

PARISH CALENDAR

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

We live on the words
that come from God.

Saturday, February 20	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 21	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, February 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, February 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, February 26	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, February 27	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Gen:22:1-2, 9a-18: God put Abraham to the test.

Romans: 8:31b-34: If God is for us, who can be against us?

Mark:9 :2-10: Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Masks)

Saturday Evening Mass @ 5 pm

Four Sunday Masses @ 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am & 5 pm

Weekday Masses will be at 8 am & 7 pm (Mon)



To get tickets. You can go to www.sritananakuli.org on the Banner line look "Mass Tickets" click it. You will see screen "Mass Tickets" click on **Obtain Mass Ticket through Event Brite.com here** you will then have a screen which has a picture of the front of the church "St. Rita Catholic Mass Tickets" click; on the next page will be in orange box which says "Select a date" select date and time you wish to get tickets. Please remember there a limited amount of seats due to social distancing. If you do not have a computer you may call the parish office between 10 am - 12 pm (Mon-Tue- Wed-Fri) for tickets

We will continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 10 a. m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/

EXTENSION OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: "I am extending the dispensation through noon on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021, which marks the end of Lent. However, this time I am strongly urging that all who take the dispensation engage in some other form of prayer or worship as suggested below. While none of these can be he equivalent of attending Mass, they will server to keep us connected to worship, especially during the penitential season of Lent.

As I said in my last communication regarding the issue of Mass attendance, I urge all who are able o attend Sunday Mass to do so. There is nothing that substitutes completely for our weekly encounter with the risen Lord Jesus in the Eucharist. **Never the less, if you cannot attend Sunday Mass, you are strongly encouraged to do one or more of the following.**

- Participate prayerfully in a live-streamed or televised Sunday Mass AND spend at least 15 minutes in meditation on the Scriptures, preferably those proclaimed at Mass. (These can be found at www.usccb.org/readings)
- Attend, in person, a weekday Mass AND spend a least 15 minutes on Sunday reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures.
- Spend at least 30 minutes on Sunday prayerfully reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures.
- Pray at least two rosaries on Sunday, meditating on the Glorious Mysteries and one other set of Mysteries you choose (i.e. Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous).

Note that anyone how is sick should not attend Mass and is not obliged to do so. The above alternative spiritual exercises are strongly urged for those who are physically able to fulfill them. "

Bishop Larry Silva - February 1, 2021

Living God's Word



It's time to decide in our own minds who we are and wish to be, to confess it to our God and to ourselves and to the whole world. Do not fear those places of desert; they are where you will recognize your truest self.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

Confession will be heard at the rectory (87-1511 Nakii St.) On the following **Saturdays, February 27th, March 6th, March 13th & March 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon or by appointment.**

AUGUSTINE: EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Thank you for showing your support to the Augustine Educational Foundation' Special Collection - St. Rita, On behalf of all the students and their families that will benefit from this collection this upcoming September ~ Mahalo! It's never too late to support the Special Collection "Make a Student Smile - Give the Gift of Catholic Education Campaign. Donate Online, it's Safe & Secure. www.AugustineFoundaiton.org/Donate Your generous donation of any amount helps us funds scholarships for students in Hawaii Catholic Schools!

OPERATION RICE BOWL: HUNGER IN OUR WORLD:

Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger – it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: "Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God's design that "the two shall become one" (Mt 19:5)." USSCB, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Healing within Marriage from an Abortion" www.respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage

WEEKLY READINGS

Feb 21 Sun: First Sunday of Lent

Gen:9:8-15; Ps:25; 1 Pet:3:18-122; Mk:1:12-15

Feb 22 Mon: The Chair of Peter the Apostle

1 Pet:5:1-4; Ps:23: 1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt:16:13-19

Feb 23 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Isa:55:10-11; Ps:34: 4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt:6:7-15

Feb 24 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Jonah:3:1-10; Ps:51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk:11:29-32

Feb 25 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Esther:C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps:138:1-2ab, 2cde-3 7c-8; Mt:7:7-12

Feb 26 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Eze:18:21-28; Ps:130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt:5:20-26

Feb 27 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Duet:26:16-19; Ps:119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt:5:43-48

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. The steward is called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel? International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social-distancing by going to our web-site www.stritananakuli.org And click "On-line Giving" on the banner line. You can also send your Tithe/Donation via mail: St. Rita Catholic Church/ 89-318 Farrington Hwy. / Nanakuli, HI 96792

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

Reflecting on God's Word

I suspect that the real reason we avoid the desert is because in all that monotony there are no hiding places, no paths to crawl our way behind some kink of hill, no busyness that allows us to duck beneath the rippling surface of honesty, no phone calls to undo the silence that echoes our real selves. Curious that we should be afraid of the nothing rather than of the something. Yet it is the nothing, in the end, that makes the revelation happen. Such is the unsettling power of any desert, to reveal what we most fear in life, the real self that is perhaps less known and more imposing than anyone else's self. Deserts do that, and so we avoid them like kids dancing about their homework.

