

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



BRING TO GOD WHAT BURDEN HINDERS US

by Vinita Hampton Wright

*If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else? Romans 8:31–32*

It's not that hard to admit that we need God's help in this life. Only the most proud or the most foolish believe they are truly self-sufficient. Yes, we need God. Yes, we can seek from God whatever we need—help, comfort, or guidance.

But actually taking the step toward God can be not only difficult but complex. A lot of things can get in the way.

Pain.

It's possible to be in so much pain that we cannot move. We are paralyzed, numb, almost without sense. So we do nothing but remain in our deep hurt.

Shame.

We can't come to God and tell lies at the same time. This spiritual process requires that we face our embarrassments, shortcomings, failures, and sins, and the shame of all this holds us back.

Anger.

It really is all right to come to God angry, but many of us don't feel that it's all right. We're deeply disappointed in God—for not rescuing us from a situation, for allowing us to suffer loss, for not giving us what we wanted—and that anger prevents any steps in God's direction.

Fear.

We may fear punishment. We may fear God's disapproval. We may fear that God won't act or say what we're hoping for. And we may fear that, in coming to God, we'll need to change in some way.

How do we overcome these obstacles? How do we come to God when pain, shame, anger, or fear is blocking the path?

Remember one simple fact: God is for us, not against us. God waits for us, eager to help with our pain, shame, anger, or fear. The only thing to do is step forward and bring to God whatever burden hinders us.

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

MAR 2/3

Sunday Collection	\$ 10,573.01
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 4,910.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 847.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 135.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 7,391.16
Stewardship	\$ 20.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 1,412.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 35.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 60.00
Candles	\$ 434.00
Augustine Education Fund	\$ 30.00
CRS Bowl	\$ 50.00
Catholic University of America	\$ 20.00
Retirement Fund Religious	\$ 25.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 25,947.17

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B MASS READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6

Ephesians 2:4–10

John 3:14–21



SUMMARY

This week's First Reading from the Second Book of Chronicles details how the people of God sinned against God and what the consequences were for their sin. Scripture says, "the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem" (2 Chr 36:14).

Remember that the Jewish people lived under a covenantal relationship with God. These covenants held expectations and obligations for all involved. Since these covenants were fundamentally about relationship with God, fidelity to the way of life spelled out by the covenants was an expression of the people's fidelity to their relationship with God.

The southern kingdom of Judah—its king, priests, and people—cast aside their fidelity and chose to live outside the law, taking on the practices of other nations and forsaking the distinctive practices characteristic of their special relationship with the Lord. God, in his goodness, sent messengers—the prophets—to call the people of Judah back to himself.

But the people persisted in their infidelity, so the Lord allowed their enemies to vanquish them. The Babylonians invaded, destroyed the Temple, and scattered the people, forcing many to live in exile in Babylon. We see here the fruit that comes from living a sinful life—chaos, exile, and ultimately death and destruction.

Even after his people persisted in their infidelity, the Lord God made a way for the Southern Kingdom to be restored. After 70 years, when the Persians defeated the Babylonians, the Lord used Cyrus, king of Persia, to restore God's people to their home and rebuild the Temple. God's goodness, love, and mercy are ever directed toward his people, even when they turn away from him.

Paul describes this well in his letter to the Ephesians when he writes, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (Eph 2:4–5). This is echoed and anchored by that most famous passage from John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

The Father has called us to a supernatural vocation: eternal life, which was lost when we turned away from God. In giving us his commandments, God revealed to us our sin and prepared the world for the coming of his Son. Yet our wounded human nature made it impossible for us to live



out these commandments on our own. Jesus, as true God, institutes a new covenant in his Blood, offering himself on our behalf, meriting for us justification and grace.

Jesus comes into the world to fulfill the Father's promises that his people would live free and full lives, eucharisticrevival.org

united to him. The Eucharist, therefore, is a sign of the Father's faithfulness in Jesus Christ and also the source of our new life in him. The Father's mercy isn't simply for his people thousands of years ago. It is also for you and me, here and now.

Jesus—his life, mercy, goodness, and peace—await us in the Eucharist. How will we respond to the invitation of God to encounter the merciful Jesus in the Eucharist today?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think that the infidelities of the people of Judah were particularly offensive to the Lord in the First Reading from 2 Chronicles 36? How did the Lord try to remedy this?
2. In your own life, what ways does God use to try and reconcile you to himself and restore your relationship with him?
3. Paul writes in Ephesians that we are saved through faith, which is a gift from God. What do you think that means? In what way would you say your faith in Jesus comes from God?
4. John writes that "whoever believes in him will not be condemned" (Jn 3:18). What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Do you think you hold that kind of belief in Jesus? Why or why not?
5. How does our reception of Jesus in the Eucharist connect to our belief in him?

Readings for next Sunday, March 17, 2024



Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalms 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7–9

Gospel: John 12:20–33

"We must trust in the mighty power of God's mercy. We are all sinners, but His grace transforms us and makes us new."

~ POPE BENEDICT XVI



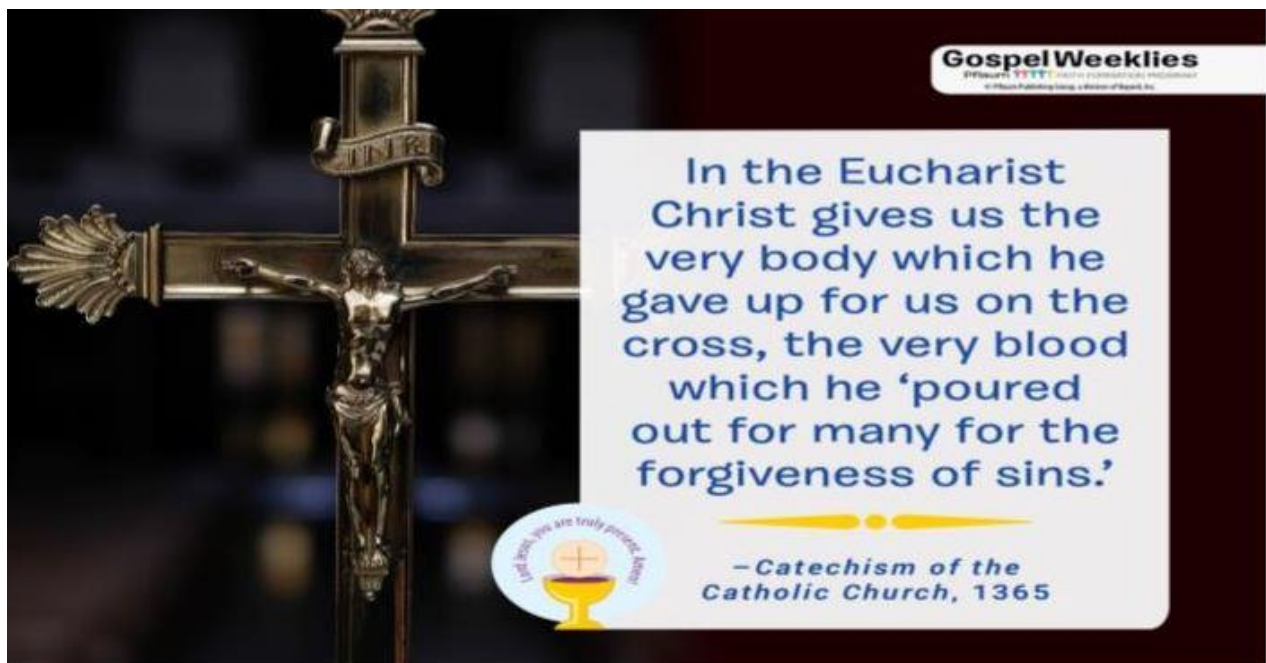
Meditation on the Liturgy

This Sunday has a place apart amongst the Sundays of Lent. As in Advent we had Gaudete Sunday, so in Lent we have a Sunday commonly called Laetare Sunday. The whole week, with its wealth of liturgical significance, is intensely interesting. This Sunday in vigesimal is in imitation of Byzantine custom, a Sunday in honor of Our Savior's Cross, for which reason the Station is at Holy-Cross-in-Jerusalem, a great devotional center in Rome, especially during Passiontide. The great part of the Mass is inspired by this choice.

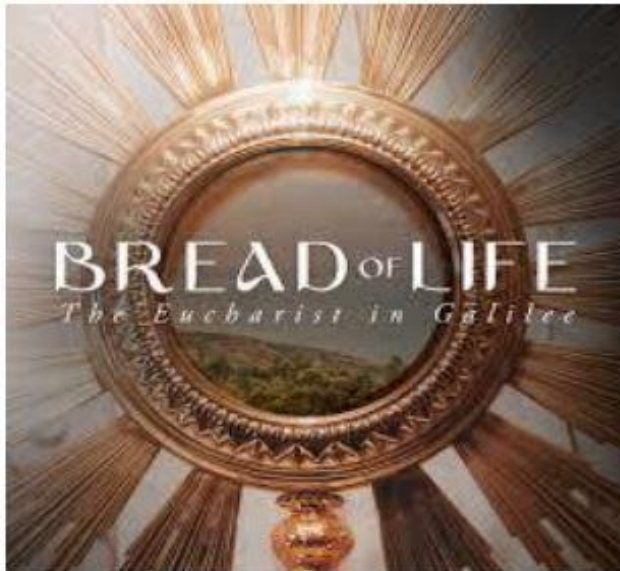


Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near. This Sunday is our foretaste of Easter joy. Knowing the ebb and flow of intensity even in our best efforts, God deals with us tenderly in rhythms of consolation and desertion. So today, thoughts of freedom and joy come in the middle of Lent. But the joy does more than cushion our failing energies and needle our lagging spirits. It is a positive, meaningful joy, born of our fruitful life in Christ and of our sweet freedom as His purchased children. The Eucharistic banquet of heavenly Bread, foreshadowed by the multiplied loaves and fishes and become now the Bread of Life for the whole Christian world, adds to our Laetare joy the quiet gladness of every festive meal.

