



FEBRUARY 21 / 22, 2015
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

95-370 Kuahelani Avenue, Mililani, Hawaii 96789 • Office: (808) 623-3332 • Fax: (808) 623-3286

Email: info@stjohnmililani.org • Website: www.stjohnmililani.org

Daily Mass (M-SAT): 8:00 AM • **Sunday Masses:** (SAT Vigil) 5:00 PM, (SUN) 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM

Reconciliation: (SAT) 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM (or by appointment)

Parish Office Hours: Monday 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM • Tuesday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor

Msgr. John Mbinda (x 111)

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Boniface Waema (x 104)

Deacon Modesto Cordero

(mcordero@rcchawaii.org)

Deacon Wally Mitsui

(wmitsui@rcchawaii.org)

Deacon. Romeo Ganibe

(rganibe@rcchawaii.org)

PARISH OFFICE

Office Administrator (x 103)

Jolly Guerrero-Tano

Parish Secretary (x 100)

Lindsey Higa-Kohagura

Bookkeeper (x 101)

Stephanie Jamile

PARISH PROGRAMS

Outreach (x 203)

Pearl Bates

RCIA Coordinator

Dcn Modesto Cordero

Religious Ed. Director (x 205)

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

Religious Ed. Assistant (x 204)

Terry Silva

Preschool Director (x 208)

Catherine Awong

Youth & Young Adult Coordinator

Deacon Wally & Gwen

Mitsui

(gmitsui@gmail.com)

PARISH MINISTRIES

We welcome you to visit our parish website at www.stjohnmililani.org for a listing and more information on all our ministries.

NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Our Journey of Stewardship as a Way of Life in 2015

Last weekend you received part 2 of our journey towards the next level of stewardship as a way of life. Like any journey we undertake, we need some direction. In my homily last Sunday, I called that direction a vision/mission driven timeline with a purpose. We have followed both the timeline and the guidance of the Catholic Stewardship Consultants (CSC) quite closely. As you have noted, the results were amazingly good. We say they were good as compared to one of the parishes considered the best model of stewardship—St. Francis of Assisi in the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas. That parish has an average commitment renewal of 65% after more than 20 years of stewardship experience. In our first shot last October, 360 (35%) active households returned their commitment cards. According to CSC, that was a good result.

Now is the moment to chart a new timeline that will guide us during this year. As we begin the Lenten Season, the readings will continuously invite us to conversion and transformation, so we may journey more closely with Jesus as his disciples and stewards. You and I know how this journey is going to end - through the Cross to the resurrection. We also know that there will be sacrifice involved on the journey as we try to live the Lenten discipline of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Lent is a time to be more committed disciples and stewards with a purpose and mission in our life: to be the best versions of ourselves by living the scriptures and seeking a closer relationship with Christ. Besides moments of prayer, almsgiving and fasting, find the time to read the scriptures or to read a good Catholic book that is uplifting. In brief, Lent is a time we open our hearts to the transforming power of prayer, deeper understanding of our faith, sacrificial self-giving of the treasure that God entrusts to us and sharing with others the best way to live. As I journey together with you this Lent, I assure you of my prayers for you and your family so that this Lenten Season may be fruitful. Please pray for me too.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Pastor

MISSION 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.*

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Following the evil caused by sin, God can renew mankind, promise them only good things and assure them of his blessings. Notice he promises without asking his counterpart Noah anything. His blessings are unconditional, with no strings attached. The reason is that his love is absolutely gratuitous. God does not wait for people to be good before being generous with them. Though he sees that people are sinners, he loves them all the same and his love transforms us into new creatures.

As we celebrate the first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that the culmination of these forty days is not Good Friday, it's Easter. Yes, God asks us to die to ourselves to resist temptation. But he is asking this so that we can clear out more space in our hearts for him and for his grace. The discipline and self-sacrifice we take up during Lent are not the ends in themselves. We take them on so that we can become more fully alive in Christ, more able to reveal his love to the people around us.

Today Jesus invites us all to choose a change in lifestyle. It is not imposed, but failure to accept it will have disastrous consequences. "Repentance," metanoia, is a change of mind and heart, a lifelong process of transformation. Jesus is not asking for the temporary foregoing of something pleasurable, like giving up sweets for Lent. The metanoia to which Jesus invites us is both a turning away from whatever inhibits the full flourishing of the divine intent for creation and a turning toward him the source of divine love.

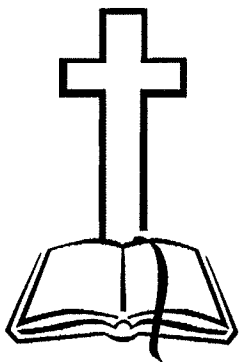
There is no better time to begin turning than now. This is the opportune time, the right time. Every moment is the right time because God wants to intervene, hence we need to make precise choices in order to live the right manner of life. Aware of the cost of the gospel message, one must opt to embrace it whole heartedly and be prepared for the consequences it entails. This is our baptismal mission and we have to accept it despite its demands. We must examine

ourselves and ask how well we have aligned ourselves to Christ.

God gives tangible reminders of his committed love and his desire to be present to us. How do we act as tangible reminders of God's love, especially to those who are most in need? Am I committed to myself, my God and my neighbor? How Do I show this trust and commitment? During this Lent keep your eyes on the prize: new life in Christ. It's a life that springs up from every kind of death to self you embrace. It's a life that will lead you to the final prize: eternal life with Jesus. Lent is a time of reconciliation, renewal and repentance through prayer, refraining from evil & fasting. Let each one of us ask what is hindering me from sacrificing & loving more fully. Find a way to give up what obstructs you from loving others as God loves and expects you and I to love. Try to find out life-giving substitutes for those obstructions.

FR. BONIFACE WAEMA
PAROCHIAL VICAR

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015



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

The story of the sacrifice of Isaac displays many levels of meaning as a part of the Jewish scriptural tradition. It consecrates the mount of the temple (Moriah) as a place fitting for sacrifice. The story is meant to condemn the practice of infant sacrifice, which was prevalent in the eighth and seventh centuries. God provides a substitute sacrifice to redeem the first-born, who belongs to God. Moreover, it emphasizes that true sacrifice lies in faith and obedience rather than in actual slaughter. This voluntary surrender was understood as atonement, and the sacrifice of Isaac was further connected to the Passover lamb.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Psalm 116 is a prayer of thanksgiving of one who is faithful to God even in the midst of darkness and affliction. Response: "I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living" (v 9).

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

At the heart of our faith is the confidence that, if God wills to save us, he does not will to accuse and condemn us. His saving will is shown in his raising Jesus up to be our savior, not merely by his death, but by his continued presence with the Father, commending us to his love and mercy.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

The transfiguration account in the Gospel passage marks the beginning of the disciples' awareness of the true nature of Jesus' mission. It is presented in very close connection with his teaching about his passion, death and resurrection. Elijah features in the narrative because the suffering and death of John the Baptist (the new Elijah) foreshadowed that of Jesus. Moses, in leading the chosen people out of slavery, through the Red sea, into freedom prefigured the suffering-death-resurrection passage of Jesus, which his followers must also eventually share. In his transfiguration, Jesus proclaims that he is the awaited Messiah, but that his glory would eventually be fulfilled through suffering, death and the resurrection, hence the reference to rising from the dead.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, February 23, 2015

8AM: Jerry E. LeDonne (RIP)

Lily Perry (RIP)

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

8AM: Peter Gallogly (Birthday)

Manuel Visaya (RIP)

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

8AM: Jim Walsh (Birthday)

Roger Toledo (Birthday)

Thursday, February 26, 2015

8AM: Ron Weber (RIP)

Oscar Cariaso (RIP)

Friday, February 27, 2015

8AM: Bob Tumey (RIP)

Dominic Pereira (Healing)

Saturday, February 28, 2015

8AM: Joseph C. Domanguera

(Death Anniversary)

Pia Visaya (RIP)

5PM: Bob Tumey (RIP)

Sunday, March 1, 2015

7AM: Bob Tumey (RIP)

9AM: For the People

11AM: Dominic O. Corniel (RIP)

6PM: Guillermo Uytingco

(Birthday Memorial)



**Please pray for
our Members &
Friends**

HEALING/BLESSINGS: Jane & Ray Beauchemin, Richard Butz, Ashley Nawahine, Kamakoa Almasin, Ellen Cleghorn, Helen Uyehara, Linda Watson, Maya Higgins, BJ Sagocio, Teresita Milanio, Samuel Aguirre, Mike Culkin, Bryan & Alexandria Hollon Family, Gloria Aquino, Ramon Ramos, Jeff Grundon, Mamerto Perez, and everyone mentioned in our Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Emilia S. Taclan, Santos "Sandy" Padilla, Lillian M. Ramos, Carmen O. Austria, Ernesta L. Salvador, Christina Falke, Oscar Cariaso, Nancy S. H. Kealoha, Joy Ann K. Baker, Rogelio Ordinario, Lolita Camlin, Bernadette Yockman and Fidel Reyes.



