

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



LENT THROUGH THE LENS OF GRACE

by Andy Alexander, SJ, Maureen McCann Waldron

Just imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent we've experienced. Imagine that there will be many graces offered us this year. Let's even imagine that God is going to help transform our lives, with greater freedom, greater joy, and deeper desires for love and service.

Preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If we imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time to dread in some way, then we've already pre-disposed ourselves to not get very much out of it. These days before Lent are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen.

Our sense of excitement and anticipation will grow more easily if we begin to imagine what God wants to give us. There is something coming that we can truly look forward to. If we get too focused on ourselves and what we are going to do or not do, we could risk missing the gift God wants to give us. We have to keep aware of the fact that grace comes from God. This is about God's great desire to bless us. With this mindset, it is easier for us to imagine that what we really want to do is place ourselves in a space to receive what God wants to give us.

We receive God's gifts as body-persons. We experience things with our senses, relish them with our imaginations, and share in God's own creative and loving activity when our hearts and hands work together for and with others.

We can let our homes be places full of the holy – things that help raise our minds and hearts to God. Our world is full of so many images that lure our minds and hearts elsewhere. Some symbols will carry the ongoing meaning we give them, for us and for our families and loved ones.

We can make sure that we have a crucifix in a central place in our home during Lent. A bowl of water on our dining room table can be transformed into a reminder of our preparing to renew our baptismal promises. A candle can be lit at each meal to remind us of the light of Christ among us in Lent and to prepare us for the new fire being lit at the Easter Vigil. Placing a Bible in a central place in our home reminds us of the central place of God's Word in our lives on this Lenten journey.

This year's Lent can be different. It will take an openness to God's grace, a deep desire to receive what is being offered us, and a few signs and symbols to help us stay focused throughout the season. But if we do these things, God's desire for our hearts and our desire for greater union with God will meet. Lent will no longer feel like a burden, but rather a blessing.



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
 95-370 Kuahelani Ave. Mililani, Hawaii 96789 | (808) 623-3332
www.stjohnmililani.org

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT: WE ARE A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY—called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service* and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to install, in our parish community the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

PASTOR Fr. Anthony Rapozo

In Residence Fr. John Gabriel

DEACONS Dcn. Romeo Ganibe

Dcn. Mike Browning

*FULL Parish Clergy & Staff Directory available
on our website.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 8AM Monday – Saturday

Sunday: 5PM (Saturday Vigil), 7AM, 9AM,
11AM & 6PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30PM

PARISH RECTORY HOURS

Monday Closed

Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM – 12PM,
1PM - 4PM
Closed 12PM – 1PM
for lunch

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE FEB 10/11

Sunday Collection	\$ 11, 421.00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 4,150.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 105.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 155.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 896.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 15.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 20.00
Candles	\$ 584.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 37.00
Augustine Education Foundation	\$ 820.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 18,203.40

Please call the office for all other inquiries:
 Anointing, Baptisms, Blessings, Food Pantry,
 Funeral, Homebound Communion & Marriage.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B MASS READINGS

Genesis 9:8–15

Psalms 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9. 1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:12–15



SUMMARY

The first chapter of Mark moves us into the action of Jesus' public life and ministry quite quickly. In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus enters the desert, driven there by the Holy Spirit, where he is tempted by the devil. Luke's Gospel (4:13) gives more details of this encounter. The first thing that Satan says to Jesus is "**If you are** the Son of God, command this stone to become bread" (Lk 4:3).

It might seem strange to start breaking open these readings with a quote from the devil, but if we listen carefully, we can hear in them an echo of Satan's strategy used by the serpent with Eve from the third chapter of Genesis. Satan's words to Jesus in today's Gospel are meant to strike at the heart of Jesus' identity and relationship with the Father. In the same way, the devil's question to Eve, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1) was meant to attack her trust and relationship with her heavenly Father. That question ultimately led to the Fall of Man and humanity's separation from God.

