

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



HOW CAN WE HEAR THE CRY OF THE POOR DURING LENT?

by Andy Alexander, SJ, Maureen McCann Waldron

Hearing the cry of the poor starts with desire and a few choices. If we recognize a desire to be more attentive to the poor and to grow in solidarity with them, then it is likely that this is a grace we have received. Many things may have happened to open us to this grace, but it is important to name it and welcome it. God has been offering us this grace for some time and perhaps is preparing us to receive it this Lent. If we don't feel this desire, we can ask for it. We can ask our Lord to help us grow in a desire to better hear the cry of those most in need.



Who are the poor? Who are most in need? Who are pushed to the margins of neglect and powerlessness? It doesn't take a great social analysis to come up with some immediate answers, locally in our own world and across the globe. Listening to the news is a beginning. Who is suffering? Who is tremendously burdened? Poverty doesn't always make the news, but being sensitive to the stories we do hear is a place to start.

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 9/10

Sunday Collection	\$ 11,907.00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,715.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 165.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 55.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 768.50
Funeral	\$ 350.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 280.00
Augustine Education Fund	\$ 10.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 100.00
Candles	\$ 529.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 920.00
CRS Bowl	\$ 20.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 12.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 18,836.50

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B MASS READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalms 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15

Hebrews 5:7–9

John 12:20–33



SUMMARY

As we hear in our First Reading from Jeremiah, the covenantal themes that have been running through our scriptural journey this liturgical cycle are coming together and nearing a climax as we prepare to journey with Jesus into Jerusalem and, ultimately, to the Cross and Resurrection during Holy Week. The Lord God reveals the promise of a new and perfect covenant, prepared for and prefigured by the old covenants.

The New Law given by Christ fulfills, refines, and surpasses the laws of the Old Covenant, bringing them to perfection. Rather than providing new external precepts, the New Law is directed at reforming the human heart.

We know from the covenantal tradition that emerged out of the Old Testament that every covenant must be sealed, and the most solemn ones were sealed with a blood sacrifice. In fact, the Hebrew word for covenant, *beriyth*, means “to cut.” Covenants aren’t simply “entered into,” they are **cut**.

If Jesus is the fulfillment of the Father’s promises and the covenant by which he will perfect his previous covenants, then what is the sacrifice that seals such a covenant? Namely, the suffering and Death of Christ on the Cross. Jesus makes this abundantly clear in John’s Gospel reading this week, in which the anchoring image is the necessity of wheat falling to the earth to die so that it might multiply into many stalks of wheat.

The implications are clear—Jesus must go to the Cross, die, and be raised again so that we might receive the life of the Kingdom. He is the paschal sacrifice that seals the new and eternal covenant. Jesus’ divine nature and human nature exist together in union. Jesus is the bringer of the covenant, and he is also the icon of its fruit, to become “the firstborn among many brothers” (Rom 8:29). Another way to say this is **that what Jesus is by nature (the Son of the Father), he invites us to become through grace (adopted sons and daughters of God)!**

This is why Jesus makes this fundamental call through his Church: “repent and be baptized.” (Acts 2:38). If we surrender our lives to Jesus (repent) and enter into his covenant through Baptism, then the life of his Kingdom takes root in us and conforms us to him. Jesus makes that clear in his image of wheat. Close on the heels of that image is an admonition for his followers to embrace the mystery of dying to self: “Whoever serves me must follow me” (Jn 12:26).

We have an opportunity to enter into that dynamic of surrender, of dying and rising, every time





Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass. Let us prepare for it, so that when we say “Amen” before receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, it becomes an intentional act of holy eucharistic revival—eucharisticrevival.org submission—the surrender of our hearts, minds, and entire lives to the one who died so that we might live.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means that, in the New Covenant, God will write his law in our hearts?
2. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to seal this New Covenant by offering himself as a sacrifice on the Cross? Can you think of any ways that you have sacrificed your life for the sake of others? How are your sacrifices and Jesus’ sacrifice connected?
3. Jesus became the “source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Heb 5:9). How would you explain the word “salvation” to someone? Does salvation have anything to do with our life here on earth?
4. How does our reception of Jesus in the Eucharist connect us to his dying on the Cross? How does it connect us to his Resurrection from the dead.

Readings for next Sunday, March 24, 2024



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4–7

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Philippians 2:8 - 9

“Jesus made Himself like the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to give life. Our hope springs from that love-filled life.”

~ POPE FRANCIS



SAINT PATRICK, 389-461 FEAST DAY MARCH 17



Not many facts are known about the life of St. Patrick. We know that he was born around 415 AD and was a Roman Briton. When he was about 16, while he was tending his sheep some Irish raiders captured him and made him a slave. He eventually was able to escape and return to Britain. There he heard the call to return and bring Christianity to Ireland. He was ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop, and came back to Ireland around 435 AD. Many legends are associated around St. Patrick: how he drove the snakes out of Ireland, and the use of the shamrock to teach the mystery of the Trinity. Whether or not the legends are true, St. Patrick succeeded in bringing Catholicism to Ireland, and in time, the whole country converted from their pagan gods to the one true God.

