Hi everyone,

So this weekend, we begin Holy Week. I don’t know about you all, but it’s really hard to get my head around celebrating these most important liturgies of the church year not surrounded by people. But so, we must! The best way to LOVE our neighbour right now is not to be around them!!

We continue to curate resources on our parish website and to make them available to you. There is a special “quick links” section at the top of the page which will help you to find things more easily. In particularly, I would encourage you to find ways to pray the liturgies with us on-line via the webcam as well as to use the Holy Week at Home resource found here: https://stjohnchrysostomne.archtoronto.org/Documents/Holy_Week_at_Home.pdf

**Passion Sunday Mass will be at 10 am in English and 12 noon in Spanish.**

*Celebrating Passion Sunday in a Pandemic*

Distributing palms on Passion Sunday is an ancient tradition which connects us to the earliest Christians. Typically, people would be given palms at Mass on the first day of Holy Week. After much discussion and discernment about how this might be done while respecting the rules of social distancing, we have made the decision that palms will NOT be distributed from the church. Instead, we propose the following.

Find a branch of some sort – this could be a branch from a Maple tree just beginning to bud, an old dried branch of palm from last year, any branch you can find. (If you are lucky you may even have a palm plant in your house.) If you have children (or just like being crafty, you can make palm branches from paper or fabric.) Tie this palm branch with a red ribbon and place it on your front door. Take a picture of your Palm Sunday door and send it to us by email and we will post them on the parish website and Facebook page.

If you would like some visuals visit Pinterest - [Holy Days - Passion Sunday](https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Holy+Days+-+Passion+Sunday) or see this article from the Deacon’s Bench. I’ve attached a picture of a craft project that could be posted on people’s doors.

During this time, it gives us all great joy to see you continue to submit your artwork and homework. You will find some more Passion Sunday colouring pages on Pinterest. Is it more helpful to you if I attach them to this email? If so, I can do that.

We continue to keep you all in prayer.

Peace in the Pandemic,
Christine Way Skinner

Lay Pastoral Associate

St. John Chrysostom Parish