

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sixth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

February 12, 2023

Be with me, Lord,  
when I am in trouble.

Saturday, February 11	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 12	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass <b>(Live Stream)</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 13	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, February 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, February 15	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	<b>Leeward Vicariate Meeting - Church</b>
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 16	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, February 17	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, February 18	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Lv: 19:1-2, 17-18: Moses urges the Israelites to holiness.**

**1 Cor: 3:16-23: We are all temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such belong to God.**

**Mt: 5:38-48: Jesus tells us that we must return good for evil and love for hate.**

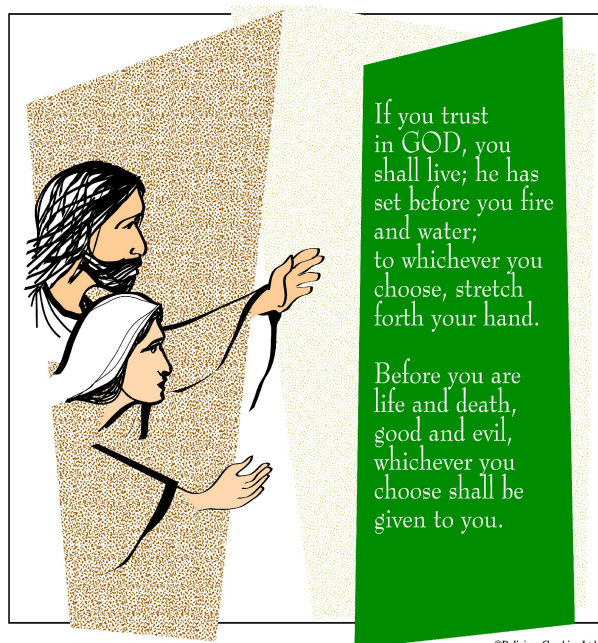
**We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream>**

### MAKING CHOICES

You have probably said this before: "I had no choice." You may have said it about a decision you did not want to make, one that made you unpopular, or one that felt wrong. If you have no choice, you have no blame. We can more easily accept a difficult decision if we feel as though it were the only one.

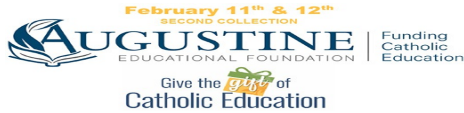
But we almost always have choices. Some of them are not very good. We reject them without much thinking about them. They are even worse than the choice we make. Or they are more difficult to enact. Our brains process some choices so quickly that it feels right to say, "I had no choice." But we usually do. God gives us free will to make choices. "If you choose you can keep the commandments," says the Book of Sirach. "God has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand." Many choices stand before us: "life and death, good and evil." We get whichever one we choose.

God does not command us to act unjustly. We are free. But our freedom is not a license to sin. Our freedom is the environment in which we make choices. And God is hoping—as each of us hopes—that we will only choose what is good. Some of our choices may feel impossible or uncomfortable, but if we pick the best choice, it is often right. **Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.**



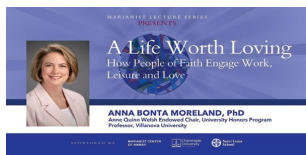
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP



### **SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY IS FOR THE AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: Make a Student Smile - Give the Gift of Education Campaign:**

Our Catholic schools provide a quality education to students from all ethnic, religious and financial backgrounds. The Augustine Education Foundation provides tuition to students with a financial need in our schools. Money raised in this collection will go to support our parish and vicariate families with tuition assistance for the upcoming school year. You may visit the Augustine Educational Foundation on-line to make a gift or include your check in our parish's offertory. Please take a moment today and help make a difference in a student's life. Envelopes are at the back of church. Mahalo!



### **Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

Mystical Rose Oratory, Chaminade University of Honolulu

Join the Marianist Lecture "A Life Worth Loving: How People of Faith

Engage Work, Leisure and Love" featuring guest speaker Dr. Anna Bonta Moreland, PhD.

