

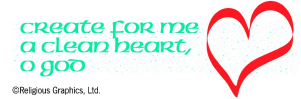
PARISH CALENDAR

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

March 17, 2024

Give me justice, O God!

Saturday, March 16	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 17	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 18	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	... 10:00 a.m.	Rearrange Church Chairs
Tuesday, March 19	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 20	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 21	.... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 22	.... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - Prayer Group
Saturday, March 23	..... 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:

Mk:11:1-10: Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem. Some people spread cloaks and reeds before him and honored him.

Is:50:4-7: The servant of the Lord God was rebuffed but did not turn back.

Phil:2:611: Christ was in the form of god but did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped it.

Mk:14:1-15:47: Jesus is betrayed, tried, condemned, crucified and buried; this is his Passion and death.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

SUFFERING TRANSFORMED BY GLORY

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." John 12:27-28

Our Lord's human soul was "troubled." Other translations state that His soul was in agony. After expressing His interior suffering, Jesus identified the human temptation caused by this suffering: to flee from His "hour." Of course Jesus dismisses this temptation as a way of teaching us a lesson from His human experience.

As God, Jesus had perfect strength and always remained faithful to the mission He received from the Father. But as a human, Jesus permitted Himself to experience temptation and human suffering for many reasons. One reason was so that He could relate to us in every way. That includes being able to relate to interior human suffering. In doing so, Jesus also made it possible for us to imitate Him and to share in the strength and determination He had as He perfectly fulfilled the will of the Father. Jesus allowed Himself to endure the agony caused by foreseen suffering because we will endure similar temptations through life.

What is it that causes you fear and anxiety as you look into the future? If there is something that immediately comes to mind, try to look at that within the light of Jesus' own experience above. The first thing Jesus does is identify the temptation to fear. He does this by identifying the interior suffering He experiences and then by looking at the cause: His coming "hour." The "hour" of Jesus in the Gospel of John is a reference to His crucifixion and death. This was the reason He came to us. He came to suffer the consequences of our sins and to destroy death itself. But this mission of His was the cause of true human suffering and was also a temptation toward fear. But it was a fear that He perfectly overcame. As you look at anything that tempts you to give into fear and anxiety, first ask yourself whether it is the will of God that you fulfill that action. If we are fearful of something that is not the will of the Father, then we should reject it. But very often the plan God has for our lives will include acting with courage in the face of some pending cross and suffering. Experiencing fear is normal, but fear will not turn into anxiety if we imitate our Lord and choose the will of God no matter the cost.

Jesus also embraced His Cross by looking at it through the lens of glory. He understood that His suffering and death would glorify the Father in Heaven. Therefore, He allowed Himself to see the Cross as a glorification of the Father. The same must happen in our lives. No matter what we face in life, no matter the cross we are given, if it is the will of God that we embrace it, then we must see it not only as a suffering we must endure but primarily as an act by which God will be glorified in our lives. This truer perspective will bring with it hope, joy and strength which will free us from anxiety caused by fear.

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you. Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy, and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Father, Your will is perfect. You called Your Son to the suffering of the Cross. Through that act of perfect love, the suffering Your Son endured gave You perfect glory. Lord Jesus, please give me Your courage as I face my own sufferings in life and help me to imitate Your perfect obedience to the Father's will in all things so that I, too, may give Him glory. Jesus, I trust in You.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES: Listed is the Leeward Vicariate Advent Penance Service: **Mon 3/18 - St. Jude - Kapolei / Thur 3/21 Sacred Hearts - Waianae.** All services begins at 7:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. For more information. #igiveCatholicTogether also accepts donation for this collection.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: EMBODYING THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER: Reflect on your Lenten journey thus far: What have you learned from our global family members in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia? How does the Eucharist unite us with our sisters and brothers around the world? Consider how Christ is present in Adolf and Florence, Sandra and Santos, and Evita. Visit www.csricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

WORD OF LIFE: "To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life. . . In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of living God, an icon of Jesus Christ." (The Gospel of Life 84).

