



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

MARCH 7/8, 2015
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Deacon 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 Coordinators

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

The Transforming Power of Fasting

Fasting is the second Lenten discipline. It is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday is the best reference for a deeper meaning of fasting. The prophet Isaiah shows that fasting is meant to transform our behaviors and attitudes in order to please God. "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7). Fasting therefore is linked to the stewardship of caring for those forced to fast by their poverty, economic injustices and political structures; those who are in need for any reason. The savings that come from our fasting are meant to be given to the cause of our less fortunate brothers and sisters; otherwise it is of no use at all, if we simply keep those savings! Furthermore, fasting is linked to living out our baptismal commitment as disciples and stewards. It helps us to be more focused on the vision, mission and purpose of Jesus Christ. Fasting not only transforms us but also supports efforts to alleviate the suffering of those in need.

Abstaining from meat was traditionally linked to the poor, who could seldom afford meat for their meals. It can do the same today if we remember the purpose of abstinence and embrace it as a spiritual link to those whose diets are sparse and simple. That should be the goal we set for ourselves—a sparse and simple meal. Abstaining from meat while eating lobster misses the whole point! While giving up food and drink or eating less in Lent is good, we may also decide to “fast” from our negative addictive behaviors and attitudes towards people and certain things during Lent. This may include giving up certain habits like self-seeking, the desire to control others or situations, swearing, viewing pornography on the Internet or pornographic movies and refraining from watching your favorite TV shows. During this age of electronic gadgets, we may also fast from the use of our cell phones and texting, so that we may use that time to “text to God”; to relate to God in prayer. Next week we will consider almsgiving. Stay tuned!

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

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.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

In the Gospel story this week we see three points that come to light. Our closeness to God transforms us rather than any effort of our own; a growing understanding of the Word of God will help us to change; and a listening heart will lead to an active love of one another.

The story of the meeting of the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well is very significant. In scripture a well was an essential part of desert living. It signified life and refreshment in fact like all symbols it supplies endless material for reflection. In the ancient scriptures some important marriages began at a well. Moses met Zipporah at a well. A bride was found for Isaac at a well. Jacob first saw his beloved, Rachel, as she brought her flocks to be watered.

Jesus goes to the well and is seeking someone with whom he can share God's vision. The vision of a world longing to reach its potential, a world that

recognizes that such a vision can be realized through responding to the graciousness of God.

As Jesus and the woman converse their relationship changes. They cease to be strangers. The Samaritan woman comes to the well without a flock but leaves as shepherd of the kingdom.

The women of the Jewish stories found love and a partner with whom to begin a family. The Samaritan woman finds a new way of loving and the ability to be a spiritual mother and founder of a Christian community.

Jesus promises the woman the water of life. This water is the grace of God which fills her so completely that she too can become a fountain overflowing and bringing life to others. By embracing the Word, she becomes an evangelist, a bearer of Good News to her kinsfolk. Later they were able to tell her that they had become disciples.

St. Paul, who was also a bearer of Good

News, compares the love of God to water poured out upon us. As we sweat in the hot sun and watch the land crack, the grass wither, the image of rain covering the land is a powerful reminder of the renewing power of God's love. God's love as Paul says, is freely given to all.

The gift of Jesus' fidelity to his mission is expressed through the virtue of endurance. This is in total contrast to the complaints of those brought out of Egypt by Moses. Instead of trusting the God who had freed them from slavery they complained about the lack of water and the discomforts of travel.

Even the gift of water from the rock did not soften the hardness of their hearts. Paul says that the virtue of hope is the gift that, through Christ, keeps us going. When people come to us seeking hope, let us be generous with the well of living water that we have received.

