

PARISH CALENDAR

First Sunday
of Lent

March 6, 2022

When the Lord calls,
I will answer!

Saturday, March 5	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 6	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 7	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 8	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Lenten Reconciliation Service
Wednesday, March 9	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 10	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
Friday, March 11	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Station of the Cross - Outreach
Saturday, March 12	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Gn:15:5-12, 17-18: Abram put faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as righteousness

Phil:3:17-4:1: Paul urged the Philippians to follow his example:

Lk:9:28b-36: Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. There he was transfigured before their eyes.

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Masks)

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

I went back to the old neighborhood a while ago and realized there what everyone who has ever tried to go home discovers. The trees have grown smaller and easier for climbing, the alley where we played hide-and-go-seek has grown narrower, the trip to the corner less daring, and all the old haunts so much less intriguing. But going back also drew forth in me a power I had not imagined or expected. Not only did it reintroduce me to who I am, it renewed the dream of who I could be. Going back to one's roots can do that because it's a going back to where it all began.

Lent can be such a time of returning to our roots. Some would see the season as penitential, a time of reparation for sin; others as a time for growing more prayerful or for reestablishing lives of service or for deepening faith. And it can be all of that. Yet the readings of this Lenten Sunday take us back to how it once was and who was once doing the shaping of life.

There are myriad ways of making the Lenten journey back to our roots. Spend time with the scriptures. Read the lives of the saints. Go on a retreat. Visit a shrine. Keep a journal. Pray the rosary again. Sit with silence. Make the Stations of the Cross. Offer peace to an enemy. Visit the sick or a shut-in. Give enough alms to notice the pinch. Do some spiritual reading. Fast and abstain from meat. They are all part of our tradition and shards of our own pasts. In them we will once more meet ourselves, perhaps as if for the first time, and remember dreams long lost in the clutter of life's demands.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL APPEAL TO AID THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL

AND EASTERN EUROPE: Envelopes are at the back of church for "**Special Appeal to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe for humanitarian aid**," which were asked of all parishes on Ash Wednesday, please pray for the people of Ukraine and to Our Lady, Queen of Peace to bring a swift end to the violence. Thank you for being generous.

HAWAII CATHOLICS FOR TONGA: Mahalo to everyone we gave to "Hawaii Catholics for Tonga" your generosity was greatly appreciated!

THE PILLARS OF LENT! As we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explains, these are "elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity." How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit www.csricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: "The Gospel of Life is "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 6 Sun: 1st Sunday of Lent

Dt :26:4-10; Ps:91: Rom:10:8-13; Lk:4:1-13

Mar 7 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Lev:19:1-2, 11-18; Ps:19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt:25:31-46

Mar 8 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Isa:55:10-11; Ps:34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt:6:7-15

Mar 9 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Jon:3:1-10; Ps:51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk:11:29-32

Mar 10 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Est:C:12:14-16, 23-25; Ps:138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt:7:7-12

Mar 11 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Ez:18:21-28; Ps:130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt:5:20-26

Mar 12 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Dt:26:16-19; Ps:119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt:5:43-48

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

The second reading from Saint Paul to the Romans is a favorite of those involved in the ministry of evangelization. There are no "secret" disciples of the Lord. Those who exercise good stewardship of their faith realize that publicly identifying themselves as followers of Christ has a cleansing effect on their lives. Openly confessing Christ makes them more conscious of how they live their daily lives. Are we content to privatize our faith or are we good stewards of a faith that we share, make public, and regularly identify as a life in Christ? (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

OFFERING THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS

Very few people pay their taxes willingly. We try to find ways around paying income tax. We often contribute to charities, not because we will feel good about supporting their cause, but because our gift is tax deductible. Some people give only to save.

Imagine a different kind of society. Imagine a place where people know their taxes provide good roads, good schools, a fire department, and a recycling service. Imagine people believing so strongly in these goals that they gladly pay their taxes and even contribute additional funds. Imagine that as they pay taxes each year, each person makes a statement renewing citizenship, professing a belief in the community's goals and reverence for its past. In such a society, individuals would care more for the community than for themselves. In the Old Testament, Moses instructed the people to perform this kind of action. They prepared a basket of their first fruits and brought it to their religious leader. There they made a statement of faith, beginning with, "My father was a wandering Aramean." They recounted the history of God's interventions in the lives of their ancestors. They acknowledged their dependence on the faith of their parents and on the goodness of God. Consequently, they brought their gift in gratitude.

