

- Palm Sunday always feels like one of the saddest days of the year in that it reminds us so starkly of man's brokenness.
- Truly, today's Mass shows us just how quickly man can turn on God. In one moment we herald our Lord's coming, laying down palms before Him and shouting our Hosanna's. Then shortly thereafter we cry for His crucifixion.
- We may be horrified to think that man has such capacity for cruelty, but we do. Let's not kid ourselves; the people in Jerusalem in Jesus' day that we hear about in our two Gospels are no different than us. We are no better than they are.
- The Scriptures are like a mirror that we must hold up to ourselves. Like the people of today's Gospel, our hearts, too, can be fickle, inconstant, and vengeful.
- Yet despite man's gross infidelity, we cannot allow our hearts to be sad today. As people of faith who know what awaits us next Sunday, we must persevere in hope regardless of what we see today.
- I say this in regard both to Christ's Passion 2000 years ago unfolded for us today in the Passion narrative, and the constant crucifixion our Lord and His Church undergo today at the hands of those who hate Him and who wish to destroy His Church.
- Despite all the suffering, persecution, and injustice we see in our world, we must live in hope. Despite our own sinfulness, which at times can be shocking as well as degrading, we must live in hope.
- For the great Solemnity of Easter, which we will celebrate anew in just one week promises us God's mercy; it promises us a chance at new life – no matter how bad or numerous our sins may be.
- Yet there is a price to God's mercy. Although our Lord promises it to all who wish to receive it, it does not come to us without effort on our part. To rise to new life from the death of sin, we must be willing to repent of our sins.
- We must be willing to acknowledge our wrongs, beg pardon for them, seek never to commit them again, and atone for them as best we can. If we wish to be raised again by God's grace and mercy, we must humble ourselves first.
- Yet is that so much? Considering all that Jesus unjustly suffered for us in His Passion and death, the humble admission of our sins and striving to turn away from them and atone for them is really no price at all. It's simply requires a change of heart.
- Last Sunday I asked you to examine your heart, to see in what ways you've allowed it to harden with sin. I asked you to examine your heart to see if it is humble, generous, and affectionate like that of Jesus, or whether it is proud, greedy, and jealous.
- I did this because today, in our reading of the Passion, we see how Jesus' heart was pierced for us – broken wide open for love of us.
- While it is difficult to listen to the Passion story and hear of how our sins have crucified our Lord, it is in the Lord's Passion that we see the depths of His love for us!
- As we begin this Holy Week, let us each resolve to make our hearts like's Christ's in Its meekness and humility. While we all have our sinful moments in which, like Judas, we betray Jesus, or like Pilate, we become cowards, we must never despair of God's mercy.
- Rather, we must learn to be repentant like Peter, faithful like John, and ever willing to share in Christ's sufferings like His Mother.

- O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine.