

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION - *Monday of Holy Week*

*“Wait for the Lord with courage; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14)*

Waiting is likely one of the most difficult aspects of the human condition. I've never met anyone who enjoys waiting – in traffic, in the waiting room at a doctor's office, for an important phone call, or for a long-awaited visit with a long-lost friend or relative. We despise waiting, whether it be for dreaded news or something joyful. We'd rather just know right away what's going to happen and when.

Waiting for God is a different matter, however. God often asks us to wait, often for painfully extended periods of time without reprieve. Holy Week reminds us that waiting is part of our own passion experience. We wait for death, but ultimately we wait for what comes after death, which is new life. We know that, in order to become a new creation in Christ, we must undergo many trials that we'd rather bypass altogether. These are necessary, vital components to entering the joy of eternal bliss.

With courage and fidelity, we can wait for God, regardless of how long He asks us to hold off on taking action. This week especially, we can use our time of meditating on Jesus' Passion to grow in patience and anticipate the joy of resurrection with hope that lingers in the midst of suffering.

**READING – JOHN 12: 1-11** (read this slowly, and try to imagine yourself there as this was happening)

*Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But*

*Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'*

*When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.*