

**Homily Outline for the Palm Sunday Mass
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
April 14, 2019**

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- I. Today marks the beginning of the holiest week of the year and our Scriptures today take us on a journey
 - A. The physical journey from Galilee to Jerusalem is not far: about 79 miles, comparable to the distance between Springfield and Edwardsville, Illinois.
 - B. The spiritual journey is much longer: what St. Mark describes in one chapter in his Gospel, St. Luke tells in ten chapters!
 1. Prior to their departure from Galilee, Jesus has called His apostles and given them their mission.
 2. After they depart for Jerusalem, Jesus calls the 72 disciples and sends them on their mission, He teaches them how to pray, He heals the sick, forgives their sins, and tells parables of the Kingdom.

- II. The reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of St. Luke starts with the narrative of the Last Supper.
 - A. Jesus says one of His apostles will betray Him; another will deny Him.
 - B. St. Luke tells us that an argument about who was the greatest broke out among them while they were eating. This was during the first concelebrated Mass with Jesus the High Priest and his hand-picked bishops!
 - C. After the Last Supper was finished, Jesus took them out to pray with Him, but they fell asleep!
 - D. What do we learn from all this?
 1. Judas recognizes his sin, but does not believe he can be forgiven, so he kills himself.
 2. Peter recognizes his sin, and weeps bitterly.
 3. When we see our sins we should weep bitterly and not fall into some kind of rationalization or complacency about them. We should weep bitterly that we will never commit those sins again. And that is the real story of this Holy Week. Because those weak, sinful, frail men on whom Jesus would build His church, at the beginning of all this, that passion narrative, are so seemingly unsuited for the task. By the time Jesus rises from the dead, they are completely different; they are completely changed, and they are alive and on fire with the spirit and they go out and change the world by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

- III. May God give us this grace. Amen.