**LENTEN BLESSINGS,
DEACON WALLACE MITSUI**

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

The Decalogue in this passage is a brief, easily memorized summary of the entire law of God. The passage has been traditionally used as such in religious education. The first commandment sets the rest of the commandments within the context of the covenant. The law is seen as the means of faithfulness to the covenant God has made with his people. Although the commandments are in accord with what we may perceive as natural law and with any reasonable ethical system, they also rise above nature. They are expressions of the personal will of God as the way to live in union with God. In the commandments, we have an example of God elevating nature to be an expression of God's love and wisdom. Keeping the commandments is therefore the foundation upon which a life of Christian love, which goes beyond mere laws, is to be built.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

In psalm 19, the psalmist sees the harmony of the universe, expressed in God's law, as a powerful sign of his love. Response: "Lord, you have the words of everlasting life."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

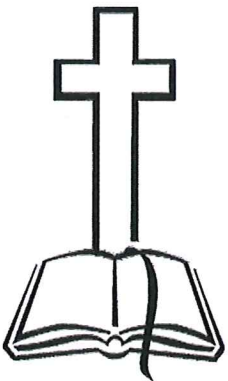
In this passage, Paul briefly explores the problem of divisions among Corinthians as caused by a search for worldly wisdom — using reason to argue one's own way as more "perfect" than that of others. Paul's solution is to disregard both the arguments of the Jews who rely more on signs (miracles) and Greeks, who rely more on wisdom. Rather, Paul calls for a patterning of one's life on the Cross which is self-giving in terms of self-emptiness to the point of death. This is viewed as foolishness to the Greeks and a scandal to the Jews.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

John places the incident of cleansing the temple at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, while the other Gospels show it as part of the events immediately preceding the passion. The cleansing of the temple, explicitly connected to the Passover, gives the theme of God's salvation in Christ. The Passover event in Egypt involving the destruction of the bonds of slavery pointed to passage to a new life as God's people in the Promised Land. Similarly, the destruction of the material physical temple of Jerusalem points to the passage from the old to new life of God's true temple, Jesus Christ beyond the resurrection.

Follow Msgr. John's homilies! Blog (text): <http://www.sundayhomily.com>

Podcast (audio): <http://streaminghomilies.podbean.com> iTunes (audio): [Streaming Homilies](#)



Mass for the Intentions for the Week

Monday, March 9, 2015

8AM: Jenny Boyd (RIP)

Eric Adamas, Sr. (RIP)

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

8AM: Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

George Smith (RIP)

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

8AM: Ernesta Salvador (RIP)

Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Thursday, March 12, 2015

8AM: Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Valerio & Salamona Duldulao (RIP)

Friday, March 13, 2015

8AM: Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Rogelio Ordinario (RIP)

Nancy S. H. Kealoha (RIP)

Saturday, March 14, 2015

8AM: Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Christopher Pereira (Healing)

5PM: Nestor D'Souza (RIP)

Sunday, March 15, 2015

7AM: Ron Thames (Birthday)

9AM: For the People

11AM: Hilario Aquino (RIP)

6PM: Everett Bates (Birthday)

Stations of the Cross will take place this Friday, March 13, followed by a frugal meal that is sponsored by the FilAm Catholic Club.

A Healing Mass with Anointing will be held on Monday, March 9. Praise and worship begins at 7:30 pm, followed by Mass.

Catholic Relief Services Collection - The weekend of March 14/15, our parish will take up a collection for the Catholic Relief Services. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world by helping provide food for the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. You may drop your donation during offertory or you may make a donation online by visiting our parish website at www.stjohnmililani.org, clicking the "Online Giving" icon. Please give generously.

Parish Lenten Retreat with Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ will take place in the church on Monday, March 16 to Wednesday, March 18, at 7:00 pm. Come and join us as Fr. Philip talks about "Opening Some Doors This Lent". Free admission! All parishioners, friends, and families are encouraged to attend.

Lenten Book Fair - The Daughters of Saint Paul, Catholic Sisters who are missioned at the Pauline Book & Media Center, will hold a book fair after all Sunday Masses the weekend of March 21/22. The Sisters will have a selection of religious books, music CD's, DVD's and religious articles for all ages for purchase. During this Lenten season, gift yourself and your loved ones with good Catholic reading resources etc. If you have any special requests, please call the Pauline Book & Media Center at 521-2731.