Over the years we learn that it's safer to fritter about on the fringe of Lent than to get lost in its vast and desert emptiness. We've grown good at frittering, at tinkering with days stripped of television or meals that have surrendered their dessert. This frittering goes on simply because when it's all over and done we are able to go back to the lives we've come to enjoy and treasure and nothing has been redone, least of all our real selves. Jesus, however, risked the desert. Never just a tinkerer, he dared to trek about the emptiness for forty days and nights. This week's first scripture is a piece from Noah's tale in the bobbing ark. Thus we might wonder which desert was more daunting, forty days and nights of Noah's deluge or of Jesus' drought. Yet both found themselves in new and different worlds, neither of which had ever before been mapped.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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SIGN of REPENTANCE



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We have
been marked
with the
SIGN
of
Repentance



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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Guide us, Lord

Lord,
you brought salvation to Noah through
the waters
and carried him through his time of trial
to a covenant of love.
All times and all seasons belong to you.
As we now begin this time, this season,

our time of trial,
stay close to us.
Carry us through our temptations.
Remove all that keeps us apart from you.
Lead us by the right paths
so that we may live in the light of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Forty Days



Today's readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15. After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Spirit drove him out into the desert, where he experienced temptation. Sometimes we fail to consider that, in the incarnation, Jesus took on every bit of the human experience, except sin. He knew what it was to be tempted, to face trials.

In the Bible, the number *forty* symbolizes a time of trial or testing. In today's readings, Jesus' forty days in the desert are placed alongside the experience of Noah and his family, the forty days of the flood. Neither reading leaves us in a time of trial. In the reading from Genesis, we see the rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah. In Mark, we

hear Jesus proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand, the time for which they have been awaiting has come. At the very beginning of our season of preparation, we hear proclaimed the fruits that await us at its conclusion.

In this season of Lent, we have forty days to confront our temptations. We hear Jesus calling us to repent and believe in the Gospel. How might we use these forty days to ready ourselves to hear the proclamation at its end? What must I repent of so that I may better believe? This week, think about obstacles that hold you back from God's love. Consider your temptations. How can you use this season to make yourself ready for what is to come?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 22

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

The people who surrounded Jesus often wondered about his identity. He healed the sick, forgave sins, preached the coming of the kingdom of God. Walking alongside him, seeing all that he did, Peter must have wondered about this question too. When Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answers readily: Jesus is the Messiah, the one for whom all Israel has been waiting. Jesus founds the Church on Peter’s proclamation. What is your response to the query “Who do you say that Jesus is?” *Today’s readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Tuesday, February 23

The Lord’s Prayer

When we step back to consider the prayer that Jesus taught and we memorized long ago, the challenge of the Lord’s Prayer is seen in a new way. In saying “thy kingdom come,” we long for God’s kingdom of justice and righteousness. But are we anxious to do God’s will, so that it is done on earth as it is in heaven? Do we forgive, even as we long to be forgiven? Take some time to meditate over each line of the prayer, perhaps writing each line and journaling with it. What might God be calling you to, as you reflect on the prayer that Jesus taught? *Today’s readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, February 24

Turn Away from Sin

After his sojourn in the belly of the fish, Jonah traveled to Nineveh as God commanded. Upon hearing Jonah call them to repentance, the Ninevites changed their lives. It is tempting to seek big signs, but the call to conversion is daily. How can you reorient your life toward God today? How can you turn away from those things that are holding you back from his love? *Today’s readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, February 25

Ask, Seek, Knock

In today’s Gospel we are told to ask, to seek, to knock. Does this mean that God will give us our every desire? From both reason and experience, we know that sometimes we want things that are not good for us. Yet we are called to bring our needs and desires before God, who desires every good thing for us. What need can you entrust to God? How might giving it over to God transform its role in your life? *Today’s readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, February 26

Go First and Be Reconciled

Jesus’ words about anger are challenging. Anger can come upon us easily, and sometimes we allow that emotion to govern our actions. But Jesus teaches another way. He says that before we bring our gift to the altar, we must go and be reconciled with the one we have wronged. How hard it is to admit we have made a mistake! Apologize to someone you have hurt and seek out the sacrament of reconciliation this week. *Today’s readings: Ezra 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, February 27

Love Your Enemies

Jesus’ instructions to love our enemies and pray for persecutors are familiar, yet somehow these instructions never fail to cause discomfort. Love our enemies? Pray for those who persecute us? Our natural inclination is to hurt those who have hurt us, to return actions in kind. Jesus holds us to a standard that seems impossible. This week, consider a person who has hurt you. Say one Hail Mary for that person and then another. As Mother Teresa said, prayer changes me and I change things. See what happens when you entrust that person to God. *Today’s readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES - HAWAII CELEBRATION



MASS *of* THANKSGIVING

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 | 6:00PM

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF PEACE
1184 BISHOP STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII

gifted to give

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES
1521 - 2021

HAWAII CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT: MOST REVEREND LARRY SILVA
Bishop, Diocese of Honolulu

HOMILIST: REV. PASCUAL G. ABAYA IV
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Due to the pandemic, in-person participation is by invitation only. Seatings may become available as the date approaches via the Cathedral Basilica. The Mass will be live-stream on the Cathedral Basilica Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Hawaii Catholic TV).