Hungering for a Better Life -

Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Tanzania, where a simple soybean is changing lives! What actions can you take this Lent to change lives - at home and around the world?

Don't give up CHOCOLATE this LENT!

Instead, join our parish and Matthew Kelly for the *Best Lent Ever* and sign up for a *free* Lenten program at www.BestLentEver.com. This program features daily reflections & videos to help you become the best version of yourself!

Stations of the Cross will take place this Friday, February 27th followed by a frugal meal that is sponsored by the Charismatic Prayer Group.

Parish Nurse Health Ministry is sponsoring a workshop on February 28, from 10 am to 12 pm on the church lanai featuring "Wills, Trusts, and Estates" by lawyer Andrew Egseth. To sign-up and for more information, please email Elaine Gibson at egibbi2441@yahoo.com.

The Office of Permanent Deacon Formation will be having two Deacon Formation Inquiry Weekends at St. Stephens Diocesan Center for formation that will begin in January 2016. Attendance at either the March 13-15, 2015 or June 12-14, 2015 weekend is required to apply. For more information, please contact Dcn. John A. Coughlin at 808-203-6727 or email jcoughlin@rcchawaii.org.

St. John's Catholic Preschool, a Catholic, Montessori preschool for children ages 2.8 through 5 years of age, is currently accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year. Children must be turning 3 by Dec. 31, 2015, and be completely potty-learned. Please call the preschool office at 623-3332, ext. 200, to set up an appointment for an observation/tour.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will help you enjoy life with a new closeness to each other and God. You don't need it - you **DESERVE** a Marriage Encounter Weekend! For more information, please visit the WWME website at www.hawaiiwwme.org or contact Jose and Mary Elizabeth Alvior at 391-2045 or email jluvsme@gmail.com.

The 2015 Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign runs from February 18 - March 29. Our parish, St. John A & E, will be participating in weekly prayer vigils on five consecutive Mondays at 10:00 am (Feb 23 and March 2, 9, 16, and 23). A group will leave the church parking lot at 9:00 AM and return around 11:30 AM. 40 Days for Life is a program that has a proven record of success in saving 9,699 babies from abortion. Thousands of women and men have been spared from lives of regret. 107 abortion workers have had conversions and left their jobs. 59 abortion centers have closed down for good. Please consider being a visible prayer warrior for life and participate in this worthy effort. You can sign up at the back of the Church. For questions contact Mary Smart: mghsmart@yahoo.com or 741-2358 or visit the 40 Days for Life website for more information: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/honolulu/>

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Christine Falke (RIP)

Friday, February 27, 2015 ~ St. John A & E

Viewing: 9:30 am ~ Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 1:00 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Collection for February 14/15, 2015

Sunday Collection	
- 5:00 PM	\$2,598.67
- 7:00 AM	\$2,607.00
- 9:00 AM	\$2,725.00
- 11:00 AM	\$2,374.56
- 6:00 PM	\$2,069.00
- Front Office	\$1,957.00
- Online Donation	\$1,957.00
Candle Sales	\$397.00
Offering - Marriage	\$1,875.00
Mass Intentions	\$90.00
Donation - Outreach	\$39.50
Stewardship Development	\$1,437.75
BEMO	\$1,461.25
Hui O Laulima	\$78.00
Preschool	\$285.00
Augustine Ed. Foundation	\$57.00
Church in Latin America	\$20.00
Operation Rice Bowl	\$25.55
Seminarian Education Fund	\$10.00
Weekend Total:	\$20,715.28
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9	

REPENT

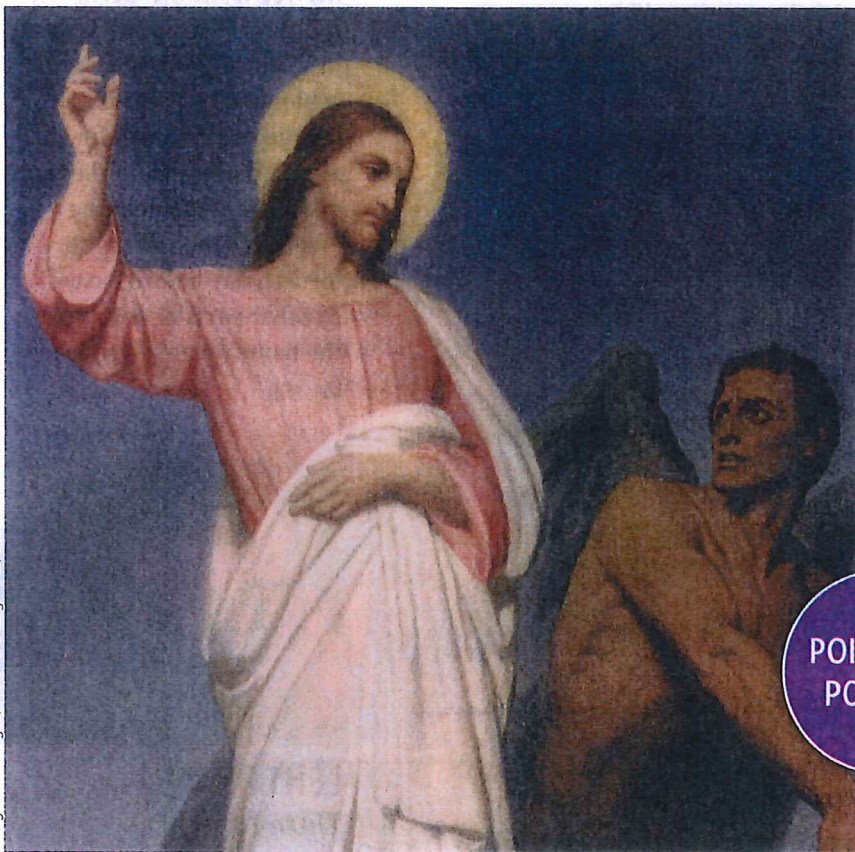
Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

Jesus in the Desert

Mark 1:12-15

Before Jesus began his ministry, the Spirit drove him out into the desert. After 40 days he emerged to announce that the kingdom of God was at hand and to encourage the people to “repent, and believe in the gospel.” As we begin the season of Lent, we, too, enter into our own desert as part of our renewal of heart.



Today's Gospel contains two key events of the beginning of Jesus's ministry. First, he went out into the desert for 40 days, where he was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Next, after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus announced that the “time of fulfilment” was at hand, and he began his preaching and teaching. What lesson lies here for us? While Lent is a time of service to others, it must also be a time of preparation and renewal of self. We cannot give what we do not have. Just as Jesus had to spend time in the desert, so we, too, need to take time to allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the conviction to act on those changes.

POINTS TO PONDER

- What will I do this Lent as an outward sign of my repentance?
- What would I like to accomplish spiritually over the next six weeks?
- What is one thing I will do daily during this Lenten season?

As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst.... 'Repent and believe,' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor — he knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.

— Attributed to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



CATHOLIC INSIGHTS

40 days in the desert

Why did Jesus spend 40 days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number 40 has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent 40 days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28). An Israelite patrol spent 40 days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron

(Numbers 13:25). And the entire Israelite people spent 40 years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34). Jesus likewise spent 40 days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.

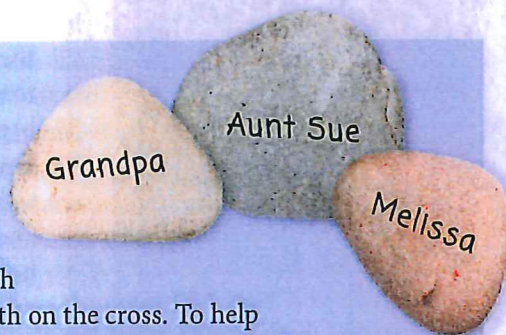
SIGNS OF THE SEASON By Any Other Name

The word "Lent" has a specific religious connotation today, but originally it was used to mean "spring." It derived from the Germanic root word for "long," because in spring the days begin to get longer. In Latin-based languages, the word for the season derives from the term *quadragesima*, meaning "fortieth," indicating the fortieth day before Easter. In other parts of the world, the name means "a time of fasting."

FamilyActivity

Family Calvary Stones

The days of Lent have traditionally been used as a spiritual pilgrimage, in which we symbolically travel with Jesus to his death on the cross. To help emphasize the idea of Lent as a journey, collect 40 small stones, one for each day of the season. (These are sometimes available at craft stores.) Each night at dinner, pray for one person and write his or her name with a marker on one of the pebbles. Collect the stones in a small bowl, and during Holy Week use them to make a "mound" of prayer that holds up a crucifix.



Catechism CONNECTION

"The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice.¹ These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)."

—Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1438

¹ cf. SC 109-110; CIC, cann. 1249-1253; CCEO, cann. 880-883



LENT PRAYER Unto to you, I cry, my God!

"Repent, and believe in the gospel."

— Mark 1:15

Lord, help us see today and
all of its stresses in the light of
your eternal love.