

St. Francis Xavier Church

The First African American Catholic Community in the Country
Founded 1793

Served by the Josephites since 1871

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Holy Days: 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

except when the Holy Day falls on a Monday

Holiday, Mass and Novena will be at 8:00 AM only

Weekdays

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM followed by Bible Study

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS

Confessions

Before Masses or by appointments

Marriages

Notify the rectory at least 6 months in advance

Baptisms

*The Sacrament of Baptism is conferred
on the Fourth Sunday, at 2 PM.*

Notify the rectory at least 1 month in advance

Funerals

*Please notify the rectory before making
arrangements with funeral homes.*

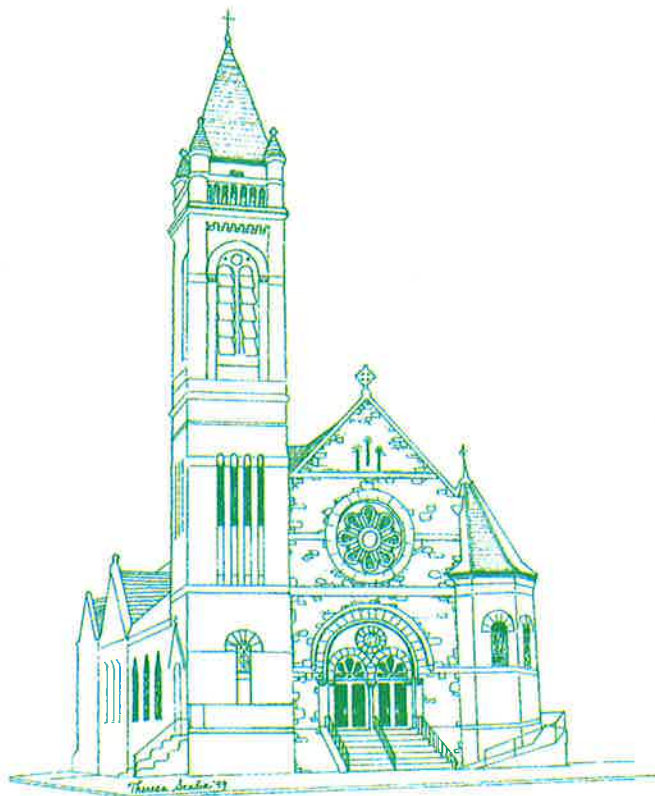
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

Pastor

Religious Education

Joslyn Alexander, Director

SVD-SFX Head Start Center (410) 685-7288



THE JOSEPHITES

"Glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercessions in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special favor we now implore of men and means for our seminary, college and novitiate. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Amen"

Mission Statement for St. Francis Xavier Church

In the tradition of the oldest African-American Catholic Church in the United States, St. Francis Xavier is committed to meeting the spiritual, educational and social needs of our parishioners and our surrounding community.

1501 E. OLIVER STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21213

Rectory (410) 727-3103

Fax (410) 625-9587

Website - <http://www.HistoricFrancisXavier.org>

REFLECTION

"This is My Son, the Beloved - Listen to Him!"

What can blind us or keep us from recognizing God's glory in our lives? Sin and unbelief for sure! Faith enables us to see what is hidden or unseen to the naked eye. Through the eyes of faith Abraham recognized God and God's call on his life. He saw from afar not only what God intended for him, but for his descendants as well - an everlasting covenant of friendship and peace with the living God. Abraham is the father of faith because he put his hope in the promises of God. Faith makes us taste in advance the light of God's glory when we shall see him face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2).

The Lord Jesus reveals his glory in fulfilling his Father's will
Are you prepared to see God's glory? God is eager to share his glory with us! We get a glimpse of this when the disciples see Jesus transfigured on the mountain. Jesus' face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white (Mark 9:2, 3).

When Moses met with God on Mount Sinai the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God (see Exodus 34:29). Paul says that the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness (2 Corinthians 3:7). In the Gospel account Jesus appeared in glory with Moses, the great lawgiver of Israel, and with Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, in the presence of three of his beloved apostles - Peter, James, and John.

