



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PALMS

Preparation for Lenten Season at Resurrection University Catholic Parish brings a plethora of liturgical changes to the parish. The icons are draped in purple, the Gloria is omitted from the mass, penance and suffering are more often heard than joy and hallelujah. And of course there are the palms.

John 12: 12-14 set the background and history:

"On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

This evergreen shade-giving plant that thrives where there is little water, seemed a miraculous gift from God to desert-dwelling peoples.

. Thus the palms of the Holy Land were highly valued in the time of Christ and were the consummate symbol of life. Our Palm Sunday Mass draws its theme from the palms, and it has become the most beautiful and bittersweet celebration of the Christian year. We yearn to witness the eternal light of the Resurrection, but Christ's impending suffering and death add an undercurrent of sadness to the ritual blessing of living palms. The fronds, once blessed, are a sacramental to remind us of Christ's sacrifice.

Alastair I. Mackay in his book ***Farming and Gardening in the Bible*** noted: "The weary traveler and his equally fatigued camel felt their spirits rise and new vigor strengthen them when the waving palm tops of a distant oasis were sighted; water, food, shade, and perhaps company lay ahead. It was natural that palm branches should become the emblem of welcome, public homage, and journey's end." As we hold our palms in our hands during the blessing at mass on Palm Sunday, may we too become invigorated with a new spirit. May we become emblems of welcome to others, may we pay homage to Christ in our daily walk, and may we be messengers of peace. May we, like those who laid out palm branches for Christ, cry out "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Message From The Editors

LAND STEWARDSHIP: A LOOK AT SPIRITUALITY FROM THE GROUND UP

LENTEN
CHRISTMAS



LAND STEWARDSHIP AT RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

What is Land Stewardship?

- Land Stewardship is the practice of carefully managing land usage to ensure natural systems are maintained or enhanced for future generations.
- Land stewardship is about re-connecting with our dependence on earth, air, water and sunshine and the abundance of life it supports.
- Land stewardship is about re-discovering our natural 'instincts' of awe and respect for nature.
- Land stewardship is about preserving "the capacity of the land for self-renewal".

Land stewardship can be practiced at your home, your farm, your ranch and your parish. It is a matter of mind set and internal disposition as well as the mechanical practice.

How is land stewardship practiced at our parish?

The flora and fauna of the parish should be cultivated and maintained in a manner that complements the liturgical and social use of the grounds while at the same time adding to the environmental habitat. It is more than just obeying zoning laws.

What can you do?

- Prayerfully ponder the gifts and talents you have been given and consider how you can use them to enhance the parish's land stewardship program.
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- Come and see what this new ministry is about.
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- Volunteer to serve on the Land Stewardship Committee
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- Check the web page hoechoka.com for news and events. See the parishioners that have volunteered.

Consider doing your part to make our parish a premier example of land stewardship.

HALLELUJAH! HE IS RISEN!
ALL CREATION IS REDEEMED!



What's The Flap Over? Halleluja He is Risen!

