

PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday
of Lent

March 7, 2021

God gave us His only Son
that we might have life.

Saturday, March 6	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 7	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 8	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, March 9	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 10	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 11	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, March 13	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

2 Chronicles:36:14-16, 19-23: The story of the exile of the chosen people.

Ephesians:2:4-10: By grace you have been saved.

John:3:14-21: Light came in to the world.

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)

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/

"As we continue on our Lenten journey, we look forward to the joyful celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest event in the history of the world. We have been living in this strange time of the pandemic, and now with decreasing numbers of cases, increasing accessibility to vaccines, and "herd immunity" on the horizon, we should be able to celebrate Easter in a more normal fashion this year. Since our Sunday encounter with the Risen Lord in the Eucharist is the source and summit of who we are as Christians, it is important that we return to our weekly celebrations.

Effective Easter Sunday, April 4 (or as of the Easter Vigil, April 3), I am ending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, which has been effect since mid-March, 2020. However, anyone who is sick, may have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or who has health condition that would endanger themselves or others by being present in church, continues to be dispensed."

Bishop Larry Silva - March 5, 20201

Reflecting on God's Word

All of us wish we could be holy, we say, if only Jesus would come and to the temple of our faith what he did to the temple of Israel's faith: cast out what doesn't belong, because we don't seem to be able to do it for ourselves, at least not with much effectiveness. We try to pray and find ourselves daydreaming about what to make for supper, about the latest family argument, about the meeting we're going to attend, about where we're going to spend our money.

We try to simplify, but we also like our lives the way they are. We like the cut of style, the thick of our lawn, the escape of vacation, the high from shopping or chocolate or daytime soaps or whatever catches our fancy. We wish we would love better, care better, have more compassion or patience, be more generous, but original sin always gets in the way—only we don't call it original sin. We say we don't have willpower or the energy.

So what are we to do? John's Gospel promises that God will come and drive such stuff from our lives. In fact, the promise is that God will do it whether we wish God to or not, which is probably a good move on God's part simply because most of us are a bit fearful of what God may clear away.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

If you have not gone to confession for Lent, this Saturday will be last opportunity to go to the rectory without making an appointment. (87-1511 Nakii St.) March 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon or by appointment.

PARISH COUNCIL: The parish is looking for volunteers to serve on the Parish Council, if you are interested in serving on the council, please send your *Name, telephone number and e-mail* to the parish email at strita_nanakuli@rcchawaii.org. Fr. Alapaki will contact you.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: SUSTAIN ABILITY IN EL

SALVADOR: Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques—and a new generation of young farmers—are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world? Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: “[The Gospel of Life] is therefore meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at 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 7 Sun: Third Sunday of Lent

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

Mar 8 Mon: Lenten Weekday

2 Kings:5:1-15b; Ps:42: 2, 3; 43: 3, 4; Lk:4:24-30

Mar 9 Tue: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 10 Wed: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 11 Thur: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 12 Fri: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 13 Sat: Lenten Weekday

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

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In this weekend's Gospel reading, you may hear the story of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple, a familiar story. The prophets Jeremiah, Zechariah and Malachi prophesied that when the Kingdom of God was at hand, the Temple would be cleansed of all activities unworthy of an encounter with God. Christians are often referred to as “Temples of the Lord.” As stewards of a “Holy Temple” God has entrusted to each one of us, what are we doing to be cleansed of activities unworthy of an encounter with the Lord? This week, reflect on one thing you can do to cleanse the Temple of God has given you so that it becomes a more inviting home for Christ Jesus. *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

Other Gods

We believe in one God. But it wasn't always that way. At the time of Moses, people believed in many gods. There were gods who governed the weather, gods who controlled illnesses, and gods who inspired the arts. But we believe in one God, the source of all creation and the sustainer of all that is good.

The first commandment asked people to stop offering allegiance to other gods. It asserted the supreme authority of the one God who led them out of slavery and promised them a new land.