What is the significance of this mysterious appearance? Jesus went to the mountain knowing full well what awaited him in Jerusalem - his betrayal, rejection and crucifixion. Jesus very likely discussed this momentous decision to go to the cross with Moses and Elijah. God the Father also spoke with Jesus and gave his approval: This is my beloved Son; listen to him. The Father glorified his son because he obeyed. The cloud which overshadowed Jesus and his apostles fulfilled the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came the cloud of God's presence would fill the temple again (see Exodus 16:10, 19:9, 33:9; 1 Kings 8:10; 2 Maccabees 2:8).

The Lord wants to share his glory with each of us
The Lord Jesus not only wants us to see his glory - he wants to share this glory with us. And Jesus shows us the way to the Father's glory: follow me - obey my words - take the path I have chosen for you and you will receive the blessings of my Father's kingdom - your name will be written in heaven.

Stewardship Reflections

1 Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. God's healing mercy for Velva Foster, Miles Fitzgerald, and Mary Watties, req. by Darleen

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M.

God's healing mercy for Dorothy Mello, req. by Martha Dorsey and family

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of Edmund and Marion Martin, req. by Jeff Martin

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Memory of all the deceased members in the Rutkowski and Martin families, req. by John & Jeff

Thursday

8:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Lucretia Coates, Candice Coates, Mildred Lane, and Michael Butler, req. by Darleen Thomas

Friday

8:00 A.M. Praying for the Memory of Marie Ameyo Mensah and George Mensah, req. by Sewavi Prince-Agbiojon

Today's Readings

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25



SPECIAL NOTICES

Scriptures for Daily Meditation



“And the Scripture gives us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” Rom.15:4

Day	Date	Gospel
Mon.	February 26, 2018	Luke 6:36-38
Tues.	February 27, 2018	Matthew 23:1-12
Wed.	February 28, 2018	Matthew 20:17-28
Thurs.	March 1, 2018	Luke 16:19-31
Fri.	March 2, 2018	Matthew 21:33-42, 45-46
Sat.	March 3, 2018	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Save the Date! For the annual retreat hosted by the Extraordinary Ministers, the Lectors, and the Ministers of Hospitality, to be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The cost is \$12.00. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Please see Celestine Kellam, Suzonne Vickers, Janet Wiggins, or Michelle Wiggins to register.

Please read the bulletin insert for the Pastorate Lenten/Easter Activities and save it for future reference for this season.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Stations of the Cross Devotions



Will be celebrated each Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. during the Lenten Season. Parishioners are encouraged to make the Stations of the Cross as part of their Lenten Devotions. Many graces are given for those who walk the final hours of Jesus’ life on earth. Confessions during lent will be held on Friday evening from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. and also after Stations of the Cross. Stations of the Cross will be led by the different organizations in the Church.

Schedule for the Stations of the Cross

- *Friday, March 2, 2018-New Horizon of Men and Women*
- *Friday, March 9, 2018-CDA #2257 of SFX*
- *Friday, March 16, 2018-Mass Choir*
- *Friday, March 23, 2018-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers*
- *Good Friday –March 30, 2018- Youth Ministry*

New Horizons of Men and Women

Deposits are due now for the Williamsburg, Va. trip. The first deposit is \$100.00. The trip is scheduled for August 16th-20th.

*The Ministers of Hospitality
Are seeking new members!*



WE WANT YOU!

Special Notices



March

4th Class

11th Class

18th Class-Community Service Project

25th Class-Palm Sunday

29th Holy Thursday

Retreat

Today, Sunday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. we will have our Annual Lent Retreat for the Sunday school students. Parents and guardians please support our Retreat Day by allowing your child to experience the extended day, we have an exciting day planned. Please pray for the success of our Retreat.

Children's Envelopes

Envelopes have been distributed to all Sunday school children. Start your child on a lifetime path of stewardship practice by using their envelopes weekly.

CRS

CRS Rice Bowls were distribute to all Sunday School Children. The children's Lenten sacrifices to CRS will honor Jesus call to serve our neighbors who have less than we do. Please have the children return their Rice Bowl on Sunday April 8th.

