

PARISH CALENDAR

Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

February 27, 2022

It is good to give thanks
to the Lord!



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Saturday, February 26 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 27 7:00 a.m.	Mass
 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 1	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 2	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass - Ash Wednesday
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass - Ash Wednesday
Thursday, March 3	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 4	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Station of the Cross - Lector's
Saturday, March 5	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Deut:26:4-10: Moses told the story of the Israelites: The Lord God led them from bondage to freedom

Rom:10:8-13: God's word is on your lips and in your heart.

Lk:4:1-13: Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days.

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)

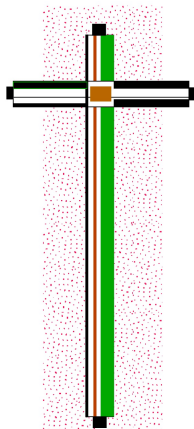
We continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

man was perplexed by his wife's refusal to admit she had hearing problem. He finally asked his physician, "How can I get my wife to admit she's hard of hearing?" "I'll tell you what you need to do," the doctor replied. "When you arrive home this evening, poke your head in the door and ask, 'What's for dinner?' If she doesn't answer, go into the living room and repeat the question. If she still doesn't hear, go right into the kitchen and shout. And if she doesn't hear that, speak it right into her ear and tell her what just transpired. That should convince her of her inability to hear." "Great!" the husband responded. "That should work." That evening when he arrived home from work, he opened the door and hollered, "What's for dinner, Honey?" He listened but there was no response. So he walked into the living room and shouted: "What's for dinner, Honey?" Again there was no response. He then stood in the doorway of the kitchen and repeated the question. She still didn't respond. He then sneaked up behind her and shouted in her ear, "What's for dinner, Honey?" At that point, his wife turned to him and shouted, "For the fourth time, spaghetti and meatballs!"

—Rev. Richard Zajac

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAWAII CATHOLICS FOR TONGA: In light of the devastation caused by the underwater volcanic eruption in Tonga, Bishop Larry is asking parishes to take up a Voluntary Emergency Special Collection for Tonga. Hawaii is blessed to have a significant Tongan community that is often very active in our parishes. Many of their families back home are still suffering, even more than a month after the disaster struck. Envelopes are at the back of church. Please be generous! Mahalo!

LENT IS COMING! Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the back of church on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: “The essence of our identity is that we are created in God’s image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished**.” USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

WEEKLY READINGS

Feb 27 Sun: Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Sir:27:4-7; Ps:92: 1 Cor:15:54-58; Lk:6:39-45

Feb 28 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Ja:5:13-20; Ps:141:1-2,3 & 8; Mk:10:13-16

Mar 1 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Pt:1:10-16; Ps:98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Mt:10:28-31

Mar 2 Wed: Ash Wednesday

Jl:2:12-18; Ps:51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17; 2 Cor:5:20-6:2; Mt:6:1-6, 16-18

Mar 3 Thur: Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Deu:30:15-20; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk:22-25

Mar 4 Fri: Friday after Ash Wednesday

Is:58:1-9a; Ps:51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt:9:14-15

Mar 5 Sat: Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Jas:5:13-20;; Ps:141:1-2, 3, & 8; Mk:10:13-16

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

“For every tree is known by its own fruit.” Jesus states this principle in today’s Gospel reading to illustrate a parallel stewardship principle in our spiritual lives. Just as a good tree bears good fruit and a bad tree bears bad fruit, so also the good steward produces good and an evil person evil. This is no coincidence. Our words and actions are outward expressions of what lies in our hearts. It is out of the “store of goodness in his heart” that the good person produces good and “out of the store of evil in his heart” that the evil person produces evil. A reflection for the week: How are our words and actions accurately reflecting what lies deep in our hearts? (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 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

THE BLUNT STIG OF DEATH

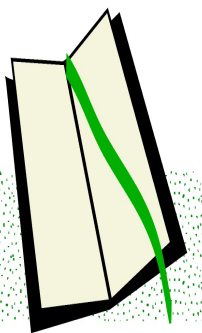
Death is inevitable but unpredictable. It will come on its own time. It takes some of us old, others young. It does not pay attention to schedules. We have plans, but death may have some others. Some people reach the end of their days in happiness that their life’s work is done. Others wish they had more time to complete what they began or to right some wrongs. We have been writing our life, and death will close the book.

