

PARISH CALENDAR

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

March 26, 2023

My Jesus, mercy!



Saturday, March 25	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 26	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 27	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED -
		PRINCE KUHIO HOLIDAY
Tuesday, March 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 30	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, March 31	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - R. E.
Saturday, April 1	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:50:4-7: *The servant of Lord God was rebuffed but did not turn back; he was beaten and spat upon.*
Phil:2:6-11: *Christ was in the form of God but did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped at. He emptied himself, took the form of a slave.*
Mt:26:14-27:66: *The passion and death of Jesus includes accounts of his betrayal, trial condemnation, suffering, crucifixion, and burial.*

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

A Change of Heart

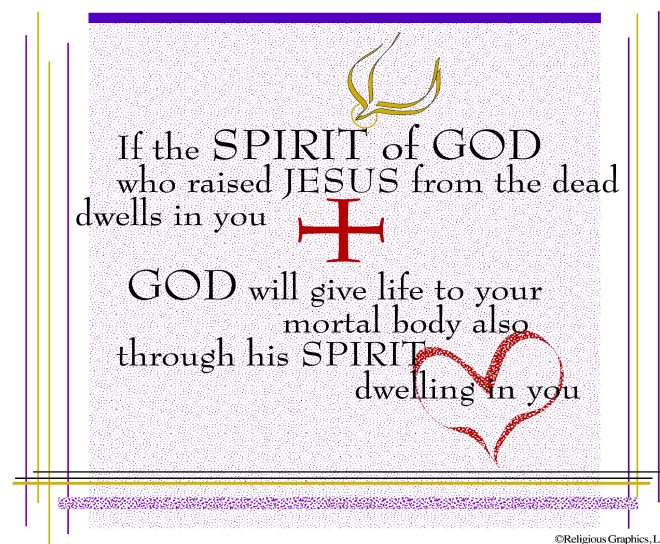
Are you still being faithful to your Lenten resolutions? No matter how firm or weak your resolve, you have come to face the mystery of sin, loss, and death. Changing old habits is hard. To change something is to lose something. Those chosen for Baptism this Easter will change their old habits. They will put to death whatever has kept them from life in Christ.

The faithful also will change old habits. They will put to death the sin that mars their faithfulness to God. All in the community need the prayerful and penitential support of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ezekiel addresses people who have lived in exile and oppression, far from the center of their social and religious life. They have lived in a tomb. Now God promises, "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." God will dwell with them and give them the divine spirit.

This Lent, the church has invited you to examine your life, to confront your sin, and to secure your intent to change. The season is nearly over. The day of promise draws near. God stands ready to open your grave and bring you forth to new life. If you die to whatever keeps you from God, you will grow from the lessons of loss.

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

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE: Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. For more information on how to give.

RICE BOWL: THE POWER OF SACRIFICE Lent can feel like a long time. Sometimes we'd like to skip right to Easter! But through prayer and sacrifices, we share in Christ's suffering and prepare for the joy of his resurrection. This Lent, we've learned how people in Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya made sacrifices so their families and communities can thrive. How have your Lenten sacrifices helped your family and community and communities around the world? Visit 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 of 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 and effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of 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 26 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Mar 27 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Dn: 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps:23:12-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn:8:1-11

Mar 28 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Nm:21:4-9; Ps:102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn:8:21-30

Mar 29 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dn:3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn:3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn:8:31-42

Mar 30 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Gb :17:3-9; Ps:105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:8:51-59

Mar 31 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Jer:20:10-13; Ps:18:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7; Jn:10:31-42

Apr 01 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Ez:37:21-28; Jer:31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn:11:45-56

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Jesus called to his friend from the dead, "Lazarus, come out!" It is the same call our Lord makes to us unceasingly: "Come Out!" Jesus calls us from our tomb of doubt and unbelief, from the darkness of our fear and anxieties; from the depths of our weaknesses and lack of hope. Christian stewards pray for an open heart so that they may hear the voice of the Lord, heed the continuous call to come away from their former way of living and reprioritize their lives in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do we believe Christ has the power to transform our lives? Do we take time to listen for his call? (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

Dead from Sin, Alive With Spirit

As Lent nears its end, we become more mindful of our sins. We have promised to renew our hearts throughout this season. We have accepted a spirit of penitence. The elect, who are preparing for Baptism at Easter, have received our prayers in scrutiny rites that purify their intentions and turn their hearts more firmly toward Christ.

