

# *St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*

## *The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

**Gospel Reading -Mark 11: 1-10**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ Reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’” “So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on a side street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” they answered them just as Jesus told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!”

### **Questions to Ponder:**

The crowd greets Jesus as a victorious king, sure that he will liberate Roman occupied Israel in the manner foretold by the prophets. Their shouts will turn to cries of condemnation, however, when Jesus turns out to be a different kind of king than they expect.

1. What does Good Friday and Easter mean to you? What will you do this week to prepare yourself spiritually for these most holy of Christian observances?
2. How does the crowd change toward Jesus in the next few days? Jesus entered the city as a humble king. Does Jesus, the “humble king” speak to you or would you have been more likely to follow a “triumphant king”? Why or why not?
3. Is the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation a part of your Lenten practice? Does this Sacrament “humble” you? In what ways?

End with the “**Glory Be**”

**“Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen”**