

PARISH CALENDAR

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

The days are coming,
says the Lord.

Saturday, March 20	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 21	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, March 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 26	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - KUHIO DAY HOLIDAY
Saturday, March 27	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Jeremiah:31:31-34: God will write the divine law upon our hearts.

Hebrews:5:7-9: Jesus prayed to be saved from death, but was obedient.

John:12:20-33: Jesus speaks of the suffering he must endure.

(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/

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, 2021

Reflecting on God's Word

One of the earliest pictures of Jesus I can remember portrayed him at prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. I still see his hands, clasped tight. They spoke to me of an inner struggle long before I knew about his words, "Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will" (Mark 14:36). More than any other scene in the Gospels, this one brought home what it meant to say Jesus was truly man.

Today's Gospel has been called John's version of the agony in the garden. The word agony (agonia in Greek) means struggle, and we can hear the struggle in Jesus' awareness that "the hour" he has spoken of before in John's Gospel, beginning at Cana, has finally arrived. It is the hour of his being lifted up—the hour of both his glory and his crucifixion. It is why he came into the world, and yet we hear him say, "I am troubled." We hear him wrestling with himself, asking for release from the hour, but then recognizing that it holds "the purpose for which I came."

Hebrews affirms this when it says "he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence" (5:7). He was able to bear the suffering and become the source of eternal salvation for all who listen to him and follow in his steps.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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Create for me
a clean heart,
O God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY WEEK/EASTER MASS SCHEDULE: The Holy Week/Easter Mass Schedule are as follows: **Holy Thursday (4/1) @ 7 p. m. / Good Friday (4/2) - Station of the Cross at 2 p. m., Good Friday @ 7 p. m., Easter Vigil (4/3) @ 8 p. m. & Easter Sunday Masses @ 8 a. m. & 10 a. m.** All services will be Live Stream, please plan early there are 40 seats in the church, we will have an additional 20 seats out under the banyan tree.

TODAY'S MISSAL ON SALE: Starting next weekend March 20-21, the "Today's Missal," will be on sale, cost is \$5. The Missal is from March 29-May 29, 2021. See Mele after Mass next weekend.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: COMMUNITY IN MADAGASCAR: Poor nutrition can lead to devastating long-term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why communities must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and well-being of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others? Visit www.csricebowl.org to learn more.

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 the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ" (The Gospel of Life 84)

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 21 Sun: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer:31:31-34; Ps:517; Heb:5:7-9; Jn:12:20-33

Mar 22 Mon: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 23 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Num:21:4-9; Ps:102: 2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn:8:21-30

Mar 24 Wed: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 25 Thur: The Annunciation of The Lord

Isa:7:10-14; 8-10 Ps:40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb: 10:4-10 Lk:1:26-38

Mar 26 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Jer:20:10-13; Ps:18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn:11:1-45

Mar 27 Sat: Lenten Weekday

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

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Proclaimed this weekend is the Gospel story of Jesus inviting 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 we respond? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Operating Funds Collections:

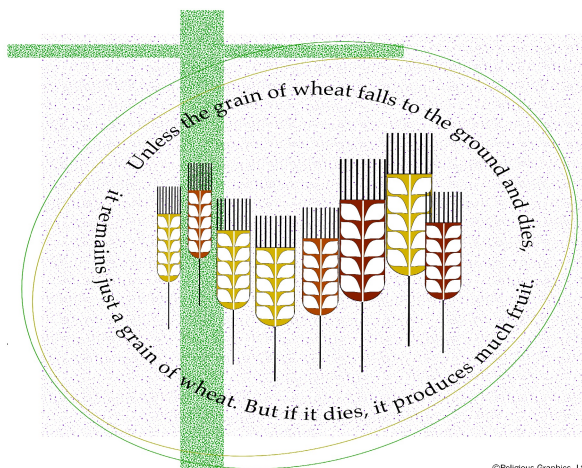
Sunday Collection	\$2, 441.00
Funeral	125.00
Mass Intention	140.00
Total	\$2, 731.00

Restricted Collections:

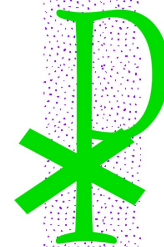
Building Fund	\$ 465.00
Pledge - Building Fund	164.00
Repair & Maintenance	20.00
Catholic Relief Service	560.00
Total	\$ 1, 209.00

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR 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



CHRIST



draws all
things to
himself

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Transform Us

Loving God,
through all the ages you create new life
and see that it is good.
Having given us all good gifts,
you gave more: you gave yourself,
doing something completely new
from the moment of Mary's yes.

