

# PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday  
of Lent

March 27, 2022

Praise the name of the Lord!

|                     |                       |  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, March 26  | ..... 5:00 p.m.       | Mass                                       |
| Sunday, March 27    | ..... 7:00 a.m.       | Mass                                       |
|                     | ..... 9:00 a.m.       | Mass (Live Stream)                         |
|                     | ..... 5:00 p.m.       | Mass                                       |
| Monday, March 28    | ..... 8:00 a.m.       | Mass                                       |
|                     | ..... 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open                           |
| Tuesday, March 29   | ..... 8:00 a.m.       | Mass                                       |
| Wednesday, March 30 | ..... 8:00 a.m.       | Mass                                       |
|                     | ..... 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open                           |
| Thursday, March 31  | ..... 8:00 a.m.       | Mass                                       |
| Friday, April 1     | ..... 8:00 a.m.       | Communion Service                          |
|                     | ..... 7:00 p.m.       | <b>Station of the Cross - Prayer Group</b> |
| Saturday, April 2   | ..... 10:00-12 pm     | <b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>      |
|                     | ..... 5:00 p.m.       | Mass                                       |



## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Isa:43:16-21:** Isaiah recounted how the Lord crushed the enemies of Israel.

**Phil:3:8-14:** Paul told Philippians how much he has forfeited in order to arrive at resurrection from the dead.

**Jn:8:1-11:** Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. Hoping he would condemn her to death by stoning.

**(Masks are optional but encouraged)**

**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/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/)**

## REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

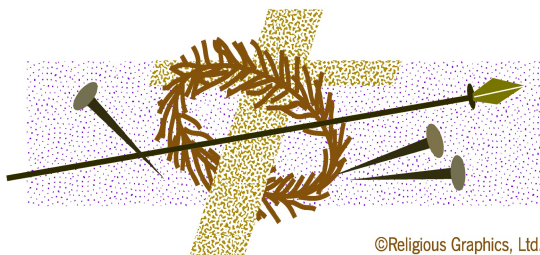
When Israel packed its few bags and went rushing out of Egypt, God's chosen people began a journey into being a new creation, from being a nation of slaves to being a nation of free men and women, a people under the heel of Egypt to one joined to God by the covenant, a community that ate manna (which literally means "What is it?") to one that ate the produce of the promised land. This journey took forty years and it wasn't easy.

When the prodigal son finally "came to his senses" and realized he would be better off back home as a hired worker than stealing slop from the pigs, he began a journey from being lost to being found, from being dead to being alive. This journey did not take forty years, but how do you measure in clock time a journey that transforms the heart? This journey wasn't easy either.

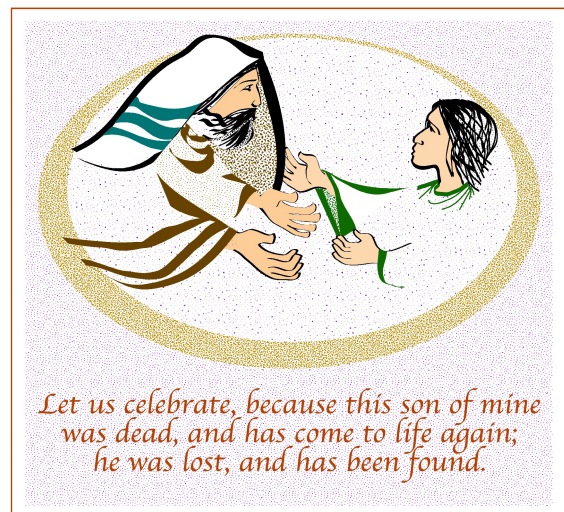
The path to being a new creation can take forty years, forty days, forty minutes, or forty seconds. Sometimes it involves an outer journey; it is always an inner one. It is difficult—dying to self always is. What matters is that we make it. Because the end result is the radiance of a people, or a son or daughter, who has finally arrived where they belong, at a party where the Father has an arm around them and the older brother who brought this about through his saving death is standing at the Father's side, with the Spirit hovering above them all.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

Copyright © 2012, World Library Publications. All rights reserved



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



Let us celebrate, because this son of mine  
was dead, and has come to life again;  
he was lost, and has been found.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE:** If you miss St. Rita's Penance Service, here are the dates for the Leeward Vicariate:  
**Mon, 3/28 @ 7 pm - St. Jude, Kapolei**  
**Tue, 4/5 @ 7 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ewa Beach**

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE:** This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **reveal Christ's love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**DRIVEN BY A DREAM:** Malnutrition is widespread in Rwanda, but Glorioso and her husband are doing everything they can to keep their children healthy and set them up for success. From learning to grow a kitchen garden to participating in a micro-saving group, Glorioso and Karekezi know it takes many resources to help their children thrive. How can we help others access what they need this Lent? Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture life. . . Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those "brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best themselves". . . . We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (*The Gospel of Life* 86)

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Mar 27 Sun: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Jos:5:9a, 10-12; Ps:34: 2 Cor:5:17-21; Lk:15:1-3, 11-32

**Mar 28 Mon: Lenten Weekday**

Is:65:17-21; Ps:30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Jn:4:43-54

**Mar 29 Tue: Lenten Weekday**

Ez:47:1-9, 12; Ps:46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn:5:1-16

**Mar 30 Wed: Lenten Weekday**

Is:49:8-15; Ps:145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn:5:17-30

**Mar 31 Thur: Lenten Weekday**

Ex:32:7-14; Ps:106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn:5:31-47

**Apr 1 Fri: The Lenten Weekday**

Wis :2:1a, 12-22; Ps:34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; Jn:7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Apr 2 Sat: Lenten Weekday**