Hungering for the Season of Hope

The next stop on our CRS Rice Bowl journey is the African nation, Niger, where we're reminded that life's joys and challenges are often seasonal. This week we pray for people who struggle to feed their families during the hungry season—when food is in short supply—and we commit to acting for the common good.

Mahalo to everyone that participated in the "Wills/Trusts/Estates" seminar on Feb. 28th. We had a total of 64 participants. Also, heartfelt thanks to Mr. Andrew Egseth, the Staff and Nurses that made this event a success. Sincerely, Elaine Gibson.

The next Catholic Book Club meeting will be held on March 19, 7-9 pm, in the parish classroom 6. The discussion book will be *Be a Man!: Becoming the Man God Created you to be* by Fr. Larry Richards. Borrow or buy the book, read it and join us for our book discussion. For more information, contact Melissa Crisostomo at 626-2469 or alohamc@yahoo.com.



The next 24 hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, May 1, immediately after the 8 am Mass and ending at 7:30 am on Saturday, May 2. This beautiful devotion allows us to spend time in quiet adoration of our Lord and feel the infinite love present in His heart. Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. Come and adore Him.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Fidel D. Reyes (RIP)

Thursday, March 19 ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Wake: 6:30 pm (Makai Chapel)

Friday, March 20, 2015 ~ St. John A & E

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

Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Collection for Feb. 28 / Mar. 1, 2015

Sunday Collection	
- 5:00 PM	\$3,026.00
- 7:00 AM	\$2,576.00
- 9:00 AM	\$3,223.82
- 11:00 AM	\$2,240.33
- 6:00 PM	\$2,231.00
- Front Office	\$655.25
- Online Donation	\$2,356.00
Candle Sales	\$553.00
Offerings - Funerals	\$300.00
Donation - Outreach	\$107.50
Frugal Meal (Outreach)	\$130.00
Mass Intentions	\$50.00
Stewardship Development	\$693.50
BEMO	\$2,111.65
Hui O Lailima	\$305.50
Preschool	\$19.00
Operation Rice Bowl	\$109.29
Weekend Total:	\$20,587.84

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce."

Proverbs 3:9



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, Maydell Britt-Mason, Bryan & Alexandria Hollon Family, Gloria Aquino, Ramon Ramos, Jeff Grundon, Mamerto Perez, Alicia Newson, Lance Yoshimura, 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 Carias, Nancy S. H. Kealoha, Joy Ann K. Baker, Rogelio Ordinario, Lolita Camlin, Bernadette Yockman and Fidel Reyes.

The Third Week of Lent

REPENT

Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

Out of the Temple

John 2:13-25

When Jesus saw the moneychangers, merchants, sheep, oxen, and doves at the Temple, he became angered, not because of what they were doing, but because of where they were doing it. The old law required animal sacrifice, so the availability of the proper animals for purchase wasn't at issue. But making the act of worship into a commercial, for-profit enterprise by selling those animals within the Temple itself made a mockery of a sacred duty.



Bottom right: The Crosiers. Bridgeman Images, Above: Thinkstock

POINTS TO PONDER

- When I attend Mass, am I fully aware that I am in the presence of God during that time?
- When was the last time I went to confession?
- As we enter the third week of Lent, what progress have I made spiritually? Do I need to make a “course correction” for the remaining weeks?

