



MARCH 14/15, 2015
THE FOURTH 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

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

Transforming Power of Almsgiving

Almsgiving has a transforming power. "Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life" (Tob 12:8-9). Why is almsgiving better than prayer and fasting? Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is "giving to God" and not mere philanthropy. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving, not just giving something, but giving up something, giving till it hurts. In the Sermon on the Mountain, Jesus teaches on almsgiving first as a necessary part of Christian life: "when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, to win praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt 6:2-3). Jesus does not say IF you give alms, but WHEN. Like fasting and prayer, almsgiving is non-negotiable. The first Christians knew the importance of almsgiving. "There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need" (Acts 4:34-35). That was the living embodiment of a basic principle of Catholic social teaching, what tradition calls "the universal destination of goods." The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it succinctly: "The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race" (# 2452).

What do we mean by almsgiving? We often think of almsgiving in terms of financial contribution and giving to the less fortunate. But we can also give our time, our talents as well as our treasure. How could you give time during this season of Lent? You could, for example give time to visit the homebound, the sick or prisoners. You also decide to meet with new parishioners to make them feel at home. That implies giving some of your time for someone else. For example, if you are a godparent, you could decide to spend some prime time with your godchildren this season. God has given so many talents to each of us. You could put these talents at the service of others as a gift at home, in the parish community or in the neighborhood. Regarding treasure, Scripture recommends tithing, a contribution of 10% to charity or to your parish. What would 10% of your gross income be? How close to that figure is your giving? Are you keeping up with your stewardship commitment? What other donations could you give through Hui O Laulima or Outreach parish programs? As you reflect on these questions, here is a concluding teaching on almsgiving from St. Basil the Great (330-379 AD): "*The bread which you do not use is bread for the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is garment of him who is naked; the money you keep locked away is money of the poor; the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit.*"

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.**

CHRIST TRANSFORMS OUR BLINDNESS INTO 20/20 VISION!

Light and darkness, sight and blindness are the contrasting images that help to focus on the central message of this Sunday. The central message is that Christ heals our spiritual blindness in our Baptism and makes us witnesses of the truth. That is the meaning of the second Scrutiny celebrated this Sunday for those preparing for the Easter Sacraments. The celebrant prays over the Candidates and anoints them with Holy Oil in a rite of exorcism that symbolically restores their spiritual sight so that they begin to see Jesus and to follow him like the man born blind in the Gospel. The purpose of the second scrutiny is to symbolically restore the spiritual sight of the catechumens, so that they can see Jesus and follow him.

For those already Baptized, Christ renews our vision as it were from 10/10 to 20/20 vision, so that we can begin to see as God sees (cf. 1 Sam 16:7). The verse before the Gospel introduces the central point of our celebration. "I am the light of the world, anyone who follows me will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The entire liturgy therefore celebrates the mystery of Christ -

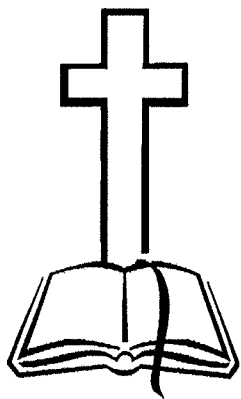
the light of the world; the light that dispels the darkness of our minds and our hearts. We celebrate Christ who heals our spiritual blindness. The three readings therefore help us to see a sharp contrast between light and darkness; spiritual sight and spiritual blindness.

In the first reading, Samuel struggles as if it were in darkness, trying to find a king, but can only succeed to find the young David when he begins to see as God sees. In the second reading, Paul reminds us that we were once darkness, but now because of our Baptism we are light in the Lord. We are therefore challenged to be children of the light, for the effects of the light are seen in goodness, in right living and in truth. The story of the man born blind in the Gospel is not so much about the man being healed, but about seeing as God sees. Here we meet a blind man with spiritual sight as compared to the intellectual Pharisees who are spiritually blind. The Gospel reminds us that our Baptism transforms us into disciples and stewards of Christ who embrace God's vision, life, goodness and truth. Our Baptism commits us to be

bearers of the truth and to confront the spiritual blindness of the world with the truth. The passage clearly contrasts light and darkness, faith and the refusal to accept the truth. The passage leads to a controversy with the Pharisees who are in the darkness of their own prejudice, they refuse to recognize Jesus as the messiah; they refuse to acknowledge that Jesus has the power to heal the blind man.

The message we take home is threefold: 1) In baptism, Christ has healed our spiritual blindness and given us the light of faith, so that, like the healed blind man, we may proclaim Christ boldly despite the opposition from those still in darkness. 2) Just as the blind man after being healed by Jesus began to witness to Jesus Christ, we too are challenged to spread the light of Christ wherever we are, even in times of opposition. 3) Just as in the Gospel story, we must not allow dishonesty and the distortion of the truth to dim our light, because Christ is our Light.