Death is the ultimate threat to hold over a living being. Many of the early Christians suffered persecution for their faith. They were becoming too influential in society, causing too many problems for authorities. Many of them died a horrible death, just as Jesus had. Some may have wondered if they believed in vain.

Perhaps Paul saw his own death coming. Tradition holds that he was beheaded outside of Rome. Paul’s faith in Christ was firm. He believed in the Resurrection of Jesus and that the same glorious future lay ahead for him — however he died. Paul’s bravura about death comes out in a letter to the Corinthians: “Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?” Paul taunts. “Where, O death, is your sting.” But through Jesus Christ, we have overcome the sting of the old law, sin and death. For the faithful Christian, whether you die old or young, “your labor is not in vain.”

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

Be firm, steadfast,
and always devoted
to the word of the
Lord



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From the fullness
of the heart



the mouth speaks

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ASH WEDNESDAY



Turning Our Hearts

Loving God,
you call us to return to you
with our whole heart.
We stand before you now,
seeking your kindness,
and ask that you lead us to conversion,

and make holy our lives.
During this season of mercy,
guide us with your grace,
give us a clean heart,
and grant us your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Even Now



Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. Have you ever walked by someone with ashes on the head and said, “Happy Lent” or “Merry Ash Wednesday”? It’s likely you have not. Few associate happiness with Lent. But what do we hear in today’s readings? “Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart.” This Lent, once again, God calls us to return to unending forgiveness and unconditional love. God knows we have sinned, he knows that there have been times when we failed to live as disciples of his Son. And even now, at this moment in our lives, God wants us to turn our lives over to him and live

in the light of the love of his Son. What would be more joyful than basking in the goodness of God’s unending love and mercy?

When we pray, give alms, and fast, Jesus asks us not to look glum or make a display of our generosity. He invites us to live authentic lives and not be like the hypocrites. Today’s readings challenge us to be aware of our sinfulness, to know that when we say that we are sorry, forgiveness will be ours. Lenten practices offer an opportunity to ask God to create a clean heart within us, so that we can bring the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord to all people. Even now, especially now.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 28 Inheriting Eternal Life

Treasure in heaven is not measured in numbers, wealth, or possessions. God invites us over and over to turn toward Jesus and follow him. In these days leading up to Lent, set aside time to prepare for this season of repentance and baptismal renewal. What will you let go of, detach yourself from, and surrender to, in order to have a fruitful and meaningful Lent? *Today's readings: 1 Peter 1:3–9; Psalm 111:1–2, 5–6, 9 and 10c; Mark 10:17–27.*

Tuesday, March 1 For the Sake of the Gospel

Peter seems to express frustration with having given up everything to follow Jesus. Jesus' way is to rely solely on God. When our life is for the sake of the Gospel, we will receive more than we can imagine. Jesus' words contain a challenge, and this Lent can help us deepen our understanding that love, sacrifice, joy, and sorrow are all part of life. Decide today how to schedule prayer time for every day of Lent. *Today's readings: 1 Peter 1:10–16; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Mark 10:28–31.*

Wednesday, March 2 Our Whole Heart

Through the prophet Joel, God invites us to rend our hearts this day, and return to the everlasting love that has no bounds, no limits, no conditions. Our heavenly Father asks us to return with our whole heart, and not make a lukewarm response to this invitation. Fully embrace this holy season of Lent, which gives us a chance to refocus our priorities and redirect our energies, so that we can follow Jesus. *Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.*

