

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



HOLY WEEK: A TIME APART FOR RENEWAL

In the course of our busy week, we most likely have times set apart for certain things that are important to us—a workout, a few social phone calls, or maybe even a short catnap—so that we can renew ourselves, our energy, and our perspective. Holy Week is a time that is set apart in our Church’s liturgical year for our spiritual renewal. In fact, the word holy refers to anything that is set apart for God’s purposes. Holy Week is holy precisely because it is time that is set apart for us to focus on how we are spiritually renewed through the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

The Symbols of Holy Week

The liturgies of Holy Week are filled with some of the richest and most ancient symbols of the Catholic faith. The waving of palms on Passion (Palm) Sunday reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus, not just fans who cheer from a distance. The washing of the feet



on Holy Thursday speaks to us of the selfless love that we are called to practice in imitation of Jesus. The veneration of the cross on Good Friday reminds us that, as Christians, we believe that Jesus can overcome anything, even death. The lighting of the Easter fire in a darkened church and the celebration of baptisms on Holy Saturday speak to us of the new life that is ours because of Jesus’ triumph over the darkness of sin and death through his resurrection.

Make Space to Renew Your Faith

In her book *The Holy Way*, Paula Huston explains that “a cluttered and overburdened mental space can be one of the biggest obstacles to simple living.” This Holy Week allow yourself time apart, holy time, to spend with Jesus. May it be a time set apart to unclutter your mind, lay down your burdens, and renew your faith in Jesus.

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 16/17
Sunday Collection		\$ 10,487.29
Online Donation (WeShare)		\$ 4,180.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)		\$ 892.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)		\$ 65.00
Debt Reduction		\$ 616.00
Social Ministry		\$ 5.00
Easter Flowers		\$ 500.00
Easter		\$ 90.00
Stewardship		\$ 25.00
Mass Intentions		\$ 90.00
Candles		\$ 559.00
All Souls' Day		\$ 13.50
CRS Bowl		\$ 75.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii		\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday		\$ 10.00
Good Friday		\$ 10.00
Archdiocese for Military Services		\$ 23.50
WEEKEND TOTAL		\$ 17,651.29

Hosanna! To the Suffering Christ!

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (Year B)

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

[Mark 11:9-10](#)



Throughout Jesus' life, He traveled to Jerusalem many times. As a child, He was presented in the Temple. At age twelve, He was found teaching the teachers of the Law in the Temple. As He grew, He made regular pilgrimages to the Temple. During His temptation in the desert, the devil took Him to the pinnacle of the Temple. In the Gospels, we read of at least four different trips to the Temple during Jesus' public ministry. However, the trip to Jerusalem that we commemorate today was unlike any other. As Jesus entered Jerusalem this time, His life was already being sought by the religious leaders. Despite that fact, Jesus entered Jerusalem with great solemnity and with much attention. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" was the cry by the crowd as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while palm branches and cloaks were strewn before Him.

Though this was the most fitting way for the people of faith to welcome their King, their warm welcome, their cries "Hosanna!" and their excitement were more beneficial to them than they were to Jesus. Jesus is God. He has no need of our praise and honor. But Jesus came to us to invite us to praise, honor and worship Him because it is good for us. We need to praise Him. This is what we are made for. This leads to the fulfillment of our lives.

As we begin Holy Week, try to spend time with this image of the people honoring our Lord with much enthusiasm. This is an image depicting who we must become. As we continue through this Holy Week, we must become increasingly aware of the God to Whom we offer our praise and worship. He is a God Who lowered Himself in the eyes of all, took on the form of a slave, permitted Himself to be labeled as a grave sinner, was rejected, beaten, and killed. This week, especially, we worship the suffering Christ. We worship a Man Who was arrested and cruelly treated. We worship a Man who was hated and mistreated in the worst way possible.

Our wholehearted worship of the suffering Christ is an important act to fulfill. In many ways, it is easier to worship God as He is in Heaven on His glorious throne. When we ponder the myriads of angels gathered around Him, the saints of all time bowing to the ground and glory and splendor radiating from His face, worship seems right. To worship a Man accused of being a criminal and suffering capital punishment while enduring the hatred of many is more difficult to comprehend. But if we are able to see Jesus through the eyes of faith and peer through the hatred and lies that surrounded Him, then we will be in awe of the humility of our God Who came to us this way.

Our worship of the suffering Christ also invites us to share in His virtue as He endured all that was inflicted upon Him. When we worship the humiliated Christ, our humiliations take on new power and meaning. When we worship the suffering Christ, our sufferings are elevated to share

in His redemption. When we worship the rejected, despised, and persecuted Christ, any ways that we share in these hardships are transformed.

Reflect, today, upon the God Whom you worship this Holy Week. Do not shy away from all that Jesus endured. Gaze at His rejection and passion. Look at the hatred He endured. As you do, see not only your glorious God, see also the remedy for all your ills. God descended to us in this most humble form so that He could meet us where we are at and raise us to new life with Him.