When we review the Ten Commandments, we usually skip over number one. We don't believe in other gods. It's two through ten that cause problems. We curse and swear. We skip church on Sundays. We disobey. We destroy life, even human life. We commit adultery. We steal, and we lie. We covet everything about our neighbor's possessions and family. We sin a lot on two through ten. But we believe in one God.

Or do we? Do we substitute other gods? Do we prefer possessions, selfish pleasures, and the esteem of others more than we prefer allegiance to the one God? That first commandment may be the root of all our sin.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B
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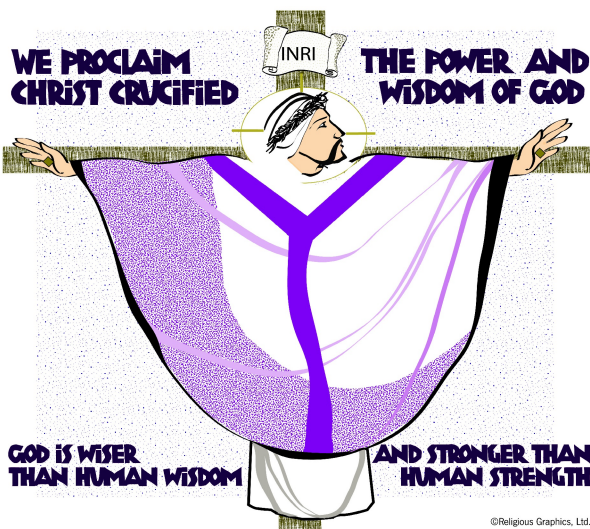
Written by Paul Turner. *Lectionary for Mass* © 2001, CCD.

Living God's Word



As much as we may want the temples of our lives cleared, we also like much of what takes up our lives. Still, God does come and does clear our temples in unsuspecting ways. Children grow up; friendships melt into memories. What is God asking us to clear away today?

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



The Gift of the Law

Loving God,
you gave the gift of the law to Moses
that the people might walk in the light
of your love.

In every age you call us back—
heart, mind, soul, and strength
turned to you,

our neighbor loved as ourselves.
Though we fall time and again,
give us the strength to do your will,
to act justly, be merciful, and walk humbly
with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Keep My Commandments



Today's readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25. The Ten Commandments are often considered to be a list of rules. Even when followed with great care, a person may miss out on the broader vision they embody. What if every person chose to live in accord with God's law? What if each person strove toward this ideal?

The Ten Commandments set out the framework for a just and peaceful society. If the Commandments are approached as a vision, we can see how they help us live in right relationship with those around us. In the reading from Exodus, God proclaims a blessing that proceeds to “the thousandth generation . . . of those who love me and keep

my commandments.” How many receive blessing from the righteousness of the just one!

The ripple effect of sin is evident. Family patterns that are damaging are hard to break, and the actions of those around us affect the way we live in the world.

Jesus often came into conflict with the religious leaders of his day because they differed in their interpretation of what it meant to keep God's law. There was not anything wrong with their desire to obey God's Commandments. Perhaps, though, the intensity of their focus caused them to lose a sense that the law was a vision for a just and peaceful society. Pray with the Commandments. How can they help you work toward a just world?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 8

St. John of God

St. John of God turned away from God in his youth, but returned with his whole heart and lived his life in gratitude for the great mercy he had received. He spent his life in extraordinary works of charity and love on behalf of those who were in greatest need, always with tremendous respect for those he served. God's mercy and forgiveness is always waiting for us. When have you felt God's forgiveness most fully? How can you respond with a grateful heart? *Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3–4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 9

Not Seven but Seventy-Seven Times

Why is it so difficult to forgive? Even though we know that holding onto our anger hurts, we brood over every small wrong. In today's parable of the unforgiving servant, the difference between the value of the two debts is enormous. This contrast shows us the tremendousness of God's love and forgiveness and startles us with our own stinginess. What would it mean for you to forgive seventy-seven times? To forgive as you have been forgiven? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8, 9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 10

Whoever Obeys and Teaches

Some people focus on following their own way, no matter the cost. We know, though, that our will often leads us astray, seeking after things that are not good for us, and that we engage in self-deception about what we really need. The Ten Commandments provide objective standards for behavior, even as complete freedom is within them. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 11

