

PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday
of Lent

March 12, 2023

Jesus is Lord!

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|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday, March 11 | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Sunday, March 12 | 7:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Mass (Live Stream) |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Monday, March 13 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| Tuesday, March 14 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| Wednesday, March 15 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, March 16 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| Friday, March 17 | 8:00 a.m. | Communion Service |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross - R. E. |
| Saturday, March 18 | 10:30 a.m. | Funeral Service - Pauline "Nani" Reyes (+) |
| | 10:00-12 pm | NO Confession |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Sm: 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a: *The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where Samuel was to anoint the new King of Israel.*

Eph:5:8-14: *Live as children of the light in goodness, justice, and truth.*

Jn:9:1-41: *Jesus cured a man born blind, The Pharisees became upset because he did this on the Sabbath.*

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

WATER IN THE DESERT

In the desert of our lives there are plenty of complaints. Bills are too high. Friends are too few. Health is too frail. Faith is too weak. In the desert of our lives there is plenty of blame. Our leaders are unconcerned. Children are too demanding. Society is sinful. Life is not fair.

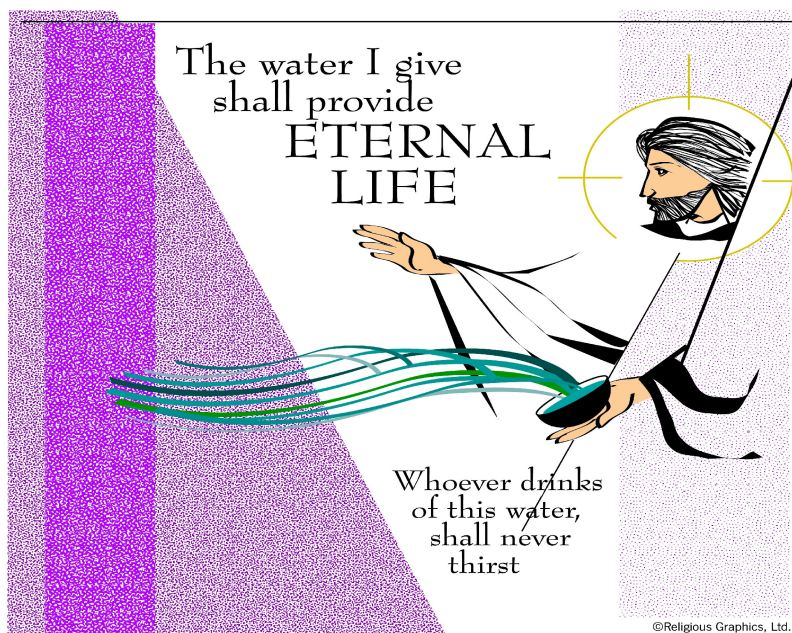
In the desert, the people of Israel grumble against Moses. They have too little water, and they are blaming Moses. Moses blames God, and asks for some divine intervention.

God promises Moses, "I will stand in front of you on the rock." Moses strikes that rock, and water gushes forth.

Life brings its share of struggle. We sometimes rebel against the very place where God has invited us to be. We forget that God has given us life, has entered into covenant with us, and stands ever before us. So we complain. We may not realize that we are standing right at the water for which we thirst.

The discomforts of your life will not be hard to name. Have you brought some of them on yourself? Has God placed some of them in your path? Do you trust that God stands with you, water at the ready? From where will that water come?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: If you missed St. Rita's Lenten Reconciliation Services listed below is the Leeward Vicariate Lenten Reconciliation Services:

Mon: March 13th @ 7:00 p. m. - St. Jude - Kapolei

Mon: March 20th @ 7:00 p.m. - Immaculate Conception - Ewa

Thur: March 23rd @ 7:00 p. m. - Sacred Heart - Wai'anae

Thur: March 30th @ 7:00 p. m. - Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Ewa Beach

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE: Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from the collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Dispensation for St. Patrick's Day, 2023:

Many people enjoy celebrating St. Patrick's Day, March 17, with corned beef and cabbage. In light of this tradition, Bishop Silva dispenses from the obligation of Lenten Friday abstinence from meat any Catholic living in or visiting the Diocese of Honolulu (State of Hawaii) for that day only. Those

who take advantage of this dispensation should choose another day that week to abstain from meat.

RICE BOWL: FROM FARMING TO FISHING Raul and Rhodora were coconut farmers in their town in the Philippines, but it took a lot of work before they made money. They participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that helped them build their own fishpond to raise and sell fish. The fish provide nutritious food for their family and more accessible income, enabling Raul and Rhodora's granddaughters to attend school. What changes have you made in your professional, personal or spiritual life that have benefitted others? Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: "We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the "culture of death" and the "culture of life". We find ourselves not only "faced with" but necessarily "in the midst of" this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life" (The Gospel of Life 28)

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 12 Sun: Third Sunday of Lent

Ex:17:3-4; Ps:95; Rom:5:1-2, 5-8; Jn:4:5-42

Mar 13 Mon: Lenten Weekday

2 Kgs:5:1-15b; Ps:42: 2, ; 43: 3, 4; Lk:4:24-30

Mar 14 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Dn:3:25, 34-43; Ps:25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt:18:21-35

Mar 15 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dt:4:1, 5-9; Ps:147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt:5:17-19

Mar 16 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Jer :7:23-28; Ps:95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk:11:14-23