But at this stage of Lent, we may be even more aware of our sin. Perhaps we have not been completely faithful to our Lenten resolutions. Perhaps we feel more strongly the difficult challenge to overcome bad habits that have taken years to form. Lent offers promise, but it sometimes causes discouragement.

Sin is no stranger to the human condition. But sin is not our natural condition. Through Baptism, we are children of God. St. Paul tells the Romans not to feel disappointed by their experience of sin, because the Spirit of God is much more powerful. "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness." God's Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. The same Spirit dwells within us. The same Spirit gives life to our bodies prone to death.

If Lent has made us more aware of our sin, it should also make us more aware of God's love. God's Spirit reaches us, holds us, and lifts us high—in spite of our sin.

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Guide Us

God of life,
you raised Lazarus from death
and in doing so revealed your divine love.
Open our ears to your truth,
help us see your glory,
and empower us to trust and believe.
Guide our minds and hearts
in these final days of Lent,
purify us from anything
that blocks us from belief,
so that we will be ready
to sincerely profess our faith
with the Church community at Easter.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 26, 2023
Do You Believe This?



Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:12–14; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Romans 8:8–11; John 11:1–45. The readings from the Gospel of John proclaimed on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are explicitly tied to the scrutiny rites celebrated with those preparing for baptism at Easter. Throughout Lent, the assembly participates in these rites that are part of the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The assembly, too, benefits spiritually as all pray that the candidates be enlightened with a deeper knowledge of Christ and purified from anything that blocks their full assent of belief. Those seeking baptism are preparing to approach the font and make a profession of faith in front of the community. Simultaneously, the rest of us are preparing to renew our baptismal promises with full hearts.

These Gospel accounts guide us so that we may hear and believe (like the Samaritan woman), see and believe (like the man born blind), and finally believe without proof (like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus). In each of these Gospels, Jesus reveals his true identity. They culminate in the exchange between Jesus and Martha on the road to Bethany. Jesus proclaims to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) and then asks Martha, “Do you believe this?”

This final week of Lent invites us to join those preparing for baptism in prayer and reflection. Are you ready to affirm with Martha: “Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world” (John 11:27)?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 27

True Justice

Daily news sources regularly report stories of innocent people wrongly imprisoned. Seeking exoneration for the wrongfully convicted is the life work of many people committed to truth and justice. Today's Scripture stories remind us that this sin has repeated itself across the centuries. One of the corporal works of mercy urges care for the imprisoned. How are you called to a deeper awareness of the need for an unbiased criminal justice system? *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

Tuesday, March 28

Not Alone

Patience runs thin in today's Scripture readings. The Israelites complain with weariness on their sojourn to the Promised Land. The Pharisees of Jerusalem shudder in exasperation at the words of Jesus. Jesus offers a message of assurance in response, "The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone." No matter our frustration or lack of understanding, God remains steadfast and close to us. When impatience flares, try this antidote: take five deep breaths, recall God's nearness, and then respond. *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

Wednesday, March 29

Keep Holy the Lord's Name

There is a beloved *VeggieTales* episode recounting the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's trust in God's faithfulness in the face of King Nebuchadnezzar and the fiery furnace. These trusting servants of God stand in the fire and sing with one voice to God, "Blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages" (Daniel 3:52). They provide a poignant model of trust in God and reverence for God's holy name. Pay attention to your use

of the Lord's name today. Are there instances when you do not honor the name of the Lord in your speech? *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 30

Remain Steadfast

As Holy Week draws near, the promises made to the faithful through the covenant with Abraham echo stronger in our daily Scriptures. Jesus faces threats from all sides and the psalmist assures us that the Lord "remembers forever his covenant" (Psalm 105:8). We are close to the end of our Lenten journey. God has constantly communicated his desire to be close to us. Have you responded with faithfulness to your Lenten intentions? *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3–9; Psalm 105:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 8:51–59.*

Friday, March 31

The Lord, Our Strength

The prophet Jeremiah, the psalmist, and Jesus all face threats and enemy attacks. Yet all three readings echo trust in God's mantle of protection and steadfast faithfulness. They provide a powerful reminder for us that God is near in times of great distress. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, April 1

Dwell in God

The promises of the prophet Ezekiel are a source of hope for the faithful across all generations. Ezekiel delivers the assurance of God, "My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Ezekiel 37:27). The enemies of Jesus circle in close and the Scriptures remind us that God is even closer, "like a shepherd guarding his flock" (Jeremiah 31:10). Holy Week begins tomorrow. Make plans to accompany Jesus through the solemn remembrances of his journey from suffering to resurrection. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*

