

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



WHAT ABOUT GIVING UP SOMETHING FOR LENT?

by Andy Alexander, SJ, Maureen McCann Waldron

Many of us might remember giving up candy for Lent when we were children, and it seemed like a real sacrifice. As we grew up, it was often more difficult to decide what special thing to do to make Lent a special season, to get our attention and to do prepare ourselves to give up judging others. For others, it could be giving up a bad habit we've developed. Still others will have different answers to the question "What will help me grow in freedom?"



For many of us, the choice may not be to give something up, but to add something to our daily lives during Lent. We may commit ourselves to extra prayer time. We may decide to do some service for the poor once a week during Lent.

Whether fasting, abstaining, or doing other acts of penance, the whole desire we should have is to use these means to help us grow closer to our Lord and prepare ourselves, in the words of the first preface of Lent, "to await the sacred paschal feasts with the joy of minds made pure."

May our Lord bless us all on this journey.



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

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE FEB 17/18

Sunday Collection	\$ 10,603.35
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,970.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$713.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 65.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,322.00
Healing Mass (2/12/24)	\$ 392.00
Stewardship	\$ 25.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Flowers	\$ 156.00
All Souls' Day	\$ 10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 5,222.88
Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Candles	\$ 514.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 35.00
Diocesan Priest Retirement	\$ 100.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$ 100.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 23,263.23

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**MASS READINGS**

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19

Romans 8:31–34

Mark 9:2–10

**SUMMARY**

The story of the sacrifice of Isaac is one of the most popular and important stories from the Old Testament. The Lord asks Abraham to offer up his son's life as a burnt offering and Abraham withholds nothing from the Lord, even the life of his cherished son. At the last moment, God spares Isaac and says that he will provide the sacrifice. Abraham is able to slaughter a ram trapped in the underbrush for the sacrifice.

It doesn't take much effort for us to make the connection that Isaac, bound to the wood on the altar, is a type, or representational figure, for Jesus, who would himself be bound to the wood of the cross as an offering for the forgiveness of sin. We are to see in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac the loving heart of the Father, who offers even the life of his own son for the sake of his people.

Paul emphasizes the compassion of the Father's heart when he writes in the Second Reading from Romans: "He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?" (8:32). Paul exhorts Christians to trust in the Lord's goodness and protection. If the Father loved us enough to send his Son Jesus to the Cross, how much more does he want to fill us with the fullness of mercy, truth, and freedom found in his Kingdom? Just as the Lord provided the sacrifice so that Isaac's life would be spared, the Father offers his own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die so that we might truly live.

It is precisely the sonship of Jesus that we hear highlighted in this week's Gospel account of the Transfiguration, as the Lord declares, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7). Occurring as it does later in Jesus' ministry, on the threshold of Christ's Passion, the Father's affirmation of Jesus was confirmation of not only his identity but also his mission. Jesus is the Anointed One, sent into the world to suffer and die so that the life of the Kingdom may be made available to all.

The Father's admonition to "listen to him" reveals that Jesus is not simply teaching good life principles. Remember, both Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) are present on the mountain with Jesus, signifying that he is the fulfillment of God's revelation to his people. Jesus, in his very life and teaching, invites people into a new identity and relationship with the Father that leads to transformation and new life.

What does it mean to listen to Jesus? This week's Scriptures offer us a clear model in Abraham's willingness to hold nothing back from the Lord. His fidelity didn't stop at following the "letter" of God's commands. Abraham made his relationship with God the bedrock of his life, placing its importance before everything else. Because of this, the Lord renewed and strengthened the promises he had made to Abraham in the initial covenant (Gen 12:1–3). Now these promises are





given as a reward for Abraham's faithfulness (Gen 22:17–18).

When we surrender ourselves to Jesus, making our relationship with him the centerpiece of our lives, we are experiencing the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. Baptism makes us members of "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation," the Church (1 Pet 2:9): she has been given the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, which will one day be gathered in the Father when death and evil are no more. When we live intentionally as disciples of Jesus, we become a sign of God's presence in the world.

The greatest expression of this is our participation in the Eucharist, which simultaneously draws us closer to Christ and each other and sends us out to fulfill God's will in our daily lives.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. There are things in life that we struggle with— temptations, grief, anxiety, broken relationships, sin— that keep us bound up, like Isaac. The Father has made a way for us to live freely in his Son Jesus. What are those things that bind you up? Can you name them and give them over to Jesus so that you might live unbound?
2. Abraham's devotion to God allowed him to surrender everything to the Lord. How would you describe your own relationship with God? What are those obstacles you have in your life to trusting the Lord? How might you work on overcoming those obstacles?
3. In what ways do you think the Eucharist empowers us to be a sign of God's presence in the world (our family, our community, our nation, the world, etc.)?

Readings for next Sunday, March 3, 2024



Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19.8, 9, 10, 11

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Gospel: John 2:13-25

"Just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with him. Then you will be able to rest in him — really rest."

~ ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS



LIVE A EUCHARISTIC LENT

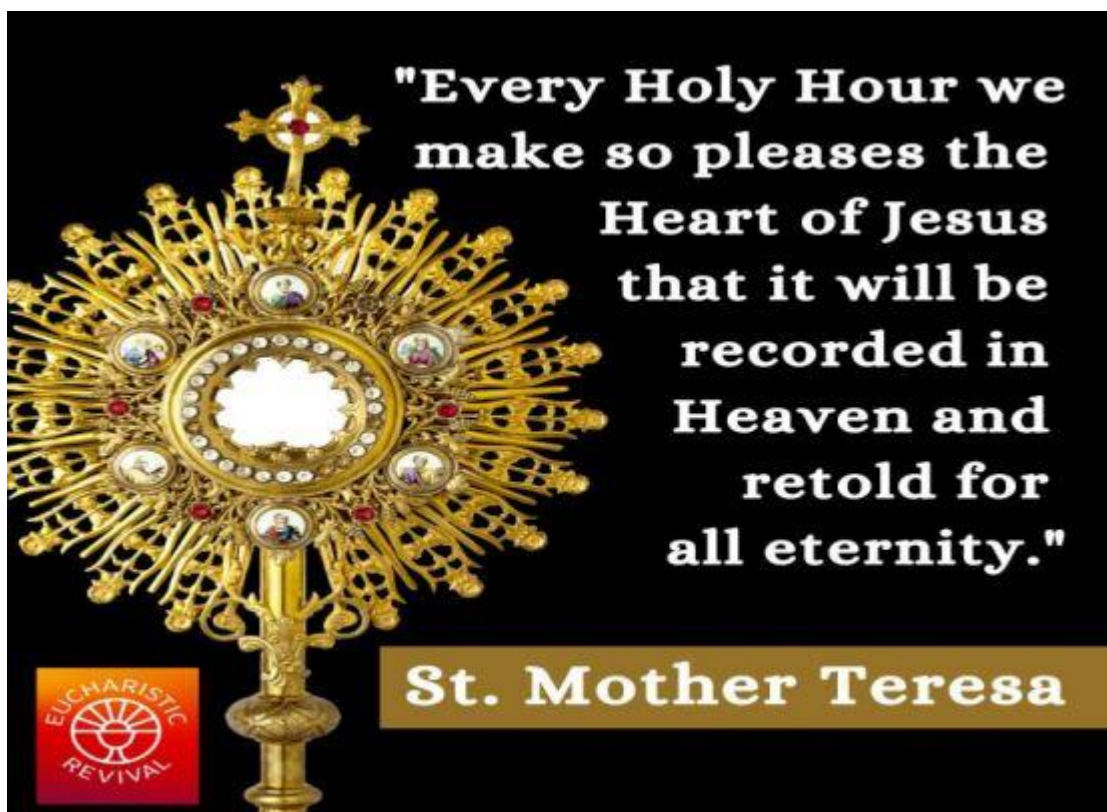
This Lent is special, taking place within the parish phase of the three-year-plus Eucharistic Revival. Since Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit, the root and center of the Christian life, Lent, too, should draw its life from the Eucharistic Jesus and lead us to him.

Spend time with Our Lord. Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Fridays of Lent:

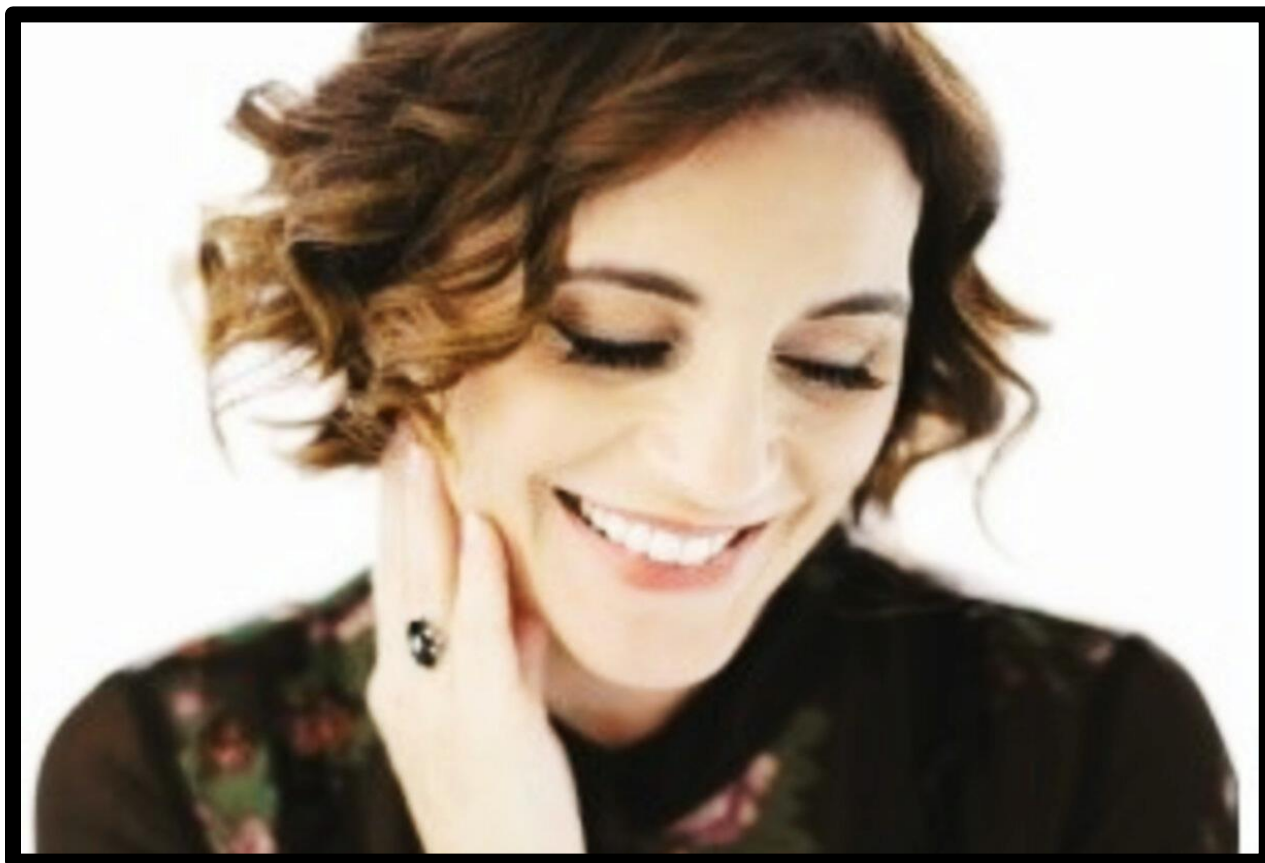
◆ **After 8am Daily Mass**

◆ **After 6:30pm Stations of the Cross**

All of the faithful, of any age, are invited to participate.



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CHURCH PRESENTS



AN EVENING WITH
Sarah Hart

IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.
ONE COMMUNITY CENTER

ALL ARE WELCOME!

GENERAL ADMISSION
TICKETS: \$35

PRE-SALE FOR
ST. JOHN PARISHIONERS:
FRI., MARCH 1 - PARISH OFFICE
SAT., MARCH 2 - AFTER 5PM
MASS ON THE LANAI
SUN., MARCH 3 - AFTER
MORNING MASSES ON THE
LANAI.

MARCH 4 -TICKETS AVAILABLE TO
THE PUBLIC ONLINE:
WWW.STJOHNMILILANI.ORG



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Join us for **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Fridays: Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 6:30 pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Come and spend time with Jesus!

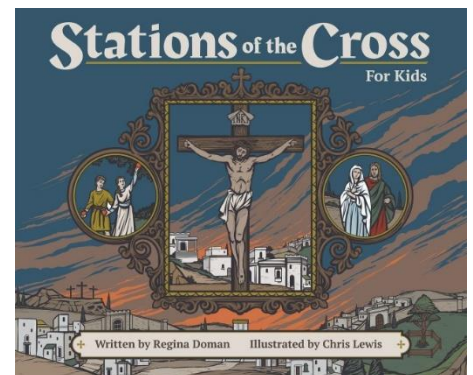
DEBT REDUCTION SECOND COLLECTION: We will have a second collection, next weekend **March 2/3**, after communion for debt reduction. Your donation will help pay for the mortgage of the **One Community Center**. Envelopes are available at the back of the church, you may donate on our parish website, online giving. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Next weekend, **March 2/3**, **The PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY** is sponsoring Free Blood Pressure screenings after all Sunday Morning Masses on the OCC lanai.

SJAE LIBRARY: Lent has just begun! Do you need some spiritual help? Visit your SJAE Library in Room #1 (key available at church office) to self-check out books or visit the SJAE Lending Library Tables after all masses on March 9-10.

If you have **overdue books**, please return them – thank you!

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.



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. You may make a donation at offertory or on the parish website online giving.



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

Retreat Speaker: Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ
March 11 and 12, 2024 | 7:00 PM

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday February 26, 2024

8AM Grace Trent (Death Anniversary)
Lolita Valdez (Healing)

Tuesday February 27, 2024

8AM Eric Umetsu (RIP)

Wednesday February 28, 2024

8AM Orlando Antolin (Healing)

Thursday February 29, 2024

8AM Eduardo Villalon (RIP)

Friday March 1, 2024

Guerrero Family
(Blessings/Thanksgiving)
Feliciano Dona (RIP)

Saturday March 2, 2024

8AM Yvonne Dizol

5PM Channing Fukuda
(Death Anniversary)

Sunday March 3, 2024

7AM Bonnie Delos Santos (Thanksgiving)

9 AM For the People

11 AM Suzanna Foster (RIP)

6 PM Candace Gabriel (RIP)

Respect Life: "The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is *cherished*."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection:
Cherished, Chosen, Sent usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection



FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

ESTELA VILLANUEVA AGPALZA (RIP) – Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – St John, Mililani; Visitation: 9:30 am; Mass: 11:00 am; Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, John Bates, Cindy Abernathy, Richard Guillory, Marisol Aguirre, Lana Daszek, Vanessa Liu, Michael Donlin, 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.

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.

