

## PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumph entry into Jerusalem, as the Prince of Peace, an event mentioned in all four canonical Gospels.

The fact that Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem is full of symbolism. In the Eastern tradition a donkey is an animal of peace, versus a horse, which was the animal that a king rode when he went to war. "See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).

In the Russian Orthodox Church, Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic Church, Polish and various other Eastern European countries, they use pussy willows instead of palms since the latter are not easy to find that far north.

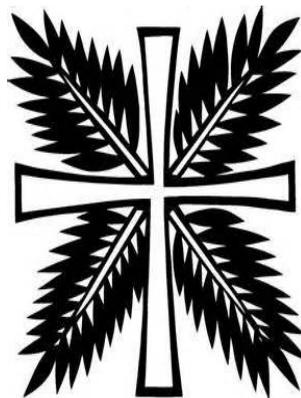
In Latvia, for instance, Palm Sunday is called "Pussy willow Sunday".

In many parts of the world palms are hard to find and substitute traditions have arisen. In the South Indian state of Kerala, flowers are strewn about into the sanctuary on Palm Sunday during the reading of the Gospel. In Syro-Malabar Catholic Church's palm leaves are blessed before being used in Palm Sunday processions.

In the Philippines they like to re-enact Jesus' triumphal entry astride a donkey (the humenta) with the congregants bearing ornately woven "palaspas" (palm branches) which later are taken home and placed on altars or above the doorways and windows.

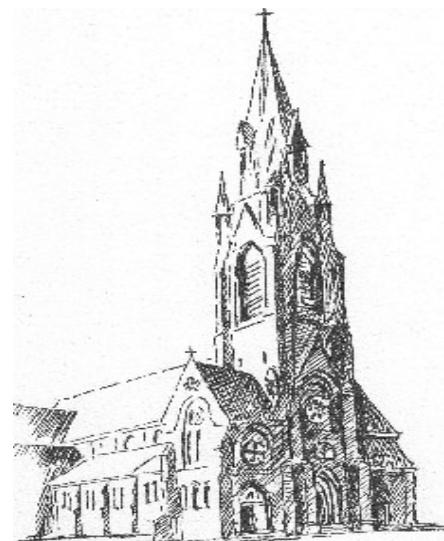
In countries like Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Palestine, Lebanon etc. palm leaves are used along with olive branches and the priest uses an olive branch to splash holy water on the faithful.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. *Have a blessed Holy Week.*



# St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)  
Rev. Fr. Benny Joseph (Associate Pastor)



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**OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon.– Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

### Sunday Masses

8:30 am Portuguese  
10:00 am Portuguese  
11:30 am English  
1:00 pm English

### Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese  
6:00 pm English  
Saturday 5:00 pm English

### Parish Council

### Parish Finance Council

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

### English Choir

Susan Taylor 416-531-0503

### Portuguese Choir

Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

### Santo Cristo

Artur Rocha 647-624-7113

### Santo Cristo Band (Hall)

Marco Lima (President) 416-818-5462

### Santo Cristo Association

Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

### Espirito Santo

Kevin & Christina Cordeiro 647-218-1601

### Saint Vincent De Paul

416-247-8868

### Volunteer Co-ordinator

Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

### Baptism—Sundays

Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

### Marriages

Please contact the priest *12 months* in advance

### Confessions

Every day *before* Mass, except on Sunday

### School

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205  
Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462

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### Introductory Sessions for Celestial Singles Encounters

Saturday, April 18th and 25th, 2026

Saturday, May 30th, 2026

Saturday, June 13th, 20th and 27th, 2026

3 PM—4:30 PM

St. Peter's Parish Hall,  
840 Bathurst Street

Want to discern your God-given gifts and how they connect to the single male and female lay person's role and one's universal call to holiness?

Come explore and share your faith experience of living the Single life as a Christian vocation.

Call the Parish Office, 416-534-4219, or send an email to [contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca](mailto:contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca) by



## Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

The solemn procession with palms is the traditional start of this, the first liturgy of Holy Week, the most solemn week in the Church's year.

*First Reading (Is 50:4-7)* The prophet suffers in carrying out his mission, but is sustained by the firm belief that God will not abandon him.

*Second Reading (Phil 2:6-11)* Because Jesus took on himself our human condition, and accepted death on a cross, the Father has raised him up and made him Lord of heaven and earth.

*Gospel for procession (Mt 21:1-11)* Jesus enters Jerusalem, not as an all conquering warrior, but as a gentle, humble bearer of Good News.

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### Good Friday Collection

On Good Friday, there will be a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land in support of Christian communities, in the Holy Land.

### Holy, Holy, Holy

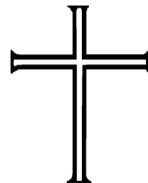
Holy, holy holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory!  
Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna, hosanna in the highest! (2x)  
(Repeat)**



### Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, remember me  
when you come into Your kingdom,  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come into  
Your kingdom. (repeat)



### Song of the Cross

**Love lifted on the cross for me:  
my Lord, my God, my salvation.  
Love lifted high to set me free:  
my Lord, my God, my salvation.**

Behold the wood of the cross,  
behold the lamb that was slain.  
Behold your king comes victorious,  
behold he has risen again.

O be exalted, O God,  
above the heavens and the earth.  
For by your cross and resurrection  
you have redeemed the world.

Give glory to the Father,  
give glory to the Son,  
give glory to the Holy Spirit;  
give glory to the Holy One.



### Were You There

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me  
to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me  
to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

# Holy Week

## Saturday, March 28th

**5:00 pm.** Manuel & António Faria—Manuel Pereira Rodrigues Coelho—Anna Mondello Pimentel—Roque Yupangco—Teresinha Garcia

## Sunday, March 29th

**8:30 am.**

**10:00 am.** Community—Santo Cristo Association—Marilene Fernandes de Castro, almas do purgatório—Gil Maiato & José de Almeida—António da Costa Ferreira & family—António José Braga, Luis & Maria Tavares — José Correia, wife, parents, in-laws & family—José de Amaral

**11:30 am.** Ana Carvalho—Manuel Laurentino & Maria dos Anjos Silva—Brendan Joseph McGuirk

**1:00 pm.** Reynaldo Beleno—Intention of Arju Lena

## Monday, March 30th

**9:00 am.** Thanksgiving to St. Joseph, souls in purgatory  
**6:30 pm.** Michael & Odilia Correia

## Tuesday, March 31st

**9:00 am.** Manuel Medeiros, parents, in-laws, souls in purgatory  
**6:30 pm.** Alda Medeiros

## Wednesday, April 1st

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory  
**6:30 pm.**

**Blessed Sacrament Adoration—Laus-Perene**  
*Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday* 3:00pm—6:00pm

## Holy Thursday, April 2nd

**8:00 pm.** *Mass of the Last Supper*  
**Blessed Sacrament Adoration from 9:00 until 10:30pm**

## Good Friday, April 3rd

**1:00 pm.** *(Passion of Our Lord - English)*  
**3:00 pm.** *(Passion of Our Lord - Portuguese)*  
**7:00 pm.** *Stations of the Cross*

## Holy Saturday, April 4th

**8:00 pm.** *Easter Vigil* (Portuguese & English)

## Easter Sunday, April 5th

**8:30 am.** Portuguese Mass  
**10:00 am.** Portuguese Mass  
**11:30 am.** English Mass  
**1:00 pm.** English Mass