You transform even death, pain,
and suffering.
You transform endings into beginnings,
buried seeds to fruitful plants.
Transform us, help us to follow where
you lead,
that we might live with you forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 21, 2021

The Grain of Wheat



Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33. After triumphantly entering Jerusalem, Jesus knows that his passion is imminent. He also knows that no one around him expects what is about to occur. Jesus uses the image of a seed to help his friends to understand.

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Like the seed, Jesus will die. Like the seed, Jesus will bear much fruit, eternal life given to each one of us. His death, when he is “lifted up from the earth” on the cross, “will draw everyone” to him.

When a seed is planted, the seed coat breaks apart as the plant within it begins to grow and develop. The seed itself ceases to exist in a meaningful way. From the beginning, though, the prospect of new life, the germ, was within the seed. Jesus recognized that his life had to be laid down for the potentiality of eternal life to come to fulfillment.

Through Jesus, the germ of eternal life exists in us as well. He tells us that discipleship entails imitating him. We have to let the seed of our current life break apart for the new plant to grow.

Journal about the experience of letting go of your old life in order to nurture the new.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 22

Neither Do I Condemn You

The woman caught in adultery expected to die. Instead, she hears, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more.” What must she have felt in that moment, to be forgiven? This same forgiveness is available to us every time we ask for it. God’s mercy is always there, sometimes we just need to celebrate it. Examine your conscience. No one is perfect. Receive the sacrament of reconciliation and you will feel the full force of God’s merciful love. *Today’s readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

Tuesday, March 23

God’s Voice

As Holy Week nears, spend five to ten minutes in silence reflecting on God’s presence and action in your life. When did you hear God’s voice today? When did you feel calm and peaceful? When did you feel that you did not live up to what God was calling you to do? How can you adjust your life to be more open to God’s will? *Today’s readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

Wednesday, March 24

Uncomfortable Truth

God spoke to Abraham and Abraham believed. The trust Abraham had in God, the keeper of promises, sets him apart. Jesus contrasts Abraham’s trust, his belief in the truth, with the reaction Jesus faces as he teaches and preaches. Truth can be uncomfortable. Maybe you have been with a small child who, unburdened with lessons about politeness, describes a situation with embarrassing accuracy. Those situations pass in a moment. The truth to which Jesus testified had the power to discomfort more deeply, but he tells us “the truth will set you free.” What can that mean in your life? *Today’s readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

A young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us.” The words of Isaiah carry us to the house of Mary in Nazareth, where a young girl is addressed as “favored one.” She is troubled, and the angel tells her not to be afraid. The young girl is not afraid. Her words will change history: “May it be done to me according to your word.” From the moment of Mary’s yes, God began to do something completely new in the world. Mary’s vocation is unique, yet her response, her yes, is something we are able to imitate. Pray the Rosary today, and ask for Mary’s intercession that you might be more like her to answer with a brave yes to God’s call. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14, 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, March 26

A New Way

Jesus finds himself in trouble with the authorities again and again because the kingdom of God, which he came to inaugurate, did not adhere to the expectations of the people. Jesus stood with those who lacked power, authority, and status, and in the Beatitudes, he tells us that standing alongside them is standing with him. How can you embrace those on the margins? *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, March 27

God Transforms

Approaching Holy Week, the readings show the plot against Jesus growing stronger. The plot against Jesus was about self-preservation, yet Caiaphas’ words unwittingly testify to what God was doing: “He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God.” *Today’s Readings: Ezra 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*

