**Palm/Pine Sunday**

This Sunday is Palm or Passion Sunday. I have ordered palms for the past 20+ years in my work in various churches from Chair of Christian Ed board, to CE director, to office administrator. It's just always been part of my job. Some of you will remember a couple of years back there was a last-minute scramble but I did manage to produce palm fronds to my church. This year, I followed my yearly tradition of ordering palm branches (called hands) on Shrove Tuesday.

Unfortunately, as a result of businesses shutting down amid Governor Mill's executive order for social distancing and, most recently the Stay Home order our florist, Roaks, has had to close. There will be no palms. There will be no combined palm service with St. Michael's and we will not be together in our church to celebrate this last week of Lent.

I have heard a few people talking about substituting what we have an abundance of; pine/evergreen boughs. The people of Jerusalem didn't order special greenery from the local florist, they lined the road with what they had--palms to welcome Jesus. So let us not concentrate on what we don't have. Let's concentrate on what we have--our health and a deep and hearty sense of praise and wonder for our King of Kings. One other thing that we will have is a virtual service. I will send out the information along with the link for you all to follow via Zoom on Saturday evening.

Here is a link to an article I found that explains it much better than I have. It is from [Catholic News Agency](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/maine-priest-encourages-pine-sunday-where-there-are-no-palms-95483)

In the meantime, Hosanna! Hosanna! HOSANNA!