Leadership Meeting

Leadership meeting with Fr. Xavier:

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (2hrs)

Please Chairpersons/Presidents of groups and organizations endeavor to attend. Choir directors please, any, attend as discussion will include choirs.

Special Notices

CDA Court #2257 Education Committee

The CDA Court #2257 Education Committee is sponsoring the CDA Education Contest. The contest is for students in grades 4-12. The themes for 2018 are "The Lord has done great things for us, we have joy" Psalm 126 and "Finding Joy in my life." The applications can be found in the back of the church. Please contact Marsha Powell @443-467-2841 for more information.

Church Regulations Regarding Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

The Swingers of SFX Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

The Swingers are sponsoring their Annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Tiffany East, 4116 E. Lombard St. from 3-7 p.m., music by DJ White, donations \$55.00 (includes open bar) Please see any member of the Swingers for tickets.



Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Retreat "Come, Follow Me!"

Come join the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary on our weekend Retreat, April 6-8, 2018. For first time retreatants and/or young adults up to 30 yrs. of age the cost for the weekend is \$195.00. For retreatants that have been on retreat before at Loyola on the Potomac (A Jesuit Retreat House) the cost is \$245. A deposit of \$115.00 is due now. If you are interested in attending please contact: Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258. All deposits are due by March 18, 2018 for registration.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

*Please Keep In Your Prayers
All sick and shut in SFX Parish*

So many of our parishioners are dealing with health issues, please remember them in your prayers. Lucretia Coates, Candice Coates, Mildred Lane, Jeanne Edmonds, Bernie Fuller, Bernadette Morgan, Mabel Smith, Miles Fitzgerald, Velva Foster, Charles Lewis Jr. Michael Butler, and Dorothy Mello

SFX Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

SFX Atlantic City bus trip is scheduled for Monday April 2, 2018. The cost is \$40.00 with a \$30.00 rebate. The bus will be leaving St. Francis at 9:00 a.m. No reservation will be taken without payment. First come first served. See Darleen Thomas or Polly Hargrove for tickets. 410-303-0952. Don't delay get your ticket today! There are only a few tickets left.



SVD NEEDS YOU!



If you are interested in volunteering to support our church St. Vincent De Paul program, and providing support to those communities surrounding our church, and you have at least two hours that you can contribute 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, please call Gracie Ferguson or Darleen Thomas. The program usually starts around 8:45 a.m. and ends no later than 10:00 a.m. It will consist of Xeroxing, paper work, checking files to verify information, and consulting with our clients. It is a position that requires absolute confidentiality. If you care about those dealing with hard times, then you are the person. The office number is 410-727-3103, ext. 4.

For Your Information

Please Note:

If you are sick at home or in the hospital, or if you know of someone who is, Please Contact the Parish office, 410-727-3103. Please also remember to contact the office to advise us when to remove your name from the Sick and/or Shut-in Listing.

Mass Intentions

The normal donation for a Mass Request is \$5.00 and must be paid at the time of request. We will no longer take Mass requests over the telephone. Mass requests envelopes are located on the table in the rear of the church.

Address changed?

Please notify the office if you have moved for address changes.

Proper Church Etiquette

No cell phones or other electronic devices should be left on while in Church, especially during Mass. Also, please do not chew gum, eat or drink at anytime while you are in Church, especially when receiving Holy Communion our mouths should be free from all food items. Parents please do not bring potato chips or other foods to give your children during Mass. Food is being found in the Pews. Please give them snacks before Mass. If you cannot hear the Lector or other Ministers from the Altar, please raise your hand and do not yell out in Church, this is very disrespectful. We ask your full cooperation in adhering to these rules of etiquette.

Parish Membership/Census Update:

The use of Church envelopes is the responsible way to support your Parish. Parishioners are requested to register at the church office, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or complete the following form:

Name _____

Street _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

- Moving out of Parish
- Want Envelopes
- Change of telephone number/address
-

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Basket or mail to the Rectory.

