

PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday
of Lent

March 3, 2024

My eyes are always
on the Lord!



Saturday, March 2	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 3	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 4	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 5	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 6	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 7	..... 10:30 a.m.	Funeral Mass - Louise K. Gomes (+)
Friday, March 8	..... 10:30 a.m.	Funeral Mass - Georgiana Miura (+)
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - RE- Youth Ministry
Saturday, March 9	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

2 Chr:36:14-16, 19-23: God's people lived in sin, mocking God's messengers and ignoring the Lord's warnings. Finally their enemies destroyed Jerusalem.

Eph: 2:4-10: God is rich in mercy, and out of love the Lord brought us to life in Christ when we were in sin.

Jn:3:14-21: God's Son came into the world not to condemn it, but to save it. As Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

GOSPEL REFLECTION A DUAL CLEANSING

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." John 2:15-16

All four Gospels speak of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. However, there is a difference between the way this event is portrayed in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and in the way it is portrayed in John's Gospel. John's Gospel places this event at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry during the first of His three annual trips to Jerusalem for the Passover. This was His first attempt at cleansing the Temple. Jesus was also less severe in John's version of the story, stating only that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "marketplace." In the three Synoptic Gospels, this event takes place at the very end of Jesus' public ministry, less than a week before Jesus' death when He returned to Jerusalem for the last time. In those versions, Jesus was more severe, stating that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "den of thieves" and not just a "marketplace." In commenting upon the differences between John's version and the Synoptics, Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas believe that they are two different occasions when a similar act of cleansing of the Temple took place.

The Jewish Temple, at the time of Jesus' public ministry, was the place people traveled to each year for Passover to offer the sacrifice of a spotless male lamb in commemoration of the first Passover in Egypt when God set the Jews free from slavery. During this annual celebration, Jewish families who traveled to Jerusalem would purchase a lamb for sacrifice. At the appointed time, they slaughtered the animal in the courtyard of the Temple and then presented it to the priest who gathered some of the blood and sprinkled it on the altar, and then removed the skin, organs and fat to be burned in sacrifice. The meat was returned to the family and roasted on a pomegranate branch so that they could feast on it as they recalled the saving action God granted their ancestors in Egypt.

Today, we see the Jewish Temple as a symbol and prefiguration of Christ, the New Temple Who is also the priest and the Lamb of Sacrifice.

Recall, also, that at Jesus' death, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, opening it up to the whole world so that all may share in the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We are now invited into this Holy of Holies to share in the new life of grace accomplished by His Sacrifice. Since the grace of this Sacrifice of our Lord enters into each and every heart that believes, to cleanse and purify, then every person receiving this grace becomes a new dwelling place of God, a member of His new Temple, the Body of Christ.

When Jesus came to the Passover feast and witnessed the buying and selling of these animals in the Temple, He drove them out with much zeal. It was clear that this holy celebration of the Passover had become less of a celebration of faith and more of a marketplace for profit. Jesus' action is also a symbol of the zeal with which He now seeks to cleanse the temple of your soul. At first, when sin and disorder pervade our souls, our Lord may take the approach of a gentle rebuke, as He did in His first cleansing of the Temple in John's Gospel. If we persist in our sins, then our Lord will become more zealous in His cleansing as He was in His final attempt to cleanse the Temple the week before He died.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem by our Lord and apply Jesus' sacred actions today to your own soul. Are there new sins that you have fallen into recently that require a gentle rebuke from our Lord? Are there sins that Jesus has been revealing to you for years now that you obstinately persist in? Allow Him to rebuke you in love and to cleanse you so that His saving Sacrifice as the Lamb of God will indeed purify you, and allow His judgment and wrath to "Passover" you this Lent.

My cleansing Lord, You cleansed the Temple of Jerusalem not once, but twice. Your zeal for its purity of worship was clear. Please come and make my soul Your dwelling place today and cleanse me of all sin. Please help me to especially see any ways that I have remained obstinate in my sin, and please cleanse those sins with much vigor. Jesus, I trust in You.