Mar 17 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Hos:14:2-10; Ps:81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab 14 & 17; Mk:12:28-34

Mar 18 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Hos:6:1-6; Ps:51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk:18:9-14

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Jesus' longest-recorded conversation with anyone is the one he has with the Samaritan woman at the well. She discovers she can be honest with Jesus and goes and tells others about him. She gives witness. She's not the most certain, thorough or even convincing witness. But her witness is enough. It is inviting, humble, non-judgmental and sincere. What is the quality of our witness? How do our words and actions give daily testimony on behalf of Christ? During this season of Lent, how might we do a better job at proclaiming the risen Lord in word and deed? (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.sritananakuli.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

WITHHOLDING FORGIVENESS

If someone offends you and apologizes, you are probably willing to forgive. But if someone offends you and never apologizes, you might withhold forgiveness.

You might do a favor for someone you love or even for a complete stranger. But if someone has offended you and never apologized for it, you probably will not do a favor for that person. Offenders might think the wrong they have done was not so bad after all. You would not want to take that risk.

You would not take that risk, but God would. God did. God did all of us a favor. God sent the only-begotten Son into the world to suffer and die so that we could have eternal life. God did this not for those who committed the least sin, not for those who fasted, not for those with the most service hours, and not for those who made the best grades. God did it for everyone. God even did it for sinners.

St. Paul tells the Romans that Christ died for the ungodly. "Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die."

How different God is from us. We would not give the time of day to people we know are sinners. Jesus gave his life for them. Jesus gave his life for you, no matter what you have done or how well you have apologized. God's love lies beyond human experience.

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If today
you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Look Deep

All-knowing God,
you see deep into our hearts
and understand all that we need.
Thank you for meeting us
in the everyday messiness of our lives.
Look upon us with compassion
and mercy.

Free us from anything that blocks
a true relationship with you
and quench the spiritual thirst
we carry today.

Pour your love into our hearts anew
and guide our paths to eternal life,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 12, 2023
God Sees Our Hearts



Today's readings: Exodus 17:3–7; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 5:1–2, 5–8; John 4:5–42. The Third Sunday of Lent marks the midpoint on our journey from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. Day by day the invitations to turn our hearts toward God and receive his gifts of mercy and love intensify. The midday encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well amplifies the invitation extended on Ash Wednesday to "return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12).

We can imagine Jesus approaching each new encounter seeking to intuit, "What does their heart need from me?" Jesus immediately perceived the deepest needs of the woman's heart and pivoted the conversation from physical thirst to spiritual thirst. His willingness to ignore the social norms

of the time and speak to her with frank familiarity reminds us that God's invitation to relationship is for everyone, no matter our past, our gender, our ancestry, our place in life.

Jesus reveals his divine purpose to this outcast woman and offers her the hope of eternal life. Our second reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, echoes this remarkable promise, "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (5:5).

Throughout Lent, God summons us unceasingly. The woman at Jacob's well represents every one of us. When God looks deeply into your heart today, what spiritual thirst needs to be quenched?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 13

Look for the Prophets

Prophets are people specially chosen to be messengers of God's Word in their time and place. Our Scriptures tell story after story about the persistence of prophets and resistance to their message. Prophets often surprise us in their simplicity and ordinariness. Take a moment today to look for the prophets God has sent in the here and now. Open your heart to the message they offer. *Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 14

70 × 7

Today's message cuts right to the heart. Forgiveness is hard. But it is a requirement of discipleship. Jesus calls us to forgive and forgive and forgive again. Take this command to prayer today. Whom do you still need to forgive? It might even be yourself. Write a letter to Jesus specifically naming whom you need to forgive, the reason, and ask for help to take the next step. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8 and 9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 15

Living Witnesses

Pope Francis reminds us that “all of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 121). No matter our occupation or place in life, we are first and foremost teachers of our faith. We teach with our words, but even more through our actions, gestures, and choices. Our ultimate purpose is to allow our life to speak the faith we carry within. This is how we give glory to God. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 16

Listen to My Voice

The Lord commands, “Listen to my voice” (Jeremiah 7:23). The psalmist echoes, “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95:7–8). The voice of the Lord that comes to us daily through the season requires our openness. While serious, challenging, and straightforward, our Lord clearly speaks the path of life for us. He tells us how to live, how to love, how to pray, how to give, how to forgive. Do you allow his voice to guide your life? Take these thoughts to prayer. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 17

St. Patrick

Patrick and his monks ministered to the people of Ireland in the early fifth century. The monks based their spirituality on that of St. Jerome and St. Augustine, who affirmed that no person can walk without a guide. The monks practiced an early form of confessional counseling, inviting people to acknowledge their sins and repair the conduct of their Christian lives. This week marks the midpoint of Lent. How are you doing toward creating a clean heart? There is still plenty of time before Easter to seek the sacrament of reconciliation and make needed adjustments in daily choices. *Today's readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 18

Cultivate Humility

Humility is a virtue that exudes from our very being. The virtue is conveyed with our eyes, with our demeanor, and with our spirit, even before words reveal our true selves. A spirit of humility is cultivated through a life of gratitude for the blessings we have received and with sincere awareness of our dependence upon the generous giver of those blessings. There is always room to grow so we call upon the words of the psalmist in our daily prayer and ask for a humble spirit. *Today's readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*