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 17 Sun: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer:31:31-34; Ps:51; Heb:5:7-9; Jn:12:20-33

Mar 18 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Dn:13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps:23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn:8:1-11

Mar 19 Tue: Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sam:7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Rm: 4:13. 16-18, 22; Mt:1:16-18-21, 24a

Mar 20 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dn:3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn:3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn:8:31-42

Mar 21 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Gn:17:3-9; Ps:105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:8:51-59

Mar 22 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Jer:20:10-13; Ps:18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn:10:31-42

Mar 23 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Ez:37:21-28; Ps:31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn:11:45-56

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus invites his disciples into a great mystery with curious pronouncements: Those who love their lives just as they are will lose them. If a grain of wheat dies, it will bear much fruit. . . . What does Jesus mean? The climactic event of Jesus' passion and death is drawing closer; a time when the great confrontation between Jesus and the powers of darkness take place. When Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all to himself. The Christian steward knows life can't be lived in complacency. We are called to die to self, bear more fruit, be raised up with Jesus. Jesus brings discomfort to those who are comfortable. Jesus urges us to give witness in his name. How will respond? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

LEARNING TO OBEY

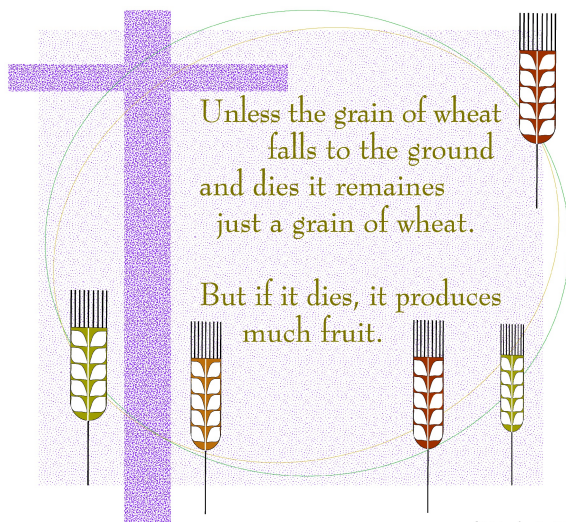
Obedience includes suffering. We sometimes disobey in order to avoid suffering, but that also exacts a price. You're afraid you'll show up late, so you speed and get a ticket. You're afraid you'll flunk a test, so you cheat and get caught. You know you shouldn't check out some sites on the internet, but you do—and now you're sorry. The consequences of disobedience are severe. The consequences of obedience include suffering.

When we obey, we give up something of our own preferences, goals, and lusts. When we obey, we think of the good of others more than the pleasures we'd like. This brings its own pleasure, but it involves suffering.

Jesus obeyed the Father's will, and it included suffering. The Letter to the Hebrews says, "He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death." He did not want to die. Yet, "He learned obedience from what he suffered." Jesus learned what it meant to obey. He suffered, but "he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

As Lent draws to its close, reflect back on Ash Wednesday. On that day you confessed your sins and promised to lead a better life. By now it should be clearer what you must do. It will not be easy. Suffering never is. But you will find peace when you obey God's will.

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CHRIST



draws all things to himself

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Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa

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

The Ministry of Ushers – Hospitality

Mahalo nui loa to the Ministers of Ushers – Hospitality. After the brief meeting on Wednesday, March 13th following parishioners were chosen as leaders of each respective weekend masses. The leaders will assist the coordinator to make sure that the Ministry of Ushers are carried out in each Mass.

Coordinator*: Mychaela Cobbs & Assisted by Mele Ahuna.

Leaders: for the weekend Mass are:

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass: Mychaela, Myrna & Michael Cobbs and Carlin Kaleo.

Sunday, 7:00am Mass: Sharon Delos Santos.

Sunday, 9:00am Mass: Laura Manuel.

Sunday, 5:00pm Mass: Mele Ahuna.

The Following general guidelines of responsibilities were addressed.

The **coordinator** will calendar assignments for weekends each month, communicate, and find coverages if needed for absent Ushers.

Each **leader** will be present to lead and guide the Ushers of the responsibilities of each assigned mass and inform the coordinator of changes if needed.

The commissioning (official blessing and installation) of the Ushers will take place on Third Sunday of Easter, April 13th & 14th to be recognized for their Ministry of Ushers.

Faith Formation children under the guidance of catechist Karen will be trained to be Ushers at 9:00am mass rotating with Knights of Columbus.

Invitation to the Usher – Hospitality Ministry.

We invite parishioners to share your talent to serve as Ushers to live out your Stewardship of service. If you are interested, leave your message at the church for contacting our coordinator*Mychaela.

Looking Ahead to HOLY WEEK:

Mark your calendar, as we enter Holy Week: Palm -Passion Sunday Vigil Mass: Saturday 23rd 5:00pm, Sunday 24th 7:00am, 9:00am, 5:00pm.

Monday 25th 8:00am Mass & **7:00pm Rehearsal for Holy Thursday.**

Tuesday, 26th 8:00am Mass & **12:00noon Rehearsal for Good Friday**. Chrism Mass at Co-Cathedral 7:00pm.