LORD, you have the words
of everlasting life

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES: Listed is the Leeward Vicariate Advent Penance Service: **Tue 3/5 - St. Joseph, Waipahu (6:30 p. m.) / Thur 3/7 - Immaculate Conception- Ewa / Tue 5/12 St. Rita - Nanakuli / - Thur 3/14 OLPH - Ewa Beach / Mon 3/18 - St. Jude - Kapolei / Thur 3/21 Sacred Hearts - Waianae.** All services begins at 7:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: RAISING CHICKENS TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY: Nowadays, in Morazan, El Salvador, it is very difficult to know when the rainy or dry seasons will be. The unpredictable weather puts the likelihood of Sandra's family in jeopardy. Despite the challenges. Sandra and her husband, Santos, remain dedicated to ensuring their children grow healthy and succeed in school. Learn how their strong family dynamic enabled Sandra to participate in a Catholic Relief Services' project on raising chickens and how her determination has helped her family and community. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

WORD OF LIFE: "The Gospel of Life is "meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!" (The Gospel of Life 5).

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 03 Sun: Third Sunday of Lent

Ex:20:1-17; Ps:19; 1 Cor:1:22-25; Jn:2:13-25

Mar 04 Mon: Lenten Weekday

2 Kgs:5:1-15b; Ps:42:2, 3; 3,4; Lk:4:24-30

Mar 05 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Dn:3:25, 34-43; Ps:25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt:18:21-35

Mar 06 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dt:4:1, 5-9; Ps:147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt:5:17-19

Mar 07 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Jer:7:23-28; Ps:95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk:11:14-23

Mar 08 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Hs:14:2-10; Ps:81:6c-8a, 8b -9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk:12:28-34

Mar 09 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Hs:6:1-6; Ps:51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk:18:9-14

THE FOLLY OF THE CROSS

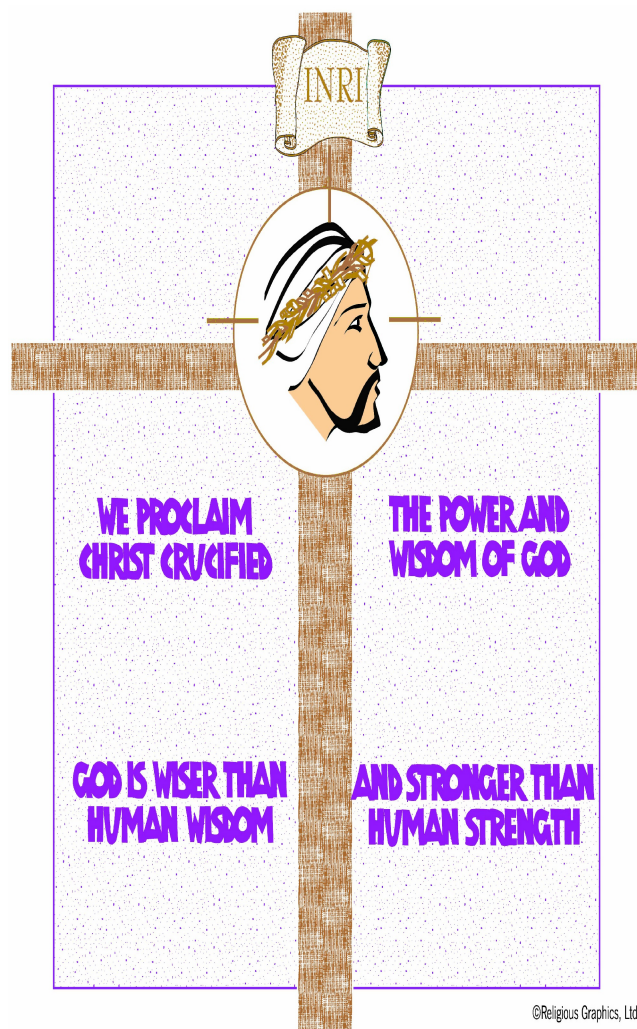
Everyone wants to be wise and powerful. Many people spend the first part of their lives gaining wisdom in school and the rest of their lives gaining power at work. Wisdom and power are the goals we seek.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that some people seek demonstrations of power and others look for wisdom. Everyone looks for something to make sense of life, and even in Paul's day, power and wisdom were highly treasured.