Miraculous Growth

Today we hear that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus casts out a demon, revealing a glimpse of the coming kingdom and making space for its miraculous growth. By giving up our sins and selfishness, we too make space for miraculous growth of God's love within us. Pray the Rosary today in the hope that the spirit it cultivates will cast out all that is not of God and help bring about this miraculous growth. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 12

The Summary of the Law

Today the Gospel tells us that love of God and love of neighbor are the primary principles that ought to govern our lives. What would it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? How would our lives be different if we loved our neighbor as ourselves? Does this necessarily mean putting ourselves last? It says love your neighbor as yourself. How can we respect our needs so that we are able to love others more fully? *Today's readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 13

O God, Be Merciful

When we look at our lives, we see how much we are in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. It is always there for us, requiring only that we seek it. People have used the words of the tax collector in today's reading from Luke, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner," in their prayers expressing contrition. Try incorporating this prayer into your daily prayer as a means of letting God's mercy act on you. *Today's readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*





ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

To: All Pastors and Parishioners

From: Bishop Larry Silva

Date: March 5, 2021

Subject: Resumption of Sunday Mass Obligation

Peace be with you!

As we continue on our Lenten journey, we look forward to the joyful celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest event in the history of the world. We have been living in this strange time of the pandemic, and now with decreasing numbers of cases, increasing accessibility to vaccines, and “herd immunity” on the horizon, we should be able to celebrate Easter in a more normal fashion this year. Since our Sunday encounter with the Risen Lord in the Eucharist is the source and summit of who we are as Christians, it is important that we return to our weekly celebrations.

Effective Easter Sunday, April 4 (or as of the Easter Vigil, April 3), I am ending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, which has been in effect since mid-March, 2020. However, anyone who is sick, may have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or who has a health condition that would endanger themselves or others by being present in church, continues to be dispensed.

In order to better accommodate larger numbers of people, especially on Easter Sunday, pastors are to determine whether extra seats can be added on lanais, additional Masses can be added to the schedule, or live-streaming in the parish hall can be done and Holy Communion taken to those who participate by this means.

If anticipated numbers simply cannot be safely accommodated in a particular parish, a pastor can dispense from the Sunday Mass obligation, either for individual parishioners or certain groups of parishioners, and for a specified period of time not to exceed two months without consultation with the Bishop of Honolulu.

At the same time, I realize that we must stay vigilant about our health protocols, and so the following norms must continue to be observed:

- Masks must be worn by all who attend Mass or other liturgical services.
- Social distancing and no-touch greetings and Sign of Peace remain the norms.

- Holy Communion is to be given only under the species of Bread.
- The use of a small choir is permitted during Holy Week and the Easter season. If the parish is using a choir, choir members need to continue following the rules for indoor singing as directed by the state [“Any person(s) singing shall maintain physical distancing of at least ten (10) feet from any other person(s) while singing. Members of the same performing group singing may be closer than ten (10) feet together while performing, provided the group consists of less than ten (10) persons. To the extent reasonable and practicable, a physical barrier (e.g., plexiglass) of sufficient size to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 shall separate any person(s) singing from any other person(s), but not including members of the same performing group.]
 - A distance of 10 feet between the cantor and the congregation needs to be observed as much as possible.
 - In addition to the Entrance, Offertory, Communion and Leavetaking hymns – the Kyrie, Gloria, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and the rest of the Mass part responses could be sung during Holy Week and the Easter season, observing the proper precautions.
- Sanitization is to continue between Masses.
- Social gatherings after Mass should still not take place.
- We encourage parish priests to start/continue live-streaming their liturgies to their parishioners via social media platforms and to communicate to them the times of these services and log-in information for their parish’s Facebook and/or website.

Any questions about these protocols should be referred to Deacon Modesto Cordero of the Office of Worship: mcordero@rcchawaii.org.

God bless you all, and have a blessed Lent, a joyful Easter Triduum, and a grace-filled Easter season!