

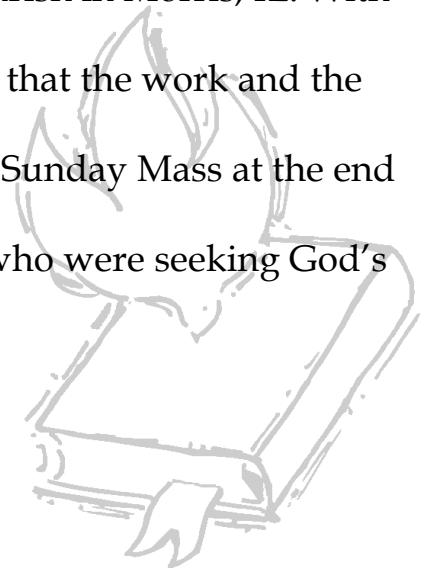
Homily
Palm Sunday - C
Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
April 13-14, 2019

Is 50: 4-7
Ps 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Phil 2: 6-11
Lk 22: 14 - 23: 56

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I did a veeeery bad thing last week at Sunday Mass.

As a priest, this time of year can be one of the most tiring times in the life of our ministry. It seems that we are celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation every night at someone's parish. Personally, my health and my schedule has taken its toll on me; the people need to be served by I need to take care of my health needs so that I can stay around a little longer, in God's name, to help out with the sacraments.

Last Sunday all this work took its toll and I behaved very badly at the 2:00 Spanish Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris, IL. With all the confessions and Masses going on, I think that the work and the lack of sleep caught up to me. I was celebrating Sunday Mass at the end of a long day with a group of faithful Catholic who were seeking God's



dedicated two or three decades of his life comparing the stories of the Passion Narratives in a two volume set.

During that Spanish Mass, I focused this week on one particular pericope in today's gospel that you can find in Matthew, Mark and Luke's account, namely during Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane during which the apostles are caught sleeping (Mt 26; Mk 14; Lk 22). In my own faith life, whenever I generally think that I need that extra hour of sleep, or watch the last inning of a baseball game or such over spending time with God, I start wondering if I am violating the First Commandment in making the Cubs or my sleep a god over the one and only God that should exist in my life. When God is trying to speak to me, console me, comfort me, how many times do I feel like I am sleeping and not paying attention to the words of our Lord, like I am unaware of a moment of grace that has passed me by. In my reflection of the human condition, I sometimes wonder if the Platonic image of us sleeping through life can apply as much today as it did during the ancient times. For this reason, this Holiest Week of the Church Year is

God's attempt to awaken us and give us a renewed sense of attentiveness to God's call.

Over the next few days, we will have many opportunities to place our faith first in our lives and to become more attentive to God. In addition to our daily Masses through Wednesday, we begin the exercises of the Holy Triduum, recalling again the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, always for our behalf. If our faith means anything to us, then our challenge is to remain awake during this holiest of weeks so that we may recall that sacrifice that our Lord has offered us. For as our gospels tell us, when we keep vigilant in the night, when the master approaches us, we will be ready to meet him. Let us take a bulletin home, make a conscious effort to invest ourselves in the faith life of the Church and then share this faith with the people that we meet. This is our prayer.