But what Paul had to offer was something else. "We proclaim Christ crucified," he said. Not just Christ—but Christ crucified. If you are looking for signs of power, you won't find them in someone put to death on a cross. If you look for wisdom, you don't find it in someone whose teachings cost him his life. Or do you?

Paul says, "Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God." Through the cross, God revealed the power of the Resurrection. Through the cross, God showed the wisdom of sacrifice. The cross was a message that the Corinthians struggled to grasp. As do we. We keep seeking power and wisdom from other sources: drugs, pornography, greed, and violence. But to accept the cross is to stand by one's principles, to speak up for the lowly, and to sacrifice for others. That cross is the wisdom and power of God. That is the cross of Lent.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

St. Joseph Adoption Novena

March 10-18

Praying For All Who Travel Upon the Path of Adoption

 respectlife.org/adoption-novena

Artwork Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington
Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Journey With Me

Lord God,
fill my heart with love,
so that I can see you in others
and recognize them as the temples
in which you reside on earth.
May your spirit guide my every step.

In my struggles,
give me strength and courage
so that I will be steadfast in faith
as I continue my journey.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Renewed Temples



Today's readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25. Lent is a time for interior and exterior cleansing. Jesus was outraged when he saw what was taking place in the temple. The moneychangers failed to show reverence for the house of God when they used it as a marketplace. While some could not understand Jesus' overturning of the moneychangers' tables, the disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' reaction to the sales in the temple make it apparent that such zeal was missing from others.

In baptism, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our consideration of Christ's care for the temple in Jerusalem is an opportunity to reflect on how we care for all human beings, who are made in the image and likeness of

God. Do we treat them with the dignity that a child of God deserves, remembering each person is sacred?

Just as you show concern for others, you need to care for yourself. How do you care for your interior life? Do you seek reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance? Do you take to heart that God's mercy is for you as well as for others? In the remaining weeks of Lent, be especially attentive to the words of the penitential act. During this part of the Mass, the faithful may pray the Confiteor, after which the priest calls on God's mercy. The other option is for the faithful to pray the Kyrie, saying, "Lord, have mercy / Christ have mercy" to the priest's invocations. Seeking mercy, our zeal for God is apparent.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 4 Faith and Humility

When Jesus is asked to perform signs in his hometown as he did in other places, he refuses, saying, “No prophet is accepted in his own native place.” Jesus accepted that his former neighbors would not believe and so did not seek to prove himself. Sometimes we face humbling situations; we, too, do not need to prove ourselves. It is necessary only to accept that all we have is by the grace of God. *Today’s readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15ab; Psalm 42:2–3; 43: 3–4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 5 Love and Kindness

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive another “not seven times but seventy-seven times.” From that instruction, we may ascertain that we are to forgive over and over again. Such forgiveness is an act of kindness, one which any of us would hope to receive after our own transgression. When wronged, we have an opportunity to create enmity or to nurture love. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to request forgiveness? *Today’s readings: Daniel 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 6 Praise the Lord

“Praise the Lord, Jerusalem,” we sing today in the refrain for Psalm 147. In recognizing all that God has done, the psalm is a reminder that prayers of praise should be part of our prayer life. During these remaining weeks of Lent, schedule a time at the end of the day to recall the ways that God has blessed you. Compose your own prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You might include today’s refrain in your prayer. *Today’s readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 7 Soften Your Hearts

In the reading from Jeremiah, the Lord speaks of how his people have ignored his voice and his commands. The Lord tells the prophets: “But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their hearts.” Hardened hearts are still noticed, as people are concerned with many things. Efforts can be made to soften hearts. Today, tell someone that God loves him or her, and that you do too. Do not expect a response. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 8 Listen with Your Heart