Lenten/Easter Activities in our “Pastorate” and in the Archdiocese of Baltimore

The East Baltimore Parishes of St. Ann, St. Wenceslaus and St. Francis Xavier

During this **Holy Season of Lent** all of the parishioners of our **“Pastorate”** are welcome to participate in the following spiritual activities:

Each Monday, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.,
and on **three Saturdays** (*March 3rd, 10th and 17th*) from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.,
St. Francis Xavier will host ***“A Lenten Journey of Faith: Monday Night and Saturday Morning Catechism.”***

Each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. until about 8:00 p.m. St. Ann will host ***“Soup and Scriptures”***
based on the theme ***“Finding Hope when Life Hurts.”***

Each Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. St. Wenceslaus will host a ***“Fish Fry”***
(*except on Good Friday, 3/30*). *Take-out only!*

On three Fridays from Noon until 6:00 p.m., St. Francis Xavier will host a ***“Fish Fry”***
(*February 23rd, March 16th, and on Good Friday, March 30th*). *Eat-in or take-out!*

Each Friday at 7:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier will host ***“the Stations of the Cross.”***

On Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m., we will have our ***“Pastorate Penance Service”***
at St. Francis Xavier.

On Monday of Holy Week (3/26) at 7:00 p.m.
the Archdiocese of Baltimore will celebrate the ***“Chrism Mass”***
at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
all of our parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend this very special Mass.

On Wednesday of Holy Week (3/28) at 7:00 p.m., St. Ann will host a ***“Seder Meal.”***
All of the parishioners from our three parishes are invited and encouraged to attend the Seder Meal.

***** The Sacred Triduum: On Holy Thursday at 7:00 p.m., St. Wenceslaus will host the Mass of the Lord’s Supper.***

On Good Friday (3/30) at 12:00 Noon, St. Ann will host ***“the Seven Last Words of Christ.”***
On Good Friday (3/30) at 12:00 Noon, St. Wenceslaus and Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
will host an ***“Ecumenical Stations of the Cross”***
(*weather permitting, the procession will be outside and start and end at St. Wenceslaus*).

***** The Sacred Triduum: On Good Friday at 3:00 p.m. St. Ann will host the Service of the Passion***

On Good Friday (3/30) at 5:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier will host
“the Stations of the Cross” (*tentative*).

On Good Friday (3/30) at 7:00 p.m., St. Ann will host
“the Stations of the Cross.”

***** The Sacred Triduum: On Holy Saturday (3/31) at 7:30 p.m.,***
St. Francis Xavier will host ***the Great Vigil of Easter.***

On Easter Sunday each parish will observe its own usual Sunday Mass Schedule
(*8:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier, 9:00 a.m. at St. Wenceslaus,*
and 11:00 a.m. at both St. Ann and St. Francis Xavier).

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

March 2018

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J., Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Margaret Clitherow

St. Margaret Clitherow was born in York, England in 1555. She was raised Protestant but became a Catholic soon after she married.



When Queen Elizabeth I outlawed Catholicism, St. Margaret continued to practice her faith, even hiding Catholic priests in her house so they could say Mass in secret. In 1586, Margaret was arrested. Instead of being afraid, she was serenely joyful during her time in prison. She refused to renounce her faith and died a martyr.

St. Joseph

March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, honors the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is the patron of the Universal Church and protector of families.

"You are praising God when you do your day's work. You are praising him when you eat and drink. You are praising him when you rest on your bed. You are praising him when you are asleep. So when are you not praising him?"

St. Augustine



"Who, then, is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) challenges our idea of who is a stranger. As followers of Jesus, we know that it is not acceptable to care only for people who are like ourselves. Our faith calls us to look beyond borders and see all people as neighbors. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" (Luke 6:32).

Who is a neighbor? Jesus never directed us to like everyone, but he raised love of neighbor to the level of a Commandment. And he doesn't allow us to be selective.

The snarky coworker or unpleasant older person who lives next door?

Both are neighbors we are asked to love. Customers who harp on the tiny mistakes we make, or relatives who love to point out our flaws?

Neighbors. People from around the world whose values and behavior are foreign to us? Neighbors, all.