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THE SECOND SIGN OF A DYNAMIC CATHOLIC IS STUDY.



JOIN FR. ANTHONY
FOR OUR LENT RETREAT!
MARCH 11 & 12 | 7:00PM
ONE COMMUNITY CENTER

We will be utilizing the FORMED Faith Series "Bread of Life: The Eucharist in Galilee".

Christ's teaching about the Eucharist was not reserved solely for the Last Supper. Rather, this profound mystery is the crescendo of Jesus' entire ministry: all his work in Galilee prepared for and pointed to the Eucharist.

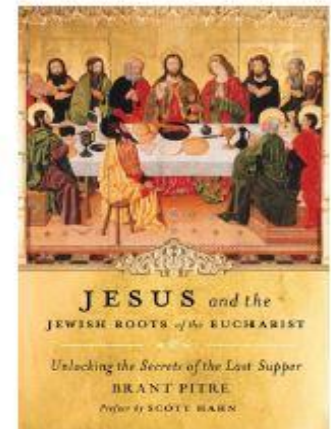
COME AND IGNITE YOUR LOVE FOR THE REAL PRESENCE OF
JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST. COME AND BE FILLED!



HOW ARE YOU COMING ALONG READING
"JESUS AND THE JEWISH ROOTS OF THE
EUCHARIST UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE
LAST SUPPER" BY BRANT PITRE?

A Group Study with St. John's clergy
is coming in April!

Need a copy of the book?



Please contact the parish office: 808.623.3332 | sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org

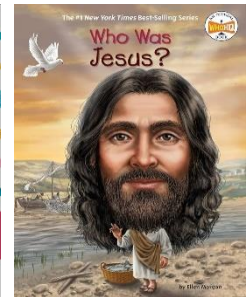
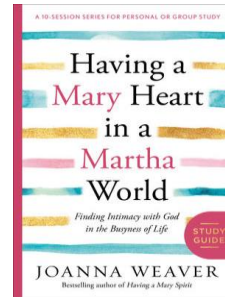
DYNAMIC CATHOLICS ARE CONTINUOUS LEARNERS!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SJAE LIBRARY: In addition to Lenten and Easter materials, your Lending Library just got **10 NEW BOOKS!**

Check them out **TODAY** at the library tables on the lanai!!

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



Our **Lenten Penance Service** is on Wednesday, March 13 at 7 pm. We will have 5 priests to hear confessions.

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

Remember a loved one at Easter. **EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES** are available at the back of the church, or you may also donate through online giving by visiting our parish website.

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.



**St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church
Presents**

FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS

Monday, March 18, 7:00pm

One Community Center

Tickets available on the parish website.

AN EVENING WITH SARAH HART IN CONCERT: FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at 7PM, OCC. To purchase tickets, visit the parish website, www.stjohnmililani.org

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
Deacon Mike Browning, Pilgrimage Host
To register: www.stjohnmililani.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday March 11, 2024

8AM Kevin Dizol
Victoriana Anadela (RIP)

Tuesday March 12, 2024

8AM James & Mildred Mizoguchi (RIP)

Wednesday March 13, 2024

8AM Eric Umetsu (RIP)

Thursday March 14, 2024

8AM Patsy Canalis (Birthday Memorial)

Friday**March 15, 2024**

Everett Bates (Birthday Blessing)
James Smith (RIP)

Saturday**March 16, 2024**

8AM Alfredo Cordial Sr. & Jr.

5PM Suzanna Foster (RIP)

Sunday**March 17, 2024**

7AM Alvin Pascual (Birthday Blessing)

Mark W. Burnett (RIP)

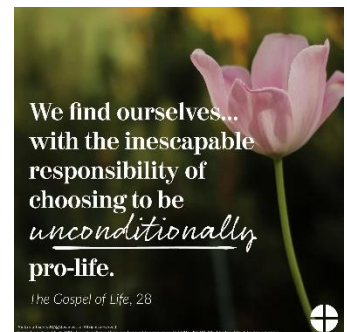
9 AM For the People

11 AM Carmello Pacpaco (RIP)

6 PM Eleanor Tamaru (Birthday Blessing)

Respect 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 prolife.”

(The Gospel of Life 28)



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, Dr. Luis Raguton & Robert Ane.

DECEASED

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, Philip Chircop Sr. & George Szczepkowski.