Sometimes we ask questions when we already know the answer. Are we hoping for a different answer from what we know is from God? The third week of Lent is winding down. Have you committed to a process of transformation? Have you set aside time for discernment and reflection? As the Lenten season continues, take courage and listen with your heart. *Today’s readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14, 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 9 Spring Cleaning

The phrase “Practice makes perfect” is kept in mind while seeking to improve performance. In today’s readings, we hear that God desires our love and mercy, not our sacrifice. Each season of the liturgical year is a new opportunity to grow in our love for God and others and to learn to be generous with our mercy. Lent’s emphasis on penitence and baptism is an invitation to discard what keeps us from God and bring to the fore those practices that conform us to the promises of our baptism. Some might call this an interior spring cleaning. *Today’s readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*



Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa

Aloha e ku'u hoahananau/ 'ohana aloha nui 'ia

LOOKING AHEAD: The Ministry of Ushers – Hospitality

*A meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00pm** in the church for those who are interested in serving in the Ministry of Ushers-Hospitality.*

The ushers will be commissioned and be recognized and be tasked to minister at one of our parish weekend masses: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm, Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am and 5:00pm. Also, in other Liturgical Masses that take place in the parish (Easter Triduum, Christmas, and feast days). We will need at least 3 ushers for each of the weekend masses in the parish.

Already four Faith Formation children under the guidance of their catechist Karen, upon completion of their classes and their reception of the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation will be invited and be trained to be ushers at one of the weekend masses.

Some glimpse into the ministry of Usher-Hospitality.

It is a ministry of Joy: Ushers represent the parish community of St. Rita and function as hosts and hostesses to all who come to worship in St. Rita.

It is a ministry of Kindness: Ushers are the first St. Rita parishioner a visitor will encounter. Often their image of our parish life begins with the ushers.

It is a ministry of Dependability: Ushers assist the parish life of worship by being present to invite, guide and lead those who are present in the Mass to actively participate in the worship. (welcoming, seating, offertory, passing out of bulletins).

We do have some excellent ushers presently, but we need more and to scheduled ushers.

We invite parishioners who do have the talent to serve and minister to others in living out your Stewardship to come to the meeting.

MONSTRANCE FUND RAISING

If you wonder what is this Monstrance Fund raising about?

*It is our parish effort to purchase a new Monstrance. **What is a Monstrance?** It is the tall, usually 22" or so gold-plated stand that holds the large consecrated Eucharistic Host for the Eucharistic Adoration by the faithful.*

The cost of the Monstrance is around \$2,000. and presently we have already collected \$600.00. If you wish to participate, simply print Monstrance on a envelope with your name and donation.

We hope to start a monthly First Friday Eucharistic Adoration here in our parish and have other Eucharistic Adoration on Corpus Christi, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Damien, and other important feast days.

You may be aware that the Diocese of Honolulu with many parishes throughout the Hawaiian Islands united the mainland Catholic Churches – Parishes are celebrating the 3-year spiritual journey of Eucharistic Revival 2022 – 2025. This Eucharistic Revival was launched on June 19, 2022, on the Feast of Corpus Christi – the Body and Blood of Christ.

Why did the Eucharistic Revival come about?

Awaken by the 2019 Pew Research Study that revealed that only one-third (31%) of the Catholics truly believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Consecrated Host - Eucharist, Catholic Bishops in the United States initiated a spiritual revival to renew our Faith in the Real Presence. Truly it showed a sign of great loss of Faith in the Catholic Church for the Eucharist is the Source and the Summit of our Christian life (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1324 – #1327).

Eucharistic Revival is a time set for Revival and Rekindling of our faith in our true believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist in His divinity, soul, and humanity.

I believe that with our parish active participation united with the parishes in the Diocese of Honolulu and throughout our nation in this journey of Eucharistic Revival, our parish of St. Rita will be abundantly blessed and grow in our faith through the grace of God. Visit www.eucharisticrevival.org for more information.

Have a blessed day in the Lord!

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.