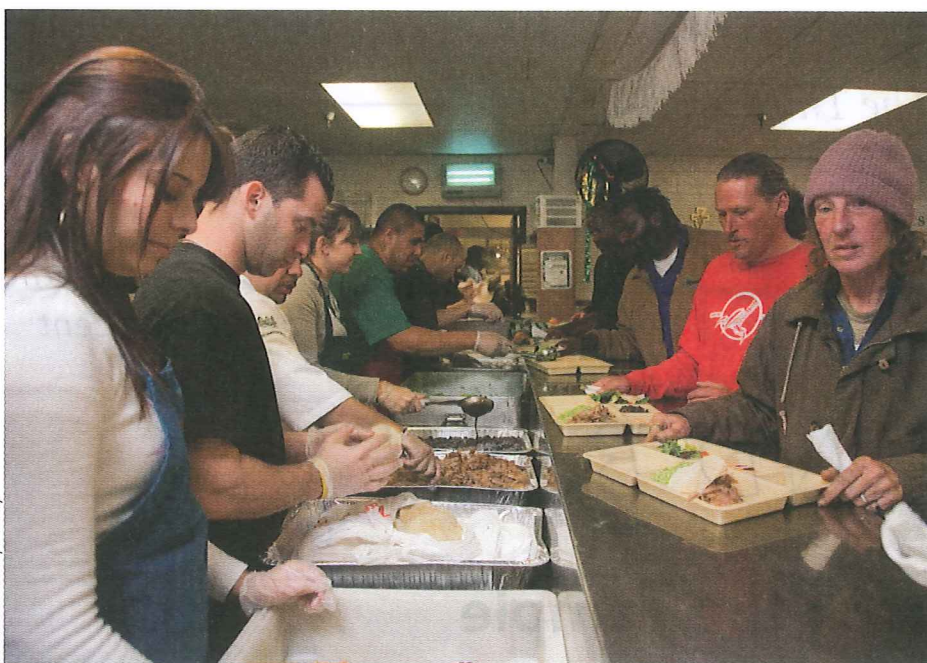
Although we no longer purchase animals for sacrifice on the steps of our churches, the temptation to turn faith into profit is still with us. Today, as in Jesus' time, there is wealth to be made in religion and spirituality. But even for those of us who don't profit directly from our faith, there is a pull to make it into just another thing we do every week, instead of a true act of worship.

When we come to Mass, we can be distracted by worldly affairs, more concerned with what we (or someone else) is wearing, even slipping out early so that we can get on with “real life.” In today's Gospel, Jesus is showing us that the time we give to God needs to be given freely and fully — without being compromised by anything else. This Lent, let us make the time we spend at Mass a highlight of our week.

“Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ; discipline your body; do not pamper yourself, but love fasting.”

— St. Benedict





CATHOLIC INSIGHTS

Works of Mercy

Along with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are encouraged to perform both corporal and spiritual acts of mercy during Lent. During the next few weeks, try to do at least one act of mercy.

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

FamilyActivity

Crown of Thorns

To encourage children to perform good deeds and make small sacrifices during Lent, make a “crown of thorns.” Twist a rope of tan modeling clay into a circle and then stud it with toothpicks. Each time someone in the family makes a sacrifice or does a good deed, pull one of the toothpick “thorns” out of the “crown.” Try to remove all the “thorns” by Good Friday.



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

The Scrutinies

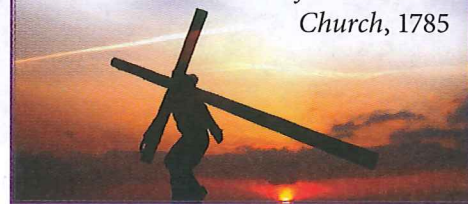
This week and the two following weeks, we celebrate the Scrutinies. Their purpose is “to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good” (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141).

While specifically designed for those who are entering the Church, all of us can benefit from the Scrutinies by examining our hearts and consciences for both healing and strengthening.

Catechism CONNECTION

“In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path (Cf. *Ps* 119:105), we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord’s Cross.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1785



Images: Thinkstock, Shutterstock

LENT PRAYER

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God.”
— Psalm 42:1

My Lord, as we enter into the third week of Lent, help me to put aside worldly concerns and focus more deeply and completely on you.