Although a small country, Ireland has played a large role in saving and bringing Christianity throughout the world. During the early Dark Ages, the Irish monasteries preserved Western writings while Europe remained in darkness. But as the Catholic country remained solidly Catholic, the Irish spread the faith to all corners of the world. To learn more on this subject, read Thomas Cahill's *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

We have a few works attributed to St. Patrick, one being his autobiography called *Confessions*. It is a short summary of the events in his life, written in true humility. Below is a short excerpt:

I am greatly God's debtor, because he granted me so much grace, that through me many people would be reborn in God, and soon after confirmed, and that clergy would be ordained everywhere for them, the masses lately come to belief, whom the Lord drew from the ends of the earth, just as he once promised through his prophets: "To you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Our fathers have inherited naught hut lies, worthless things in which there is no profit." And again: "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles that you may bring salvation to the uttermost ends of the earth."

Copyright © 2024 Trinity Communications.
All rights reserved.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



HOLY WEEK

March 24

Palm Sunday
(Regular Sunday Schedule)

March 28 (Holy Thursday)

Morning Prayer, 8am
(No Daily Mass)
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm followed by
Adoration in the OCC until Midnight

March 29 (Good Friday)

Morning Prayer, 8am
(No Daily Mass)
The Passion of the Lord,
3:00pm and 6:00pm
Stations of the Cross, 5pm

March 30 (Holy Saturday)

Morning Prayer, 8am
(No Daily Mass)
Easter Vigil, 7pm

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

Masses: 7am, 9am, 11am
(No 6pm Mass)

JOIN ST. JOHN'S CLERGY IN A GROUP STUDY OF **JESUS and the JEWISH ROOTS of the EUCHARIST** *Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper*

by Dr. Brant Pitre

THURSDAYS, APRIL 11 – MAY 30, 2024
6:30PM | ONE COMMUNITY CENTER

April 11 Introduction / Chapter 1 – The Mystery of the Last Supper (Dcn Romeo)

April 18 Chapter 2 – What Were the Jewish People Waiting For? (Dcn Romeo)

April 25 Chapter 3 – The New Passover (Fr. Anthony)

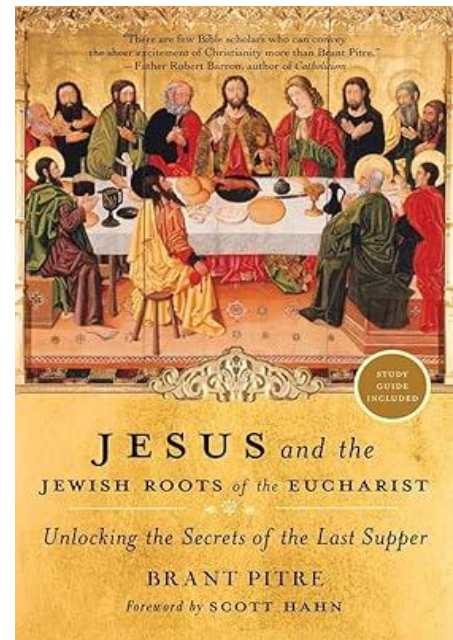
May 2 Chapter 4 – The Manna of the Messiah (Fr. Anthony)

May 9 Chapter 5 – The Bread of the Presence (Fr. Anthony)

May 16 Chapter 6 – The Fourth Cup and the Death of Jesus (Dcn Mike)

May 23 Chapter 7 – The Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith (Dcn Mike)

May 30 Chapter 8 – On the Road to Emmaus (Dcn Mike)



Dr. Brant Pitre uses the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish tradition to frame the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, and to provide a fresh look at the heart of Catholic practice — the Eucharist. By taking us back to the Jewish roots of our faith, Dr. Pitre gives us a powerful lens through which to see anew the bread of the presence, the manna, the Last Supper, and ultimately the meaning of the Eucharist.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Friday, Mar 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 Movie Night

FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS

Monday, March 18, 7:00pm

One Community Center

Tickets available on the parish website.

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



AN EVENING WITH SARAH HART IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at 7PM, OCC.

To purchase tickets, visit the parish website, www.stjohnmililani.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday March 18, 2024

8AM DSouza family
Días Family

Tuesday March 19, 2024

8AM M/M Charley Jones (RIP)

Wednesday March 20, 2024

8AM Braganza Family

Thursday March 21, 2024

8AM Mike Browning (Birthday Blessing)

Friday**March 22, 2024**

Gonsalves Family
Francisco Corpuz
(40 days Death Anniversary)

Saturday**March 23, 2024**

8AM Yolanda Morreira
(Birthday Blessing)
5PM Alexander Braganza

Sunday**March 24, 2024**

7AM Mona DeCosta (Birthday Blessing)
9 AM For the People
11 AM Diane Kotch (RIP)
6 PM Nestor DSouza

Respect 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).



FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

REMIGIO PAMBID PECPEC (RIP) – Visitation: 9:00 am; Eulogy: 10:30am; Mass: 10:45am; Burial: 1:30pm ~ Mililani Memorial Cemetery.

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.

