



Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

MARK 11:9

## Empty Praise

**H**ow could anyone think that the joyous cry "Hosanna!" would be viewed as empty praise?

Though the word has come down to us in the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb "to save" (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise?

The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but we human beings—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today's readings describe. The passage for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out: "Hosanna!" Later, in the Gospel we hear, "Crucify him!" Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us: often afraid to take an unpopular stand lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier "Hosanna" empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### *For Reflection*

- ✦ *How steadfast have you been in your support of others?*
- ✦ *Thank Jesus for his willingness to forgive your fickleness.*





# St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

115 N. First Street, Clayton, NM 88415

Office and Fax: (575) 374-8894 Email: sfxclayton@gmail.com

Rectory: (575) 374-8900 (After 9:00 PM-Emergency Only)

Missions: Des Moines, Folsom, Moses, NENM Detention Facility

[www.sfxclayton.org](http://www.sfxclayton.org)

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew  
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard  
Secretary: Laekyn Wagner  
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez  
Adult Religious Education: Rev. Jason Pettigrew

**Parish Office Hours** (CCD Building)  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9:00AM -1:00PM  
Closed on Wed, Fri and Church & Civil Holidays

**Sacrament of Baptism**  
(Classes and Parents Interview)  
Contact Pastor

**Sacrament of Marriage**  
(Classes and Couple Interview)  
Contact Fr. Jason -6 Months Prior

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**  
By appointment with the Pastor

## MARCH 2

### St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

**Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:30am**

**Daily Mass: Thursday: 5:30pm Friday:12:10pm**

**Adoration: Thursday 6:00pm-7:00pm**

**Confession: Friday 4:45pm-5:45pm Saturday 4:00-5:00pm OR By Appointment**

### Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

**Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00am (Oct 1 - May 31)**

**Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt**

### St. Joseph, Folsom

**Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00 am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)**

**Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt**

### NENM Detention Facility, Clayton (For Residents/Staff)

**1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's Mass 2:00PM**

**Confession: Sunday 1:30pm—2:00**


### Nursing Home, Clayton

**Every 4th Sunday 1:30 PM**

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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
 This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
 It will be shed for you & for all... so that sins may be forgiven.  
 Do this in memory of me.*

*Masses will be offered March 2021  
 + All the Departed Parishioner's & Family Members  
 SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX Clayton  
 SI Good Health & Well Being of all Parishioners & Families*

**Fri, Mar. 26** SI Intentions of Parishioners  
 And Missions of SFX  
 +All Souls in Purgatory by Dieu Thi Hoang  
 +Margaret Heringa by Ross & Shelley Carter  
 +Kit Pettigrew by RosaLee Britt

**Sat, Mar. 27** SI Britt & Agnes Fisk by Ross & Shelley Carter  
 SI Phei van Hoang by Dieu Thi Hoang

**Sun, Mar. 28** +Inez Romero by Donna Kimble  
 +Sam Britt by RosaLee Britt  
 +Jonathan Fernandez by The Fernandez Family  
 (OLOG) +Ellen Theresa Long by Marjorie & Grant Long  
 (OLOG) +Rosalie Commiato Kelsey by Marjorie & Grant Long  
 (OLOG) +Lisa Martinez by Dick & Elaine Kennedy

**Sat, Apr. 3** +All the Souls in Purgatory by Dieu Thi Hoang  
 +Jonathan Fernandez by The Fernandez Family  
 +Levinio Lovato by Rose Alford

**Announcement**

Archbishop Wester has omitted the washing of feet on Thursday

No Holy Water in the fonts

No Mass on Good Friday  
 Good Friday "Celebration of the Lord's Passion" 3pm

**Announcements**

All Parishioners are encouraged to form prayer groups or Bible studies on their own, and welcome to use the church or CCD Building for such activities.

"When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished'; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (Jn 19:30). Afterwards, the Roman soldier "pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water" (Jn 19:34). Everything has now reached its complete fulfillment. The "giving up" of the spirit describes Jesus' death, a death like that of every other human being, but it also seems to allude to the "gift of the Spirit", by which Jesus ransoms us from death and opens before us a new life. It is the very life of God which is now shared with man. It is the life which through the Sacraments of the Church - symbolized by the blood and water flowing from Christ's side - is continually given to God's children, making them the people of the New Covenant. From the Cross, the source of life, the "people of life" is born and increases" (The Gospel of Life, n.51).

**Weekly Collections Summary: Feb. and Mar. 2021**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| March 20-21    | \$1,512.00 | \$ 500.00   |
| March 13-14    | \$1,967.05 | \$ 256.00   |
| March 6-7      | \$2,072.00 | \$ 530.00   |
| February 27-28 | \$2,033.00 | \$ 725.00   |

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*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

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[w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**Lectors for Masses**

Thurs, April 1- Andrea Naranjo  
 Fri, April 2- Jack Chosvig  
 Sat, April 3- Effie Walker, Pat Crisp, Shelley & Ross Carter, Jack Chosvig, and Sammie Wood

All Ministry schedules are updated monthly and posted on the church website.  
 If you need to know when you serve, check [www.sfxclayton.org](http://www.sfxclayton.org)!!

# Dear Padre,

**I recently converted to Catholicism. Can you tell me more about the significance of the palm branches on Palm Sunday?**

**W**elcome to our faith! And we are delighted to answer your questions. We can consider the meaning of the palm branches on two levels. On the first level, we commemorate a historical event—Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

In biblical times, people saw the palm as a kingly tree because of its height and majestic appearance. During festivals, the Jews carried palm branches in processions. Roman soldiers carried palm branches in their victory parades. In public games, the winners of contests and sports received palm branches as signs of victory. Thus, when people greeted Jesus with palm branches, they were greeting him in the spirit of joy and triumph usually reserved for victorious kings, armies, and athletes. It was the biblical equivalent of a ticker-tape parade!

That brings us to the second meaning for the palm branches. They do signify a joyful victory, but not in the worldly and military sense of the word. It is a victory that we can understand and celebrate only in the light of the other events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The ultimate victory of Jesus was his Easter triumph over death and sin. But it was a victory won through suffering and dying. This is the victory we recall on Palm Sunday. Even though we must relive the sad events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we know the triumphant outcome of the story. Knowing that outcome enables us to make Palm Sunday the beginning of our victory celebration.

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*,  
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## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.*

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY, MARCH 25, 2018



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## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 29

Monday of Holy Week

Is 42:1-7

Jn 12:1-11

### Tuesday

MARCH 30

Tuesday of Holy Week

Is 49:1-6

Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

### Wednesday

MARCH 31

Wednesday of Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a

Mt 26:14-25

### Thursday

APRIL 1

Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

### Friday

APRIL 2

Good Friday

Is 52:13-53:12

Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Jn 18:1-19:42

### Saturday

APRIL 3

Holy Saturday

Gn 1:1-2:2 or

1:1, 26-31a

Gn 22:1-18 or

22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Ex 14:15-15:1

Is 54:5-14

Is 55:1-11

Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28

Rom 6:3-11

Mk 16:1-7

### Sunday

APRIL 4

Easter

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Col 3:1-4 or

1 Cor 5:6b-8

Jn 20:1-9 or

Mk 16:1-7

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