



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

May 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

In Holy Week we prepare ourselves for Easter by reliving the last days in the life of our Lord. Without all the liturgies of Holy Week, Easter would have no meaning. Without the help of dozens of dedicated individuals, all that took place during these celebrations could not have happened. I would like to express my thanks to all who made it happen. Specifically:

First, the music ministry. The choirs, cantors, and musicians spent many extra hours in rehearsals for all these celebrations. These included the Procession of Palms, the Penance Service on Wednesday, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, two services on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and the six Masses on Easter Sunday.

Second, the liturgical ministry. This includes the lectors and Eucharistic ministers who were part of the above services. The Eucharistic ministers also brought Holy Communion to those whose illnesses and disabilities kept them from attending the services, while the video ministry live-streamed the Easter Mass so they were able to be a part of our celebration. The altar servers and acolytes not only had extra services but also came to the practices for the Easter Vigil. The sacristans were behind the scenes preparing vessels and vestments for the various services. The ushers took up the collections and were the ministers of welcome for those unfamiliar with our parish or new to our community. The hospitality ministry served donuts and coffee after the Sunday morning Masses.

Third, the environment ministry. They created the décor appropriate for the season. For Palm Sunday it meant palms. For much of Holy Week it meant a simple décor for that penitential time. Then on Holy Saturday it meant preparing all the flowers to create a festive atmosphere for Easter.

Fourth, the maintenance crew. They converted the Parish Activity Center gym into a worship space, assisted the environment ministry, set out worship aids and bulletins, and prepared the fire and font for the Easter Vigil and procession. They also provided ongoing clean up after the services.

Fifth, my brother priests. This involved extra hours of confessions not only at the Penance Service (15 confessors) but also Tuesday through Thursday. All three of us here heard confessions on Thursday morning and afternoon throughout the scheduled hours and beyond.

Finally, all of you parishioners who made the visitors and occasional worshipers feel welcome. What a wonderful opportunity to evangelize!

All of us together made this a Holy Week and a happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor