

PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

March 19, 2023

The precepts of the Lord
give joy to my heart.

Saturday, March 18	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 19	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 20	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, March 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday, March 25	..... 10:00-12 pm	NO Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ez:37:12-14: *The Lord God told the people that soon the graves of the dead would open and they would rise.*

Rom:8:8-11: *Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."*

Jn:11:1-45: *Lazarus died, and Jesus raised him from death. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;*

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

Anointed with the Spirit

Once in a while, God gives us a sign of hope. The clouds of winter yield to the sun of spring. A new friendship develops. An infant brings new joy to a family. Although the season of Lent has urged us to think about sin, it does so against a background of hope. We do not hear the story of sin without hearing also the story of salvation.

When Samuel visited Jesse to anoint a king from among his sons, Israel received a sign of hope. God chose not the eldest son of lofty stature but the youngest son who was busy tending sheep. Samuel anointed him with a horn of oil and God's Spirit rushed upon the young man. We learn his name only at the end of today's reading: David.

David, overlooked by those who should have seen with God's eyes, became a symbol of Jesus. The legendary kingship of David foreshadowed the blessed kingship of Jesus. Jesus is the one we call "Christ," a title that means "anointed."

On your journey through Lent, you have entered a period of renewal. Are you beginning to see God at work within you this season? Can you see the Spirit of God in others where you have not noticed it before?

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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 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: 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.

RICE BOWL: SHARING SUCCESS Most people in Turkana, Kenya raise livestock, and a few are farmers. But the hot and dry climate makes this work difficult-and climate change is making it even harder. Rebecca and Lotiang participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that installed water well and taught them new farming techniques. They can support their family with their crops and are teaching others in their community what they learned. How can you use your skills and knowledge to help others? Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

WORD OF LIFE: "To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life. . . . In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living god, an icon of Jesus Christ" (The Gospel of Life 84)

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 19 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam:16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps:23; Ep:5:8-14; Jn:9:1-42

Mar 20 Mon: Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sam:7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps:89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Rm: 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt:1:16, 18-21, 24a

Mar 21 Tue: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 22 Wed: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 23 Thur: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 24 Fri: Lenten Weekday

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

Mar 25 Sat: The Annunciation of the Lord

Is:7:10-14, 8:10; Ps:40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb: 10:4-10;

Lk:1:26-38

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Saint Paul gives us a wake up call. A stewards of the light of Christ, we are to reflect that light with the help of the Holy Spirit. If Christ's work has transformed and illuminated our lives, there should be a change. The light of Christ's active presence should be at work, in us. And as the light shines within us, we take on the properties of that light and we shine too. We are used by God to shine the light of Christ in the lives of others. A challenging Lenten reflection: Is the light of Christ shining in our hearts? Is the light of Christ reflecting out from us to others? (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

Sleep Walk

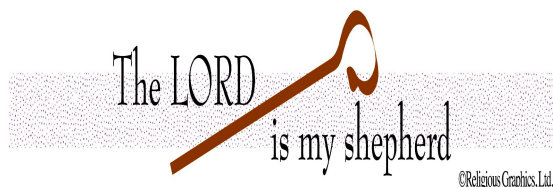
Sleep is beautiful when it comes at the right time but embarrassing otherwise. Some people sleep through class. They sleep at meetings. They sleep during concerts. They mean well, but they miss out on important moments of life. Other people sleep through life in other ways. They are unaware of political issues, unconcerned for the needs of the poor, ignorant of manners, aloof from people seeking their attention. Some people sleep through life, through relationships, and through faith.

Around the world, many people are unaware of Christ. It is as if they are asleep. They live in a darkness outside the light of the good news. They may have some inner sense of goodness, given as a gift from God. But they may not yet have heard the Gospel or had the opportunity to live it in faith.

Through Baptism, we have been awakened from our sleep. Christ is our light. The Letter to the Ephesians says, "Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." Baptism has changed our status. We no longer belong to the night. We shine with the light of day.

But this has consequences: "Live as children of light." Having moved from darkness to light, we now have responsibilities. Let us shake off the sleep that threatens to keep us from being faithful to Christ. Throughout this Lent, let us rise from sleep and live in light.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Help Us See

Good and gracious God,
you see our inner life,
and bring light to the darkness.
Thank you for shining your loving
kindness
on our desire to know your Son.
Lift our hearts with joy today.
Help us inhale the signs of spring hope
coming to life around us.
Cast your holy light on the shadows
of our lives
and heal our spiritual wounds.
Gift us with the desire to see the world
with the eyes of faith
through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Spiritual Sight

Today's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, a name inspired by the entrance antiphon, “Rejoice, O Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:10). Today, we momentarily pause from some of the penitential observances of Lent. With joy, our eyes turn toward Easter. This spirit of rejoicing is reflected in our liturgies, which differ from the other Sundays of Lent. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. The priest may wear rose-colored vestments, ordinarily worn only on one other day of the liturgical year, the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday.

The Scripture readings also highlight reasons to rejoice. Jesus proclaims to his disciples, to a blind man on

the side of the road, and ultimately to all of us, “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). Perceiving the deepest needs of the man’s heart, Jesus performs a miraculous healing. He restores the man’s physical sight to offer him spiritual sight. Through his subsequent encounters with Jesus, the healed man comes to see, believe, and follow him.

Today we are invited to wake up from our blindness. Jesus looks into our hearts and desires to illuminate our intrinsic goodness. He offers us the gift of spiritual sight to see God’s essence radiating through all human reality. Shall we follow the blind man’s lead and joyfully look at the world and all those we meet with the eyes of faith?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 20

St. Joseph

Today we lift up Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph, who embodied virtue as a father, dedicated worker, compassionate husband, and faithful listener. In fact, our sacred Scriptures recount his choices but never his words. Four times Joseph listens to the angel sent by God to guide his choices, and each time he courageously answers with quiet, trusting obedience. Make time today to emulate his prayer stance by quieting your heart and listening. *Today's readings:* 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.

Tuesday, March 21

Holistic Healing

The healing power of Jesus is on full display in the Gospel story about the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. As with most healing stories attributed to Jesus, being “made well” is twofold. Jesus restores both physical health and implores those who are healed to seek spiritual health by avoiding sin. Lent offers us the path to wholeness. Healing comes in a variety of forms. Where do you need Jesus' healing touch today? *Today's readings:* Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 22

The Lord is Near

The responsorial psalm today gets right to the hopeful theme of Lent: God desires to be close to us. The descriptions of the Lord as kind, merciful, slow to anger, gracious, kind, compassionate, faithful, attentive, just, and holy lead to the acclamation that “the LORD is near to all who call upon him” (Psalm 145:18). Place Psalm 145 on your bathroom mirror or over your kitchen sink where you will be reminded throughout each day of God's enduring desire to be in relationship

with us. *Today's readings:* Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 23

Sent by God

Jesus makes a bold claim to the Jewish community: “the Father has sent me.” As he says this, Jesus implores them to heed his voice and trace his living presence to the promises made to Moses. They respond with blind resistance. We have the gift of a much longer view on this interchange between Jesus and the community. Do we respond with faith or skepticism? *Today's readings:* Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.

Friday, March 24

Close to the Brokenhearted

Our responsorial psalm tenderly proclaims the promise that the Lord is “close to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:19). Part of the human condition is the experience of loss, disappointment, rejection, grief, and depression. Our faith offers us confident consolation that the Lord saves “those who are crushed in spirit” (34:19). Remember that we are never alone in our despair; the Lord never forgets us but especially leans in to be close when we are low. *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, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

The word *annunciation* means “announcement.” In our faith story, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary changes the course of history. Lent reminds us that God is announcing good news to us in a variety of forms and through the most unexpected messengers. Attend to the angels in our midst, sent by God to inspire, encourage, challenge, and affirm us. The week began with Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. Today's feast bookends our week of rejoicing. What good news is God offering us today? *Today's readings:* Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.