Thursday, March 3 A Life of Discipleship

Each of us makes hundreds of choices daily, from what to wear to how to regard the people who come into our lives. St. Katharine Drexel, whose feast day is today, treated people of every race with respect and cared for those whom society shunned. She chose discipleship over a life of privilege. Make an effort today to lose your life for the sake of the cross and, in so doing, choose life. This Lent can be a time to commit to a transformation in your life. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 9:22–25.*

Friday, March 4 Cleanse My Heart

The Church prays Psalm 51 often during Lent. The psalm is one of the great laments in the Book of Psalms, part of the wisdom literature in the Bible. While praying a lament, we join the psalmist in a plea for mercy and forgiveness. As you pray Psalm 51 today, notice how your heart responds to the moving words that believers have prayed for over two millennia. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.*

Saturday, March 5 Teach Me Your Way

The prophet Isaiah says, "If you lavish your food on the hungry / and satisfy the afflicted; / Then your light shall rise in the darkness." Who has shown you that "your light shall rise" by acting justly and removing oppressive words from speech? Who has given you courage to follow Jesus even when others may ignore their faith? Make an effort today to express your gratitude to those persons for the truth they have shared. Decide how you will share that truth with someone else today. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.*



Diocese of Honolulu 2022 Lenten Regulations

FASTING

- ❖ In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday (**March 2, 2022**) and Good Friday (**April 15, 2022**).
- ❖ To *fast* means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on days of fasting.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

- ❖ Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.
- ❖ To abstain means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although eggs and milk products are acceptable. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted, though the penitential character of the abstinence should be kept in mind.

EASTER DUTY

- ❖ All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Trinity Sunday (**June 12, 2022**).

LENTEN PRACTICES

- ❖ The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- ❖ Although we are still in the midst of the pandemic, some of our protocols have lightened since Lent of 2021. These protocols attached may be used, at the pastor's discretion.
- ❖ Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on **March 2nd**. Ashes are to be blessed as a sign of our entry into a season of conversion, repentance, and reconciliation. Ashes are to be blessed by a bishop, priest, or deacon. Others may be associated with the clergy in the distribution of ashes.

Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic:

- The priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes, then sprinkles the ashes with holy water without saying anything.
- Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears

in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: *"Repent, and believe in the Gospel"*, or *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

- Each minister marks the forehead of each parishioner with ashes, saying *"Repent, and believe in the Gospel"*, or *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*
- Ministers will sanitize their hands before distribution, then (the ministers) wash the residue ashes off after the last person and then sanitize their hands again.

- ❖ Funeral Masses may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of Lent. When pastoral reasons require that a funeral be celebrated on these days, only a Funeral Outside of Mass may be held.
- ❖ To afford the faithful opportunities to participate in Lenten prayer services, pastors are encouraged to have such prayer services at least twice a week, including the Way of the Cross on Fridays, Exposition and Benediction, Evening Prayer, and evening Masses. A homily or instruction should be included.

BLESSING OF THE OILS AND CONSECRATION OF THE CHRISM

- ❖ In order to allow participation of Catholics throughout the islands, the Sacred Oils will be blessed during the Chrism Mass to be celebrated in several locations. All are encouraged to join in one of the following celebrations:

- a. Maui: **Thursday, March 24th at 7 p.m., St. Anthony Church, Wailuku.**
- b. Kauai: **Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m., Holy Cross Church, Kalaheo.**
- c. Big Island: **Thursday, April 7th at 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Hilo.**
- d. Oahu: **Thursday, April 12th at 7 p.m., Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Honolulu.**

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

"Since Christ accomplished his work of human redemption and of the perfect glorification of God principally through his Paschal Mystery, in which by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life, the sacred Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year" (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, #18). Three major liturgical principles may be of help here:

- a. The Triduum may be viewed as a single liturgical action that occurs over a period of three days.
- b. The Triduum is not part of Lent, but in its entirety, celebrates the Easter event.
- c. The entire focus of the Triduum is on the Triumph of the Cross and the Resurrection.