



**Palm Sunday** commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 20:1-9) when palm branches were placed by adoring crowds along his path, mere days before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

For Jesus, it was a hero's welcome as he arrived during the Jewish Passover celebration. He entered the city riding a donkey, which was a symbol of peace, a sharp contrast to riding a horse, which was regarded as an animal of war at the time. Note a parallel with Zechariah 9:9 which states: "The king comes to you; he is just and having salvation; lowly and riding on an ass."

Red vestments are worn on Palm Sunday, (also called Passion Sunday in the Christian tradition) as they are on the feasts of martyrs, on Pentecost, on Good Friday and on celebrations of Jesus Christ's passion. They are a reminder of being ready and willing to shed blood for the Church and for Christ.

At Saint Bernadette Parish we have a special procession at the 11AM Mass. Palms are blessed and distributed at all Masses that weekend, but at this liturgy we gather in the Ministry Center for the blessing and then join in joyful procession into the church, singing and carrying the palms. Children are offered simple instruments to join in the joyful music. During each Mass, the entire Passion is read dramatically from one of the synoptic Gospels (St. Luke this year) with the assembly participating.



**Come wave a palm, sing Hosanna and join in telling the story on Sunday, April 14th!**

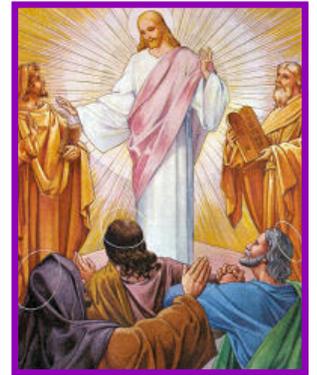
**LENT + 2019 + HOLY WEEK  
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

Saint Bernadette Church

**"The Message" Gospel Reflection**

**Second Sunday of Lent — Luke 9:28b-36**

**Read...** Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.



**Reflect...** What word or phrase speaks to you?

How does the most amazing thing you've ever seen compare with the way you imagine the transfiguration?

How have times of prayer or retreat transformed you?

Where do you go to meet God? Have you ever had a "mountaintop" experience and not wanted to "come down"?

How can you make space for silence in your life this Lent?

**Pray...** Radiant God, in the silence of this Lent fill us with Your transforming light and grant us the courage to carry the glorious good news of salvation into all the corners of the world. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.