My suffering Lord, I worship You and praise You with all my heart. As You entered Jerusalem for the Passover, You intended to give new power to that celebration by becoming the New and Eternal Paschal Lamb. May I always worship You Who suffered for me and give to You all that I endure in life to be transformed by Your saving act. Jesus, I trust in You.

Holy Thursday (March 28th)

Humility of Service, Nourished by the Eucharist

On Holy Thursday evening, we begin the Triduum with the commemoration of the Last Supper. This event in history, which took place as a Passover meal shared with Jesus and His Apostles, begins the gift that brings us salvation.



On Holy Thursday, we hear the Lord say for the first time, “This is my body that is for you.” We hear Him point to the gift of the Holy Eucharist as His gift to us, given for our holiness and fulfillment. It’s a gift we will never be able to fathom or comprehend. It’s the gift of His complete self-giving and sacrificial love.

If we could only understand the Eucharist! If we could only understand this precious and sacred gift! The Eucharist is God Himself, present in our world, and given to us to transform us into that which we consume. The Eucharist, in a real way, transforms us into Christ Himself. As we consume the Holy Eucharist, we are drawn into the divine life of the Most Holy Trinity. We are made one with God and are given the food of eternity.

On that first Holy Thursday, Jesus also offered an example of the perfect humility and service that we are called to imitate as we become one with Him. He washed the feet of His Apostles so as to teach them and us that His Body and Blood are given so as to enable us to love as He loved. The Eucharist transforms us into true servants who are called to humility. We are called to humble service of others. This service will take on various forms, but it is what we are called to.

Do you serve those around you? Do you humble yourself before others to care for their most basic needs? Do you show them you love them by your actions? This is at the heart of Holy Thursday. Humble service is a beautiful expression of our own intimate union with the Son of God.

So often, true “greatness” is misunderstood. Greatness is often perceived with a secular understanding of success and admiration. Too often we want others to admire our accomplishments. But Jesus offers another view of greatness. On Holy Thursday, He shows that true greatness is found in this humble act of service. Imitating Him requires that we surrender our pride. And this is made possible when we consume the Holy Eucharist with faith.

The Eucharist enables us to love and serve others in this humble way. And that love and service is an act that will win the hearts and souls of others for the Kingdom of God.

As we celebrate Holy Thursday, we are all challenged to ponder our humility and to commit ourselves to a radical and total gift of self to others.

Reflect, this night, upon whether or not you imitate the humility of our Lord. Are you committed to seeking ways in which you can serve others, showing them, you love and care for them? Let Holy Thursday transform you so that you can imitate the great love that Jesus offered us on this glorious night.

My humble Lord, help me to understand what it means to be a servant. Help me to live this humility in my actions. May the gift of Your most Sacred Body and Blood transform me into the person You desire me to be. Jesus, I trust in You.

Good Friday (March 29th)

God Suffers Human Death

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Jesus’ forgiveness of others was radical and to a degree never seen before. While hanging on the Cross and enduring the cruelty of others, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness. He forgave them in the midst of His persecution.

What’s more is that He even acknowledged that those crucifying Him were not fully responsible. They clearly did not know what they were doing. This humble acknowledgment of Jesus shows the depth of His tender mercy. It reveals He died not in anger or resentment, but in willing sacrifice.

Can you say these words? Can you call to mind the person who has hurt you and pray that the Father forgives them? Leave judgment to God and offer mercy and forgiveness.

“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What a consolation it must have been for the good thief to hear these words. He must have been experiencing a certain despair in life at that moment as he, along side of Jesus, was dying on a cross. What a gift it was to be there next to the Savior of the World, sharing in the sufferings of Christ in such a real way. And this man was privileged to be among the first to receive this gift of salvation won by Jesus on the Cross.

Jesus offers us the same assurance. He offers salvation to us beginning today. And He offers it to us in the midst of our own suffering and sin. Can you hear Him offer you this gift of mercy? Can you hear Him invite you to share His gift of everlasting life? Let Him speak this invitation to you and let the eternal life of paradise begin to take hold more deeply today in your soul.

“Woman, behold your son.”

What a gift! Here, dying on the Cross, Jesus entrusted His own mother to John. And in so doing, He entrusted her to each one of us. Our unity with Jesus makes us a member of His family and, thus sons and daughters of His own mother. Our Blessed Mother accepts this responsibility with great joy. She embraces us and holds us close.



Do you accept Jesus' mother as your own spiritual mother? Have you fully consecrated yourself to her? Doing so will place you under her mantle of protection and love.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus was not abandoned but He allowed Himself to feel and experience this complete loss of the Father in His human nature. He felt the deep experience of despair. He allowed Himself to know and experience the effects of sin. Therefore, He knows what we go through when we despair. He knows what it feels like. And He is there with us in those temptations enabling us to press on through any despair toward total faith and trust in the Father.

