



Palm Sunday begins the week known as HOLY WEEK; it is during this focal week that the Bishop blesses the CHRISM OIL used to anoint the sick, the dying and the newly baptized. The week ends with the TRIDUUM (literally three days); the three days of preparations for the feast of EASTER. There are four parts of one extended service that form the TRIDUUM: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Great Vigil of Easter: there is no Dismissal until the conclusion of the Great Vigil. HOLY WEEK is the focus of Christianity: we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we humble ourselves on Maundy Thursday as Jesus did before the Last Supper by washing the feet of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we mourn the betrayal of Jesus, his beating and torture, and his crucifixion, and his death. And with the new light on Easter Sunday we rejoice in his resurrection and the assurance of salvation that his sacrifice gives us. The Great Vigil of Easter begins with the Service of Light, when a new fire is kindled, and the new Paschal Candle is lit. The Paschal Candle will be lit at all services from the Great Vigil through Pentecost Sunday (the fifty days of Easter). And like the Hebrews of old, we shall rejoice in the unleavened bread so necessary to their migration from Egypt to the Promised Land, as we receive our Easter Communion, as the disciples received the Last Supper, the Body of Christ which was given for us. Set aside these days for silence, prayer and reflection. These are days to save and to savor, to set aside. These are days to gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ for worship.