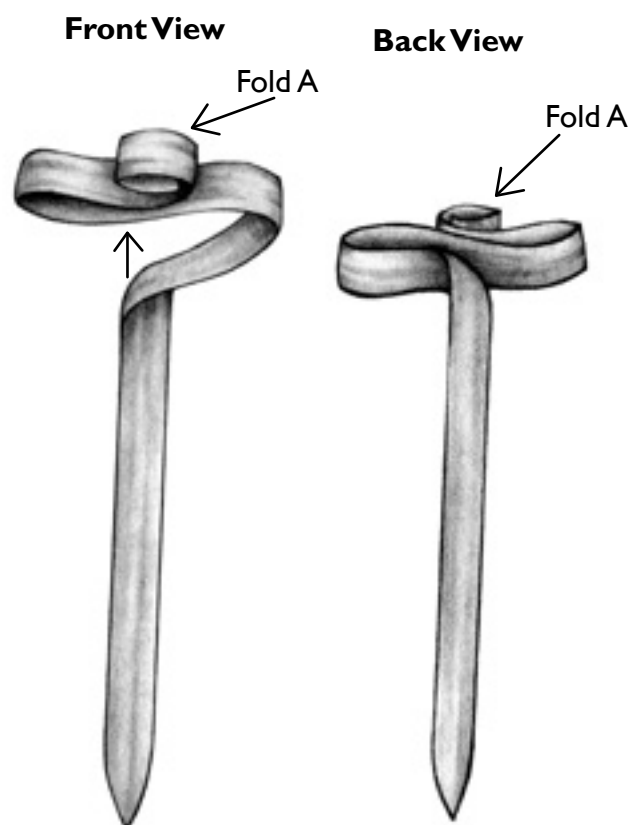

PALM CROSSES

To make crosses from palm leaves, you will need a sheaf of dwarf palms (probably ordered ahead of time from your florist). You will also want to plan for a group of volunteers who will make the palm crosses on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. You'll need scissors, a bowl of water, and plastic shopping bags or containers to store the crosses overnight.

Select a palm leaf and if necessary strip the tendrils off harder edges.

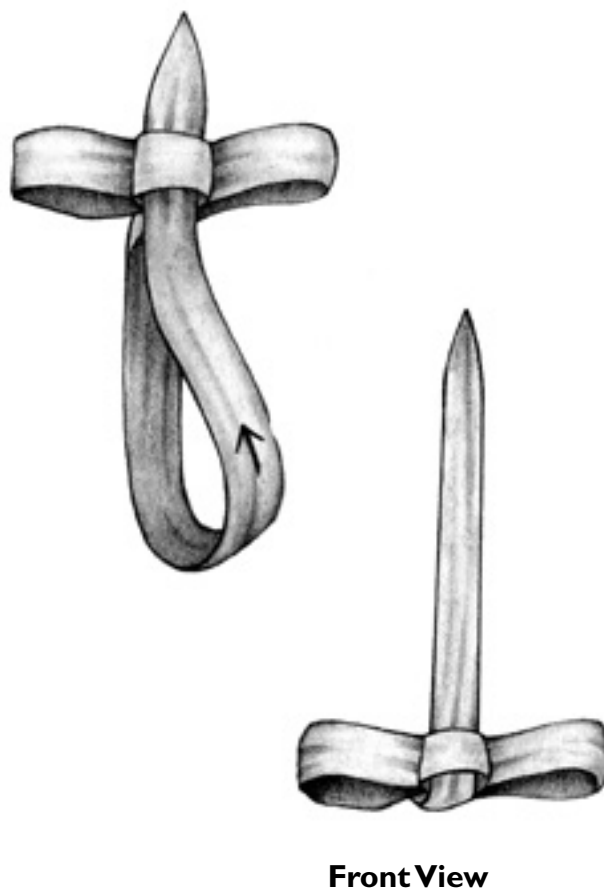


Steps 1-5

1. Cut one end of the leaf to leave a straight edge.
2. With the straight edge, make one fold that is the approximate width of the palm leaf.
3. Fold again to create the centre of the cross. (fold A)

4. Create the arms of the cross by folding the leaf backward behind fold A.
5. Fold the rest of the leaf at right angles at fold A, behind the arms of the cross.

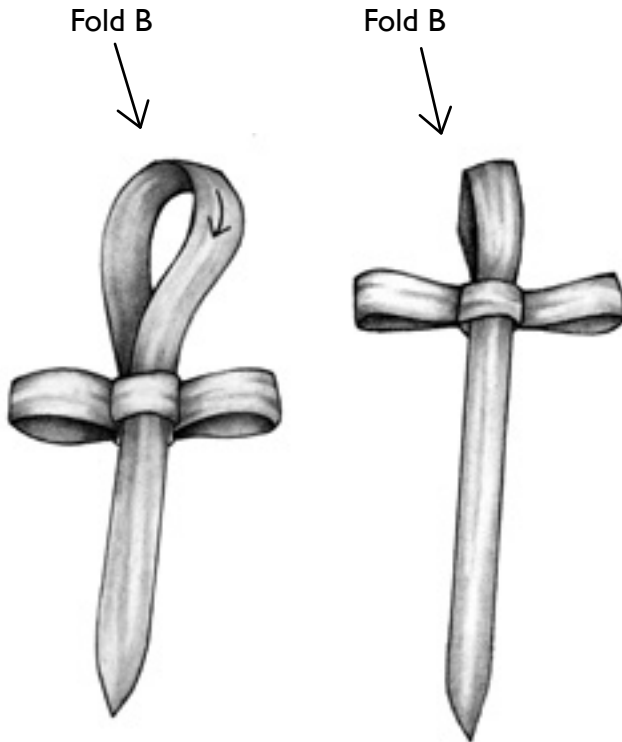
Front View



Steps 6-7

6. Take the pointed end of the leaf and feed it through the front loop of fold A. Pull the leaf all the way through.
7. Take the pointed end back and around, and again feed it through the front loop of fold A. This secures the arms.

Step 8



8. Repeat step 6 again, but do not pull the pointed end all the way through the loop. Leave sufficient of the leaf unfed through the loop to create fold B, forming the top part of the cross.

Don't worry if your first few efforts result in a strange-looking cross. Mostly one can reuse the same palm leaf to begin again.

After you make each cross, let it sit in the bowl of water. When sufficient crosses have been made, take them from the bowl and shake off the water. Store the crosses in plastic shopping bags or a container in the fridge overnight.

The minister will bless the palm crosses before they are handed to the congregation.