"I thirst."

What a meaningful statement. He thirsted physically at that moment for water to quench His dehydration. But more than that, He thirsted spiritually for the salvation of all of our souls. Jesus' spirit still longs for this gift of salvation. He longs to call us His children. He thirsts for our love. Ponder Jesus saying these words to you. "I thirst for you!" He says. It is a deep and burning thirst for your love. You satiate Jesus' thirst by returning that love. Satisfy His thirst this Good Friday by giving Him your love.

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

These are the words we need to pray more than any. These are the words of complete surrender to God. Prayer is ultimately about one thing. It's about surrender. It's about trust. Say these words over and over today and let this perfect surrender of Jesus also be your surrender.

Surrender means God is in control. It means that we let go of our own will and choose only God's. And it means that God pledges to accept our surrender and guide us into the perfect plan He has in mind for us.

"It is finished."

It's significant that He said "It is finished" as His last words. What does this mean? What is finished?

This spiritual statement from Jesus is one that affirms that His mission of the redemption of the whole world is accomplished. "It" refers to His perfect sacrifice of love offered for all of us. His death, which we commemorate today, is the perfect sacrifice which takes away the sins of all. What a gift! And what a sacrifice Jesus endured for us!

We are used to seeing this sacrifice on the Cross. We ponder this sacrifice every time we look at the crucifix. But it is important to note that our over-familiarity with the Cross can tempt us to lose sight of the sacrifice. It's easy for us to miss what Jesus actually did for us. He accomplished the act that saves us, and He is now offering it to us. Let this completed act of Divine Mercy penetrate your soul. He desires to say that His sacrifice has "finished" its work in your soul.

On this Good Friday, it would be good if we spent the day pondering the reality of Jesus' sacrifice. Try to understand what it was like for God Himself to suffer and die. Contemplate what it was like for God Himself, the Creator of all things, to be put to death by those whom He created, to suffer at the hands of those whom He loved with a perfect love. Understanding Jesus' sacrificial love will enable us to love as He did. It will enable us to love those who have hurt us and those who persecute us. His love is total. It is generous beyond description.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43 (42ABC)

Responsorial Psalm: 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Help communities around the world affected by hunger and poverty by donating through CRS Rice Bowl. Your Lenten alms make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. You may drop off your CRS Rice Bowl this week in the box provided at the entrance to the church. You may also make a donation through the parish online giving. Mahalo for your support!

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28 - *Humility of Service, Nourished by the Eucharist.*

8:00AM Morning Prayers (No Daily Mass) 7:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight in the One Community Center.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29 - *God Suffers Human Death.*

8:00AM Morning Prayers (No Daily Mass), 3:00PM and 6:00PM – The Passion of the Lord, 5:00PM - Stations of the Cross.

The parish office will be closed on Friday, March 29th, in observance of Good Friday.

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – 8:00AM Morning Prayers (No Daily Mass). No Confessions. No 5:00PM Mass, Easter Vigil – 7:00PM.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – Masses: 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM. No 6:00 PM Mass.

The parish office will be closed on Monday, April 1st, in observance of Prince Kūhiō Day.

**PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH, AT 3PM IN THE CHURCH.**

Join St. John's Knights of Columbus pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a vital part of the divine Mercy devotion given to the Church through St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, and Pope St. John Paul II. This powerful prayer calls us to offer sacrifice and penance in union with Christ's Passion for the sake of our sins and the world's.



**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



**AN EVENING WITH SARAH HART IN CONCERT
FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at 7PM, OCC.**

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	March 25, 2024	Saturday	March 30, 2024
8 AM	Beatrice Braganza Tessie DSouza	8 AM	Carmelo Pacpaco (RIP)
Tuesday	March 26, 2024	5 PM	Josephino Solano (Birthday Memorial)
8AM	Fe Guadalupe Villareal (RIP)		
Wednesday	March 27, 2024	Sunday	March 31, 2024
8 AM	Patricia Rodriguez (Birthday Blessing) Constancio Domanguera	7 AM	Mona DeCosta (Birthday Blessing)
Thursday	March 28, 2024	9 AM	For the People
	Kanoe Pascual (Birthday Blessing)	11 AM	Diane Kotch (RIP)
Friday	March 29, 2024	6 PM	Nestor DSouza
8 AM	David & Yvette Browing (Wedding Anniversary Blessing) Shiena & Kimo Taum (Blessings)		

Respect 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 any 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).

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ROBERT “BOB” MELI ANE (RIP) – Saturday, April 6, 2024 - Family Visitation: 9:00 am;
Public Visitation: 9:30 am; Eulogy: 10:15 am; Mass: 11:00am.

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.

DECEASED

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 & Robert Ane.