Not willing to abandon us to death—the consequence of abusing our free will—the Father set a plan of salvation in motion that reached its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who would make satisfaction for our sins through his life and Death, and in his Resurrection and Ascension would make it possible for us to receive his divine life and experience intimacy and union with God in the reality of His Kingdom.

In order to prepare the world for the coming of his Son, Jesus, the Father drew near his people through the use of covenants, which are far more than simply legal agreements but rather are an intimate exchange of persons—similar in depth and scope to marriage, for example. This week's First Reading details the inaugural covenant that God made after the Fall. This one, made with Noah and his descendants, places God and his people into a particular relationship with obligations for all involved in the covenant.

God agrees to not destroy creation with water again and renews his blessing of fruitfulness (Gen 9:3–7). This covenant made with Noah and his descendants isn't primarily about obedience to a set of rules but rather fidelity to a relationship and a path to righteousness.





This way of life and path to righteousness is brought to fulfillment in Jesus, who reveals it as his Father's Kingdom which "is at hand." However, Jesus doesn't simply announce the Kingdom; he is the kingdom "personified." What does it look like to live divine life fruitfully? It looks like Jesus! Which is why Satan tries to trip up Jesus in the Gospel—this way of righteousness is a person, Jesus, who is The Way!

Jesus makes his life available to us as Catholics in many ways (through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, etc.), but most especially through the Church and her sacraments, and in particular through the sacrament of the Eucharist. The Father looks upon each of us and calls us by our names through his Son Jesus, who waits for us in the Eucharist, where he has made himself so small—coming to us under the appearance of bread and wine—that we can take him, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, into our very being and live fruitfully as sons and daughters.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Satan tries to disrupt Jesus' relationship with the Father through his temptations, yet Jesus' fidelity confirms both his identity and his messianic mission. Jesus truly is the Son of God. We share Jesus' life through baptism, and this life of grace is preserved, increased, and renewed through fruitful reception of the Eucharist, fortifying us as sons and daughters of God. What does it mean to you to be a son or daughter of God?
2. Jesus announces the breaking in of his Father's Kingdom in this week's Gospel. What are some of the characteristics of God's Kingdom? Where are you seeing those Kingdom characteristics appearing and growing in your own life? What might be some obstacles that you have to seeing growth in those areas of Kingdom life?

Readings for next Sunday, February 25, 2024



Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

Psalms 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19

Second Reading: Romans 8:31

Gospel: Mark 9:2–10

"During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have."

~GENESIS GRAIN





Parish Lenten Mission

March 11 and 12, 2024 | 7:00 P.M.

Retreat Presenter: Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ

BE THIS IN MEMORY OF ME: **EMBRACING A EUCHARISTIC LIFESTYLE**

During these few hours of retreat we will focus our loving gaze upon the Eucharist. Together we will try to see how the Eucharist is more than a devotion. Eucharist is an action. Eucharist is more a verb than a noun. Pondering the four verbs we hear spoken each time we participate in our parish liturgies - **took, blessed, broke, gave** – we will try to outline a possible, fresh new way of living the Gospel in the concrete daily events that form the chapters of our lives.

Fr. Philip will preach at all Masses on the weekend of March 9/10. He will also preside at the Penance Service on March 13th.

Fr. Philip, a Jesuit, is an artist at heart and madly in love with all things beautiful and soulful. He believes that beauty is a uniquely wonderful entry into the mystery of the God “whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.” He considers himself a seeker, with bottomless curiosity, exploring fresh ways to proclaim the Good News in the hope of helping fellow pilgrims to embrace real and radical changes that will lead to conversion and transformation.



**All are welcome.
Come and be filled.**



SAVE THE DATE!
AN EVENING WITH
Sarah Hart
CONCERT

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.

ONE COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKET INFORMATION COMING SOON!



Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today and has been a singer, songwriter, retreat author, and keynote speaker for over twenty years. Her heart for parish missions and itinerant ministry has taken her all over the US and abroad. She has performed for countless conventions and events, and for Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square. A Grammy-nominated songwriter (*"Better Than an Hallelujah" as well as many others*), her songs have been recorded by numerous recording artists, and have appeared in TV, movies, commercials, and theater. Her writing is visible in hymnals across the globe. To learn more about Sarah visit www.sarahart.com.



Jubilate
Catholic Faith, Music & Art



**My Soul Magnifies the Lord (Lk. 1:46)
A Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines
Including Portugal, Spain, France, & Rome
13 Days / 10 Nights December 1-13, 2024**



**Fr Anthony Rapozo,
Spiritual Director
To register:
www.stjohnmililani.org**

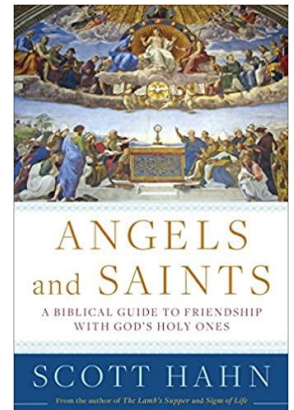
PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.

SJAE LIBRARY: Angels and Saints by Scott Hahn. Judy Brasel highly recommends this book because she said it was (1) easy to read (2) provided Biblical references (3) had short, concise, and clear stories, and (4) she learned a lot about the saints. Visit your SJAE Library (Room #1) to self-check out books or visit the Library tables (the 2nd weekend of every month).



NEW Books. Recent monetary donations allowed your SJAE library to purchase new books! These beautiful books will be available after all masses on March 9-10! THANK you for your support of the SJAE Library.



OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS? If you have any overdue SJAE library books, please return them to the library tables on February 10-11th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS is on Fridays, Feb 23, Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 6:30 pm. Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

FASTING

- ◆ In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on to fast on both Ash Wednesday (**February 14, 2024**) and Good Friday (**March 29, 2024**).
- ◆ To *fast* means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on days of fasting.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

- ◆ Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

To abstain means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although eggs and milk products are acceptable. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted, though the penitential character of abstinence should be kept in mind.

CRS RICE BOWLS: Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and climate change, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Pick up a Rice Bowl near the main entrance of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday February 19, 2024

8AM Hak Soon Mercardo
(Death Anniversary)
Jose Maria "Chema" Aguirre (RIP)

Tuesday February 20, 2024

8AM James & Mildred Mizoguchi (RIP)

Wednesday February 21, 2024

8AM Maria A. Pascual (Healing)

Thursday February 22, 2024

8AM Kufina Arulan (RIP)

Friday

February 23, 2024

Emma Ramos (Birthday Blessing)
Jose Maria "Chema" Aguirre (RIP)

Saturday

February 24, 2024

8AM All Souls in Purgatory
5PM Jose Maria "Chema" Aguirre (RIP)

Sunday

February 25, 2024

7AM Gloria Webb (RIP)
9 AM For the People
11 AM Ida Badua (Thanksgiving)
6 PM Vivencia Mamaril (Healing)
Brandon Baguio (RIP)

Respect Life: "We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility"

respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, John Bates, Cindy Abernathy, Richard Guillory, Patrice Wilson, Gene Lumantas, Clarita Martinez, Jim Walsh, Lita Guerrero, Florida Badua, Allene Ishikawa, Dominador Rulloda, Sam Rombaoa, Cherissalyn & Tuputasi Gaopoa, Nicole Guerrero, Lourdes Amasol & Kathleen Smart.

DECEASED

Gavina Tamonte, Gloria U. Munson, Aida Govico, Catalina Sagocio, Margaret Nakamura, Wendell Perry, Gary Garcia, Daniel Ariola, Maxima Looney, Suzanna Foster, Ruth Hartzel, Angela Topinio, Diane Kotch, Florence P. Albano, Julian Rillamas Jr., Vivencia Mamaril, & Salvador Ganzon Jr & Sr.

