

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to Holy Week! One of the things that our parishioners who come from other countries are so shocked at when they come to the United States is that Holy Week is just like any other week of the year. The kids are in school, businesses are open, employers expect their personnel to be at work not church, etc. It is so true. Unlike many places in the world that are Catholic, we must work very hard at keeping Holy Week, well . . . Holy! Beginning with Palm Sunday, I encourage you to spend some time today to consider how you will live this coming week differently than any other week during the year. I encourage you to be more attentive to your daily prayer. Consider reading the daily readings each day leading up to the Triduum. Make a visit to the Church and walk the way of the cross on your own. Take part in the beautiful liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross. If you have never participated in the Easter Vigil, make a point to do so this year and be part of the community that welcomes our newly baptized, as we renew the gift of baptism in our own lives. Whatever you choose to do, may this week be unlike any other week during the year. May you and yours be truly blessed as we celebrate this gift of God's great love for us. Be assured of my prayers for you and yours and my gratitude to all who will serve us so faithfully during this most Holy Week of the year.

Anticipating Easter joy+

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Tom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Tom
Pastor

PS. The ordination date for John Paul Tomassi has been announced. He will be ordained to the Order of Deacon on Saturday, May 21st at 10 a.m. at his home parish, Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Vancouver, Washington. I would like to know if there is enough interest in chartering a bus for this occasion. Please call the parish office and let Yolanda know if you are interested in going by bus to the ordination. Please keep John Paul and all our seminarians in your best thoughts and prayers.