What is neighbor love? It starts by seeing those around us – truly looking past the outer appearance and learning names, personal stories, circumstances.

Praying for others – whether we know them personally or not – is a powerful way to love them.

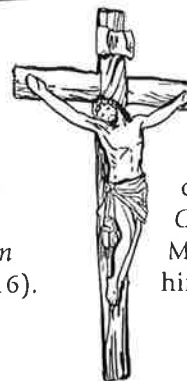
Neighbor love isn't blind to others' sin but it requires focusing on our own first. We love neighbors best by letting them witness in us the fullness of a life in Christ.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have crucifixes in church?

The crucifix – a cross with Jesus' body on it – reminds us of the price of our salvation and God's infinite love for us; "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to death on a cross" (John 3:16).

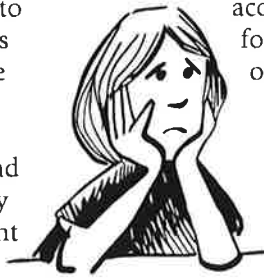


A crucifix helps us to remember that the sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1545). During Mass, Jesus, through the priest, offers himself to the Father for us.

Why does God let bad things happen?

"If God is good, why does he allow bad things to happen?" In our hearts, we may know that God is loving and doesn't want us to suffer, but it can be difficult to see his plan when trouble strikes. The key is to stay close and trust his love.

Draw closer to him. Sometimes God allows bad things to happen because he knows that adversity can draw us closer to him. Take the Old Testament hero, Joseph, for example (Genesis 37-50). He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, falsely



accused by his master's wife, and unjustly imprisoned for years. Eventually he was released and became one of the most powerful men in Egypt.

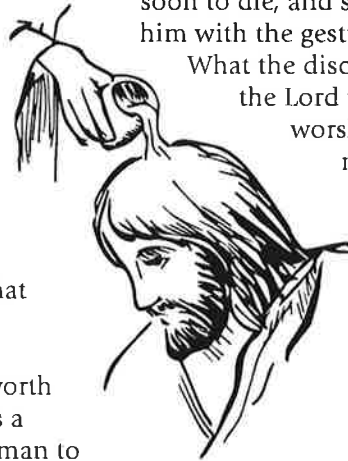
Stay connected. Throughout his suffering, Joseph kept his friendship with God strong so he could see God's hand in his life. When his brothers begged for forgiveness, Joseph was able to answer, *"Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve his present end, the survival of many people."*

from Scripture

Mark 14:1-15, 47, Waste or worship?

In this reading, we follow the march of events toward Jesus' death. It begins in Bethany with a woman pouring a costly ointment over Jesus' head and horrifying the disciples with a frivolous use of an expensive material. However, Jesus silenced them, pointing out that "she has anointed my body beforehand for burying."

The ointment was costly – worth about one year's wages. It was a significant sacrifice for the woman to make. Yet, unlike the disciples, the woman understood that Jesus was



soon to die, and she meant to honor him with the gesture.

What the disciples saw as waste, the Lord understood as worship. Jesus saw her material offering as "a beautiful thing." She took one of her most honored possessions and gave it to Jesus in an unusual act of devotion. Rather than consider it a loss, Jesus felt honored by it.

Q & A How do I make a good Confession?

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) can sometimes feel like an obligation instead of an encounter with God's mercy, but it doesn't have to be that way. Try these tips for a more joyful Reconciliation.

Examine your conscience. Compare your actions to the principles of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Bring to the confessional the significant ways you have failed to live up to them.

Confess the small ones, too. Participating in the Sacrament frequently means that you may only have venial (minor) sins to confess. Confess them anyway. Piling up venial sins can lessen our resistance and pave the way for mortal sin. Confessing keeps our consciences sharp.

Express contrition and resolve to avoid sin. Ask for the grace to continue growing in holiness and avoiding evil.

The point of the Sacrament is to reconcile us with the God who loves us more than we can imagine, and who is always eager to forgive us. Confession helps us come back and begin again.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 600). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy.

March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland (c.461). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having established the

Church there.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 25 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