Dr. Anna Moreland, co-author of "Daring to Live: A Guide to a Meaningful Life," will discuss strategies for emerging adults and the people who love them to expand their imagination, build better vocabulary, and recover habits and practices to live more fully and faithfully.

To register or learn more, please visit [chaminade.edu/marianist-lecture](http://chaminade.edu/marianist-lecture)

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together." USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*

### **WEEKLY READINGS**

**Feb 12 Sun: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sir:15:15-20; Ps:119; 1 Cor:2:6-10; Mt:5:17-37

**Feb 13 Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

Gen:4:1-15, 25; Ps:50: 1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk:8:11-13

**Feb 14 Tue: Saint Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop**

Gn:6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps:29:1a & 2, 3c-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk:8:14-21

**Feb 15 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:8:6-13, 20-22; Ps:116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk:8:22-26

**Feb 16 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:9:1-13; Ps:102:16-18, 19-21, 29, & 22-23; Mk:8:27-33

**Feb 17 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:11:1-95; Ps:33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15; Mk:8:34-9:1

**Feb 18 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

Hb:11:1-17; Ps:145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk:9:2-13

In today's Gospel reading we listen to the confrontation between Jesus and the devil, who thought he might tempt Jesus to forget who he was and commit a grievous sin when he was most vulnerable. Jesus had just spent 40 days and nights out in the desert, alone, away from civilization. He was hungry, thirsty, and tired. If there ever was a time to tempt Jesus, that was it. Temptations to sin come at us every day, from many directions and in many different forms. When the temptation to sin tries to overcome us, how do we react? Do we consciously remind ourselves that we are followers of Christ? Is there a time this week when you have needed to confront a temptation to sin? What lessons did you take away from the experience? (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

### **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](http://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**



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**INSTRUCT ME IN YOUR WAYS, O LORD**

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**TEACHING MASS - BULLETIN INSERT**  
**POST COMMUNION AND CONCLUDING RITES**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023**



**CONCLUDING THE MASS AND THE CALL TO MISSION**

There is an ancient saying in the Church: “May God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion.” This wonderful saying, based on St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, and which has been said as a blessing or salutation in the Church since at least the fifth century, finds a powerful meaning within the context of our liturgy. The liturgy is a work of God, so to speak, but it is indeed the work of the people, which is where the word *Liturgy* comes from. This good work of God’s and of our own must be brought to completion.

The Holy Mass does not end the moment we receive communion. Yes, receiving communion is the most intimate moment of the Mass for us individually, but that does not mean that what comes after is unimportant. There is a purpose to continue our prayer after we have received communion, and thus we do not leave right after we receive our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist. Instead, we return to our places within the church while communion continues to be distributed, and then once the Eucharist is taken to the tabernacle, we sit and allow ourselves some time for quiet reflection. We dwell on the gift of the Eucharist and remind ourselves of the reality of what, or rather *who* we have just received. Jesus, at this moment, dwells in us, not only spiritually, but physically.

This presence of Jesus within us, however, is not meant to be kept hidden away inside us. We are called to take Jesus with us out into the world! That is the center of what we might call our mission as Catholics. This emphasis on ‘mission’ is what the concluding rites of the Mass are all about.

So, what are we meant to understand about this mission of ours? Well, when we were baptized, several things happened to us. We were cleansed of Original Sin, we were reborn in the Holy Spirit, we became priests, prophets, and kings in the New Covenant, and we were made sons and daughters of God. As children of God, we are called to be members of His family, the Catholic Church. As members of the Church, we are meant to live out our lives as faithful Christians every day. This is not always easy, especially in our modern age, but God helps us through giving us spiritual graces, especially through our participation at the Mass.