Wednesday, 27th 8:00am Mass & **7:00pm Rehearsal for Easter Vigil Mass**.

Holy Thursday, 28th 7:00pm Holy Thursday Mass-Lord's Last Supper.

Good Friday, 29th 2:00pm Stations of the Cross & 7:00pm Good Friday Service.

Easter Vigil Saturday, 30th **8:00pm** Easter Vigil Mass.

Easter Sunday, 31st, **8:00am & 10:00am** Easter Masses.

MONSTRANCE FUND RASING

Mahalo nui loa for your donations to the purchase of the new Monstrance. The 22-inch-high monstrance has been placed on order and it would take about 2 months for its arrival due to back order by the company.

Our Eucharistic Adoration is planned on the **Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, June 7th First Friday of the month. We will consecrate our parish and our families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Necessity of Eucharistic Revival.

To awaken and rekindle our Catholic Faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ and to draw abundant blessings by our participation in this Solemn worship.

The lack of our strong believe in the Real Presence will manifest in our many aspects of our Christian life, especially in the loss of our love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – Holy Eucharist, loss of love for our Blessed Mother, the casual ways in which we regard God's Commandments and most of all in the gradual loss of our Faith.

The Eucharist is the Source and the Summit of our Christian life (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1324 – #1327). The gradual loss of our love, reverence, and faith in the Real Presence, we become nominal Christians, Christians in name but not in practice.

Our parish's 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.

Visit ***eucharisticrevival.org*** for more information.

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Always Near

Loving Father,
you who answer when I call,
who continue to love me,
even when I fall,
you are ever present and merciful.
May I be a mirror of your promises.
Never let me stray too far
from your gaze.
May your hand never be far
from mine.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 Covenant of Love



Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15, (12a); Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the readings begin by recalling the covenant God made with the chosen people. The Lord tells the prophet Jeremiah, “I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” In the covenant that God keeps with us today, he offers us eternal life. Jesus refers to that life in the Gospel reading, saying, “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.”

The first reading explains that all shall know God, for he “will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no

more.” In the second covenant, Jesus lays down his life for us on the cross, erasing our sins and reconciling us with God. The Letter to the Hebrews explains that Christ “became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

To obey God, to have a place for him in our hearts, we seek a pure heart, praying from Psalm 51, “Create a clean heart in me, O God.” In this psalm, we ask not only that our souls be cleansed of sin but for a steadfast and willing spirit. How will you carry this psalm with you through this week so that you can be true to the love God offers? How can this psalm turn you to God’s presence so that you might be a walking testimony of his love?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 18

Traps for Kindness

Even though Jesus was without sin, he did not condemn. How much more should we, with our failings and shortcomings, follow his example and offer a kind word instead of judgment. As we live these final days of Lent, let us practice kindness by complimenting others and refraining from critical words. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11.*

Tuesday, March 19

Feast of St. Joseph

"It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith," we hear in today's reading from Romans. The phrase "righteousness from faith" personifies St. Joseph, who was inclined to quietly divorce the pregnant Mary but followed the angel's instruction and took her into his home. Have you considered looking to St. Joseph as a model of faith? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.*

Wednesday, March 20

Becoming Better

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners that to be his disciples, they are to remain in his Word. Only by remaining in his Word will they know the truth and be set free from sin. Reading and meditating on Scripture is a regular practice of many to come closer to God during Lent. During your prayer time, ponder how you act out your discipleship. Are the people that you encounter aware that you are a Christian by the way you live? *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, March 21

Beyond Imagination

Abraham surely never imagined that God would come to him to make a covenant. It is beyond imagination that God would come to make "an everlasting pact." Yet God promised the childless Abraham that he would be "the father of a host of nations." God has a plan for each of us too. In the Gospel, we hear, "Whoever keeps my word will never see death." To keep God's Word is the work of each disciple. For that work, the reward is eternal life. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, March 22

Do You Believe?

In the first reading, we hear the prophet Jeremiah say, "All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine." Jesus, too, knew that people who practiced their religion looked for reasons to arrest or stone him. Reminding them of the Father's good works he had performed, he asked, "For which of these are you trying to stone me?" In the world today, who is being punished for their good works? How do you recognize the work and action of Jesus around you? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, March 23

All Praise to God

As we stand at the precipice of Holy Week, reflect on a time when you turned away from God. Perhaps you felt persecuted or ashamed of your relationship with God. Many young people face this problem; they hide their faith because it is unpopular, yet our faith in God is not about popularity. How can we be examples of hope to the younger generation? How can you turn a tense moment into an opportunity to share God's love and mercy? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Psalm: Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*

