

Cycle A -- Palm Sunday Homily  
April 16-17, 2011

We begin Holy Week. It is remarkable that Palm Sunday has arrived. Even though Easter is so much later this year than it usually is, it seems like we just celebrated Christmas, doesn't it? Maybe our tough winter has something to do with this.

In the bulletin of March 5-6, 2011, my Pastor's Column explained why Lent began so late this year and the article explained how we calculate the date of Easter each year. You can access this by visiting our parish web site. Go to [mountcarmelniles.org](http://mountcarmelniles.org) and visit the bulletin page. Look for the bulletin of March 5-6, 2011 in the bulletins link.

As Holy Week starts, we hope that all of us might pray for a deeper appreciation for who Jesus is and what He continues to do in our everyday lives. Holy Week is a great opportunity to remember that Christ lived and died to teach us to love one another and to live for one another.

We hope you will join us in prayer often this week. The schedule of prayer services is provided in this bulletin.

Please note: **The Niles Clergy Association invites everyone to participate in Outdoor Stations of the Cross at 12:00 Noon on Good Friday, April 22. We will begin and end at the McKinley Memorial. We will process to various stations in the area of the McKinley Memorial, First Christian Church, St. Stephen Church, the Edison Place Senior Living Apartments, and Trinity Lutheran Church. We will pray and sing hymns together with followers of Jesus from our community belonging to various denominations. We hope that our participation of parishioners from this parish makes us proud. If the weather is inclement the entire service will be held inside the McKinley Memorial Auditorium. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. This is the third consecutive year our churches are working together for this special testimony of our appreciation for the love of the Lord. Participation grew last year compared to 2009 and we are hoping it will grow this year. I hope to see you there!**

**We also hope that you will note that the Easter Vigil Mass begins at 8:45 PM on Holy Saturday, April 23. Our parish is following the expectation of the Church that the service should not start until after civil twilight ends. My research reveals that the sun sets at 8:11 PM in Niles that night and civil twilight ends that night at 8:41 PM. The Easter Vigil Mass features a beautiful candlelight service, the welcoming of new members, and the highlight of the Church Year. There is no 5:00 PM Mass that evening. Be sure to pray with us at the Easter Vigil. Be proud to welcome new members. The Lord will reward you for it. Although the Easter Vigil Mass is longer than most Masses, it is a very enriching spiritual experience. I hope to see your radiant face glowing in the candlelight that Holy Night!**