Did everyone really do what Moses asked? If they were like us, probably not. But just imagine. Imagine if we did this as a society. Or as a church.

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REPENT!



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One does not
live on bread alone

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



An Answer to Our Cry

Merciful God,
you are always near
to those who call upon you.
You heard the cry of your chosen people
and led them out of Egypt.
You hear our cry when we are in trouble
and lead us away from temptation.
Fill us with your Spirit
and bring us closer to your Son, Jesus,
finding mercy, forgiveness,
and fullness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 6, 2022
Trusting in God



Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:4–10; Psalm 91:1–2, 10–11, 12–13, 4–15; Romans 10:8–13; Luke 4:1–13. Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, we hear the account of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. From the Gospel we learn that our Lord didn't just wander into this desolate land but was led by the Spirit. Jesus trusted that the Spirit would help him through the difficult time ahead.

After long days and nights of fasting in the desert, Jesus was hungry when the devil appeared. The devil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread, to worship him, and to test God's loving care. At every turn, Jesus knew the Spirit was within him, and that his Father was close.

Confident that he would receive strength to sustain him, he did not yield to temptation.

In the first reading, we hear the prayer that the Israelite said while offering the firstfruits of the harvest. This prayer told of trust in God, who heard the cry of the afflicted, brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and led his people to a land of milk and honey. During Lent, we learn again to place our trust in God, for as St. Paul says in the second reading, "Everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved." When we cry out in distress, as our ancestors did, we will be heard. With such knowledge, we pray with the psalmist, "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 7

Whatever You Did for the Least

Catholic social teaching is grounded in the parable of the sheep and goats we hear in today's Gospel. When Jesus comes in his glory, he will gather those who have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the imprisoned, and given drink to the thirsty. Do something this week that benefits those who are poor, hungry, or forgotten. Make sandwiches, donate to a food pantry, or schedule a time to serve a meal at a local dining hall that tends to those less fortunate. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, March 8

Word and Will

When Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, he draws parallels to how we are to live. When we do the will of God in heaven, glory is given to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh. Every time the Our Father is prayed, we ask that God's will be done just as it is done in heaven. How can you help ensure that God's will is done on earth today? *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, March 9

Forgive Us Our Sins

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of an "evil generation." Our generation is another among many that could be labeled the same. Racism, sexism, and ageism lead to injustice. Life is not valued from conception to natural death. Pray to the God of all goodness and compassion, and ask that our collective offenses be washed clean, that we repent of our societal sins, and that we begin to create a new world and live with humble and contrite hearts. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, March 10

Be Attentive

In the reading from Esther, the anguished queen cries out to the Lord to save her from enemies. The psalmist responds confidently in the Lord, proclaiming, "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." Daily, we hear pleas for help at home, work, and even during recreation. When tired or preoccupied, it is easy to tune out these cries for assistance. Be attentive to those who need help, knowing that your behavior is imitating the goodness of God. *Today's readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, March 11

Reconciliation

Jesus, in today's Gospel, tells his disciples that more is necessary than obedience to the commandments. The Lord expects us not only to refrain from harming another but to seek reconciliation when a relationship has fractured. After making peace with another, our worship to God can be authentic. Take time to examine your relationships and write a letter to someone to whom you need to apologize. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, March 12

Blessed Are They

The responsorial psalm proclaims, "Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord." The command that Jesus gives his followers is to love those who persecute them. Jesus instructs that even the pagans and the tax collectors love those who love them. God lets the sun rise on the good and the bad. Christians, who are called to "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect," are to love when it is difficult. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*





The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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February, 28, 2022

Dear Brothers in Christ:

As we approach the holy season of Lent, I write with a special appeal for the Church in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

This Ash Wednesday, I ask you to encourage your priests to promote the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which will allow the faithful to make a timely contribution and provide assistance to the victims of war in Ukraine, among many other projects the Collection supports in the region. If you do not or cannot take up the Collection on March 2, I implore you to find a way to give to the Collection by other means at this critical time.

The USCCB is uniquely positioned to provide aid to the region, having built strong relationships with our brother bishops there these last 30 years, and having given so much assistance in the development of the Church's capacity to respond to pastoral and social needs. A robust response at this moment will allow the Church in the United States to continue to be a strong partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and to give critical and timely humanitarian aid now for Ukraine.

Let us ask Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to bring a swift end to the violence, and thank you for your support of the Subcommittee and its work. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in
Central and Eastern Europe