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**ST. PETER THE APOSTLE**  
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# Palm Sunday

**“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

*We're so glad you're here!*

52 Church Street • Parry Sound, ON • P2A 1Y7 • spta.church • 705-746-5181

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# Welcome

If you are new to our parish or just visiting today, we warmly welcome you to our parish community. We are blessed to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call on us.

## WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK

**TODAYS READINGS:** ☉ Mt 21:1-11 // ① Is 50:4-7 ② Phil 2:6-11 ☉ Mt 26:14-27:66

### HOLY WEEK @ SPTA

**Wednesday, April 1**  
 5:30PM Penitential Service (Lenten Confessions)

**Holy Thursday, April 2**  
 8:00PM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)  
 "Night Watch" (Altar of Repose) until midnight

**Good Friday, April 3**  
 \* Universal Day of Fasting and Abstinence \*  
 3:00PM Solemn Good Friday Liturgy  
 7:00PM Solemn Stations of the Cross

**Holy Saturday, April 4**  
 12:00PM Blessing of Easter Food  
 8:00PM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)

**Easter Sunday, April 5**  
 9:00AM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)  
 11:00AM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
 is a universal day of fasting and abstinence. That means we don't eat meat, and only one full meal is eaten and two lesser meals.

*Information on what to expect during Holy Week and Easter can be found here: [spta.church/easter](http://spta.church/easter)*

**OFFICE CLOSURE**  
 The Parish Office is now closed until April 15th.

## WHY ARE MASSES SO DIFFERENT DURING HOLY WEEK?

The liturgies during Holy Week are unique and rich in symbolism. The Mass for Palm Sunday follows the pattern of the day 2,000 years ago when Jesus entered Jerusalem. It includes a Gospel reading outside the church building and the entrance of the priest into the sanctuary while the congregation waves palms. The Holy Thursday Mass also follows the rhythm of the ancient Last Supper. The presider washes the feet of members of the congregation, like Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. After Mass, all remaining hosts are taken to an altar of repose, where adoration of the Blessed Sacrament occurs late into the night. Parishioners can remain like the disciples in Gethsemane, asked to "watch and pray."

On Good Friday, we celebrate another special liturgical service. Following the Liturgy of the Word, there is a communal reverencing of the cross. The intercessions are solemn and include prayers for many different groups of people, reminding us that Jesus' passion is for the whole world. There is no Liturgy of the Eucharist. Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday are distributed, after which the tabernacle is empty.

The tabernacle remains empty through Holy Saturday, just as Jesus departed from this earthly world in death. The only Mass on Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil Mass which begins after sunset. This is a long but very beautiful Mass during which we recall salvation history.

**Then, we rejoice on Easter Sunday!**

### INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH THIS EASTER

One of the best ways to welcome someone this Easter is with a personal invitation. As you go about your day—at coffee shops, the gym, work, or school—stay open to opportunities to invite someone to join you.

Believe it or not, 82% of people who don't attend church would consider visiting if personally invited. Your simple invitation and a friendly smile could lead to a life-changing encounter with Jesus!

We've made it easy to invite—check out our resource at [spta.church/easterinvite](http://spta.church/easterinvite).

**SERVE THIS EASTER!**  
 Holy Week and Easter are beautiful, meaningful celebrations—and they take a whole parish family to make happen!

From Palm Sunday to Easter, we welcome many visitors, seekers, and returning Catholics. This is our chance to show Christ's love in a real way—and that's where YOU come in!

We need greeters, hosts/ushers, and extra hands to keep things running smoothly. Never done it before? If you can smile, hold a door, or help someone find a seat, you're ready to serve! **Sign up today: [spta.church/serve](http://spta.church/serve).**

### BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom.

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

For Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God. For information on receiving Baptism at St. Peter the Apostle, please contact the parish office.

### Prayer for Those Coming to Church This Easter

Loving God, As hearts turn toward You this Easter, we pray for all who will step into our church - whether for the first time, the first time in a long time, or as part of their regular walk with You.

May we all encounter Your presence in our worship, Your mercy in our prayers, and Your love in our community. Open our hearts to the joy of the Resurrection, and draw us ever closer to You.

Bless our parish to be a place of welcome, where all may find hope, healing, and a home in Your Church. We ask this through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

### WORSHIP OFFERING

*Your financial stewardship for March 22nd.*

Offertory Envelopes	1,405.00
Automatic Giving	1,813.00
Offertory Loose	537.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 3,755.00</b>

*Bless me Father...*  
 We read in sacred scripture: "Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more." Sacramental Confession is one of the best ways to prepare for Easter. Bring your personal sins and weaknesses and lay them at the feet of Jesus. Several priests will be assisting on Wednesday, April 1st at 5:30PM. Come and experience the Father's Mercy.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

As we enter into Holy Week, we invite you to keep in your prayers those in our parish who are preparing to be received into the Church. These days are especially significant for them as they draw closer to the Sacraments and to new life in Christ. May this sacred week be a time of grace, strength, and deep encounter with the Lord for each of them.

### EASTER DECOR

Envelopes can be found at the church doors for donations to help make the sanctuary beautiful for Easter. They can be made in memory of loved ones who's names will be published during the Easter season. Please write your name as well as names of loved ones you would like remembered.