We come to Mass to worship God, yes, but while we are offering Him our gift of worship, He is giving us gifts of His own. When we participate in the liturgy and receive communion reverently and worthily, God gives grace and strength to live out our Christian lives even when it becomes difficult. When we struggle to pray, God gives us the strength and desire to pray. When we struggle to do good works, God gives us the drive to do them. When we struggle with sin, God guides us to righteousness. When we feel discouraged, God gives us hope. When we feel anxious, God gives us peace. When we feel alone, God reveals Himself to us. All these things are gifts from God, and God pours forth these gifts to us as we encounter Him, especially in the Mass. What this means for us is that as we go to Mass, God is strengthening us spiritually, helping us live lives of faith in a complex world. Our mission is to stay true to the Gospel no matter what life throws our way. This is where our focus falls during the closing rites of the Mass.





## CONCLUDING RITES

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After communion, we are called to reflect on the reality of the Eucharist that we have received. This we do as individuals quietly right after receiving communion, but we also do so as a single community. Our quiet prayer is ended with the priest calling us together with the words, “Let us pray.” This parallels the Opening Prayer back at the beginning of Mass. Like that prayer, this prayer is unique to the day or week. This prayer is often related to the Opening Prayer in its wording, but also includes the themes of receiving strength and blessing from the Eucharist that we have received. This is not simply yet another reminder of how special it is for us to receive communion, it also tells us how receiving the Eucharist has done something to us, namely nourished our souls and given us strength. Like a good breakfast before a long day at work, the Eucharist is our spiritual nourishment for the work we are called to do after we go forth from the church.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the closing prayer, it is permissible to have some brief announcements. This can seem like a break from the spiritual activities of the liturgy, but it is tied to our worship. These announcements are meant to be concerned with upcoming parish activities, all of which are great opportunities to practice our faith beyond our Sunday worship, something we are all called to do. Make no mistake. We are all called to live out our Christian lives every day, not just on Sunday. Our parishes are places where we can foster our Christian living, and they should never be without activities, whether adoration, praise and worship, service projects, or social engagements. Mass is the most important time for us, but it is not the only time we are called to worship God or be with our brothers and sisters in the faith.

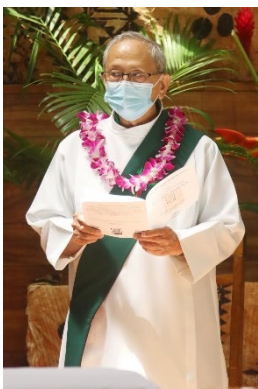
### FINAL BLESSING

We end the Mass as we began it: with the Sign of the Cross. What is different here is that it also takes the form of the priest blessing us. Blessings from a priest or a deacon are a powerful gesture, always connected with a duty or purpose. For example, the priest blesses the deacon before he proclaims the Gospel, the bread and wine is blessed before it becomes the body and blood of Christ. Water is blessed before it is used for baptisms, chalices are blessed before they are set aside for liturgy, and even food can be blessed before it is eaten. When we are blessed at the close of Mass, it is our mission in mind. The Mass concludes with the final blessing, but the mission continues.



### DISMISSAL (SENDING FORTH)

The final words of the Mass, whether said by the priest or deacon, give us our commission. There are a few different options they use, but the message is always the same: The Mass is ended, go forth and proclaim the Gospel by your life. Indeed, with this, our liturgy is fully concluded, but our mission to go forth and live out the Gospel continues.



The last action of the liturgy is for the priest and his assistant ministers to lead us out of the church and into the world. This shows us what we are now called to do. Armed with the word of God on our lips and the Body of Christ inside us, we take what we have received out into the world. Our liturgy has ended, yes, but our mission, our worship, and our Christian lives continue. We go forth as carriers of Christ, taking Him and His message to the world. By our lives, we show the world the joy of following Christ in His Church. This is our mission. We live out our lives in accordance with the scriptures so that we proclaim the Gospel through our actions each day. The Mass has taught us, healed us, uplifted us, and fed us. Now we go forth to bring the Church to the world and the world to our Church.