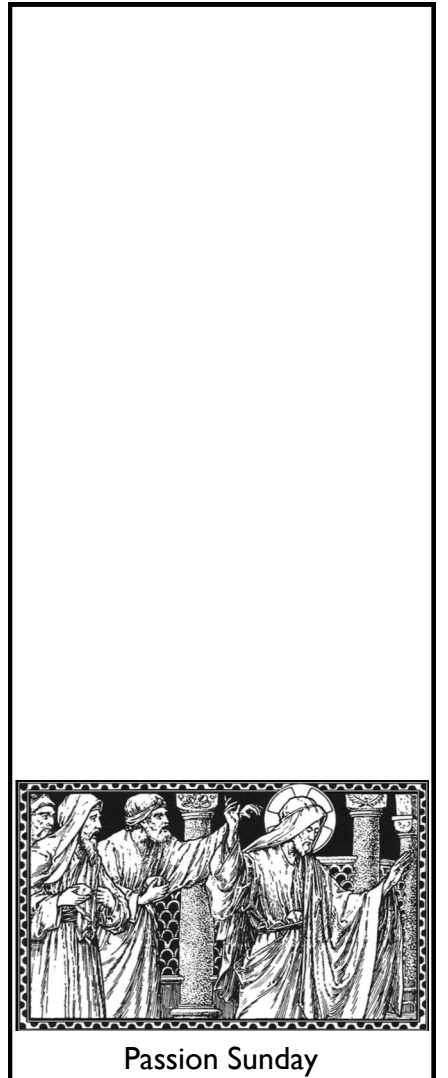


*Prayer in Commemoration of  
Our Lord's Passion, to be said at  
three O'clock on Fridays:*

I bless Thee, O Thou Lord of heaven!  
Whose life for sinful man was given.

Let not Thy cross and bitter pain  
Have been for me borne all in vain.



Passion Sunday

## PASSION SUNDAY

The two weeks of Passiontide begin today, the first week being known as "Passion Week," and the second week being known as "Holy Week." Today, statues and sacred images (except for the Stations of the Cross) are veiled with purple cloth beginning at the Vespers of Passion Sunday, and they remain covered

until the Gloria of Holy Saturday, at which point Lent ends and Easter-tide begins. Catholics cover statues and icons, etc., in their homes for the same time period. This veiling of the statues and icons stems from the Gospel reading of Passion Sunday (John 8:46-59), at the end of which the Jews take up stones to cast at Jesus, Who hides Himself away. The veiling also symbolizes the

fact that Christ's Divinity was hidden at the time of His Passion and death. At the Vespers Mass on Holy Saturday, Lent ends and Easter begins: the statues are unveiled at that time in one of the most glorious liturgical moments of the entire Church year, a moment that affirms Christ's divinity and proclaims that "He is risen!"