Jer:11:18, 20; Ps:7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn:7:40-53

## NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Today we hear one of the most beloved stories in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. Reconciliation is a prominent theme. Seeing the younger son returning to him, the son who left the family and squandered his inheritance, the compassionate father runs to embrace him. Jesus offers us a vision of a loving God who is merciful and forgiving when we, through our own sinfulness, leave his presence, and then through repentance, return to him. The remainder of the Lenten season offers us an opportunity to reflect on God's compassion and our need for reconciliation. If you have not done so already, consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation and experience God's loving embrace and forgiveness. The answer requires some urgency.  
(*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 website [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**

## SIMPLE BLESSING

Unleavened cakes and parched grain do not sound like much of a menu. But it was a banquet for the Israelites of long ago. Freed from their slavery in Egypt, they made the long trek through the desert to reach the Promised Land. They trudged a long, tiring, and dangerous journey. Moses, their leader, had died. Now Joshua, his successor, had brought them to their homeland.

It was Passover, the festival commemorating their departure from Egypt. So the people celebrated the feast with food from their new home: unleavened cakes and parched grain. They no longer ate the food of Egypt. They no longer ate the manna from the desert. Now, camped on a plain in Gilgal, they ate the food of their new home, the food of freedom.

You appreciate things more if you have had to go without them. Food tastes better if you are hungry. Employment satisfies more if you were unemployed. Shelter feels safer if you have been without a home. God's presence feels stronger when you rediscover prayer.

It may not seem like much — unleavened cakes and parched grain — but for the Israelites it was a banquet. They may not seem like much — the little blessings God gives us — but for those who experience God's mercy, they are heaven.

*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. Lectonary for Mass © 2001, CCD.*



your  
prayers  
rise like  
incense  
to the  
LORD



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Returning to You

Loving God,  
you are compassionate and forgiving,  
showing us mercy through all time.  
We bless you, God of goodness,  
for you hear our cry,  
and reach out in our distress.  
As your holy people,  
we ask that you hear our prayer  
for a clean heart and a renewed spirit,  
so that we may turn back to you  
and receive your everlasting peace.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**  
**Lavish and Bountiful Mercy**



*Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10–12; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.* A loving father with property and some wealth. A son who is steadfast but jealous. A son who is unsettled and wanders. In today's language, the family in the Gospel parable might be called “dysfunctional.”

This family is not very different from today's families whose members exhibit a mix of jealousy, misbehavior, and mercy. After the younger son squanders his inheritance, he returns to his home with humility. The father greets the son, pouring out his love and mercy, and the son's return is celebrated with much feasting. However, the older son, because of

his jealousy, is blinded to his father's goodness, and selfishly questions the father's decisions. This son who has worked hard for his father does not realize what has been right in front of him for his entire life. The father in the story wants to share his wealth and life and love with both of his children, but pride gets in the way for the older son. With humility, the younger son accepts his father's forgiveness.

At times in our lives any of us might act as the younger son, at other times as the older son, and sometimes like the father. God is consistent, always offering unending love and mercy. He always seeks to find the lost and offer life to those once dead to sin.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 28 Seek the Miracle

With faith, the royal official asked Jesus to heal his son. Upon the son's healing, the whole household came to believe. Do you have a request for God? Realize that God is awaiting your petition. Look for Jesus today, for God is creating new heavens and a new earth at every moment. Find a miracle that unfolds for you today, however small, and share that with someone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54. Optional for any day this week: Micah 7:7–9; Psalm 27:1, 7–8a, 8b–9abc, 13–14; John 9:1–41.*

### Tuesday, March 29 You Are Near

“The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob,” we pray with the psalmist today. The psalm tells of the “astounding things” God has wrought on the earth. In the Gospel, the Lord certainly was with the sick man who had been unable to enter the pool. There we see the God of mercy who restores the man to wholeness. Trusting in God's presence, pray the refrain of today's psalm throughout the day. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6; 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

### Wednesday, March 30 So Also the Son

In today's Gospel, Jesus states that “a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing.” Jesus, the Son, does not do anything except through the power of God. What Jesus knows and sees the Father doing, Jesus will do. Who has taught you how to live as a Christian? Write a letter or call the person to acknowledge and thank them for their example. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

### Thursday, March 31 Whom Do You Believe?

Many words and images come at us daily. Social media, news outlets, conversations with colleagues and friends flood us with messages. Jesus describes the many witnesses to his identity and power, but his listeners still don't trust all that he has to offer. What helps you believe that Jesus is the Savior? What keeps you focused on his message of truth? Make a point to name and claim that this week. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

### Friday, April 1 Ever Close

Have you ever felt brokenhearted? Do you know someone who is? Today's psalm reminds us that God is always close to those in need, to those struggling, and to anyone in distress. Be especially attentive to show kindness to people you meet. Many people are struggling silently. Your compassionate presence will be a sharing of your faith in our loving and merciful God. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

### Saturday, April 2 Unite in Christ

In today's Gospel, we hear of a division occurring as people argued over whether Jesus is the Christ. Today, many people hostilely debate matters of Christianity. A visible sign of the reign of God is unity, which can be sometimes hard to achieve even in a parish. Talk about unity with your family or a friend and make a commitment to help unite people as the people of God rather than create any further divisions. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

