches and procession, but today I would like to focus on our second Gospel "the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ". This account of Jesus being betrayed, put on trial, condemned, scourged, and put to death on the cross, all for you and me. With His power He could have changed any or all of these, but it was not to be by His will, but according to the will of His Father. Why did God put His Son through this? Because of His passionate love for us, a love so deep that He gave His Son to die for us and our sins, so that we could become His own, His children. One look at the crucifix above our altar and we can see the depth of His love.

So, how do you respond to such a love? Are you passionately in love with your creator or do you have a passive relationship with Him? How we answer this question makes a big difference in how we live our lives. If we are passionately in love with Christ we are compelled or ruled by an intense emotion or strong feeling about our faith in the Lord; if we are passive we tend to not actively participate in our faith and our love for the Lord, we just kinda go with the flow, go with the crowd and let others make decisions. I'd like to share the words of Matthew West new song, The Motions which express how I often feel.

I don't wanna go through the motions I don't wanna go one more day without your all consuming passion inside of me I don't wanna spend my whole life asking , What if I had given everything, instead of going through the motions.

God has given us everything we NEED, especially his Son, so what are you passionate about?

MAY EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU HAVE A VERY BLESSED HOLY WEEK.