MONSIGNOR JOHN MBINDA
PASTOR



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The prophet Jeremiah in this passage prophesies to the Jews in exile in Babylon that the Lord will establish a new covenant. They are in exile because through their unfaithfulness they broke the previous covenant. That is why they are being punished in exile. But already the Lord paves the way to the new covenant because the Lord is ready to forgive and forget their sins, thereby establishing a binding relationship that ends the alienation of the people from the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

Psalm 51 is attributed to David who expresses repentance and confidence in God's forgiveness. That forgiveness should be ours too through Christ. Response: "Create a clean heart in me, O God."

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus carried out the ideal of inner sacrifice — obedience — spoken of by the prophets. Christ is the perfect high priest because only he, as God-the-Son, can make God very present and active. Having assumed human flesh, Christ can fully respond in obedience to the Father. He is the only one who can perfectly represent God to us and us to God!

Gospel: John 12:20-33

In this Gospel passage, Jesus does not seem to grant the request of the Greeks to see him. But he more than fulfills it immediately after saying that when he is glorified, salvation will be available to all peoples. The true meaning of glory is not empty fame or even well-deserved praise. Glory is inner value. Suffering and death itself is the glory of Jesus because he thus manifests his true self in loving obedience to the Father, and this glory is shared with his followers in their joining in his sufferings. The resurrection is not merely a reward for undergoing suffering and death, it is the result of the gracious and loving acceptance of Jesus' self-gift by the Father. Like the grain of wheat dying in order to give much fruit, so too Christ yielding (dying) gives birth to new life in 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

Monday, March 16, 2015

8AM: Lindsey Higa-Kohagura

(Blessings)

Joshua K. Nakata (RIP)

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

8AM: Lawrence "Pat" Perry (Birthday)

McNally & MacAsey Families

(Blessings)

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

8AM: Anson Cabello (Birthday)

Mike Culkin (Healing)

Thursday, March 19, 2015

8AM: Mr. & Mrs. Charley Jones (RIP)

Pearl Harden (RIP)

Friday, March 20, 2015

8AM: Nicholas Santos (RIP)

Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Lolita Camlin (RIP)

Saturday, March 21, 2015

8AM: Mike Browning (Birthday)

Conrad Recibe & Emerson Masa (RIP)

5PM: Santos "Sandy Padilla (RIP)

Sunday, March 22, 2015

7AM: William & Helen Heagney (RIP)

9AM: For the People

11AM: Dominic Cortel (Birthday)

6PM: Yadao Family (Blessings)



Please pray for our Members & Friends

HEALING/BLESSINGS: Jane & Ray Beauchemin, Richard Butz, Ashley Nawahine, Kamakoa Almasin, Ellen Cleghorn, Helen Uychara, 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, Marcy Sagon, Gregory Castillo 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.

Parish Lenten Retreat & Penance Service

"OPEN SOME DOORS THIS LENT"

with Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ

Retreat - March 16 - 18, at 7:00 pm

Penance Service - March 18, at 7:30 pm

in the Church. Everyone is encouraged to attend!



Easter Flower Offering Envelopes

are available at the back of the church or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, www.stjohnmililani.org, and click on the "Online Giving" icon.

Catholic Relief Services Collection serves Jesus in the victims of human trafficking, in those who suffer from unjust laws, and in those who need pastoral care and humanitarian assistance across the globe. In supporting today's collection, you are helping Jesus in disguise. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. You may drop your donation during offertory or you may donate online by visiting our parish website at www.stjohnmililani.org, clicking the "Online Giving" icon. Please give generously.

St. John Prison Ministry Easter Drive -

Outreach office will be collecting items for the Prison Ministry's Easter Collection. Donations will be given to the Central Office of Prisons and will be distributed to our brothers & sisters in penitentiary. Please refer to the poster for the list of donation items. All items must be new. Collection days start from now through April 1, and may be dropped off at the Outreach Office during regular office hours. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

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

Senior Bingo! Hui O Laulima will sponsor a senior bingo afternoon on Sunday, March 29, from 1:00-3:00 pm on the church lanai. There will be games, great prizes, refreshments and

many friends to laugh and enjoy with. You must be 60 years old or older to participate. Come and join the fun. See you there!

Stations of the Cross will take place this Friday, March 20, followed by a frugal meal that is sponsored by the Woman's Guild.

A Special Presentation of the Stations of the Cross will be re-enacted by members of our Confirmation program on March 27th, at 7:00 PM. Please be advised that this will *not* be the traditional Stations of the Cross, but will be a dramatization of the Passion of Christ. Everyone is invited to come and walk with Jesus and Mary on the road to Calvary.



The next 24 hour Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, May 1, immediately after the 8:00 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 March 7/8, 2015

Sunday Collection	
- 5:00 PM	\$2,727.24
- 7:00 AM	\$3,232.00
- 9:00 AM	\$3,240.25
- 11:00 AM	\$2,897.50
- 6:00 PM	\$2,221.28
- Front Office	\$567.00
- Online Donation	\$2,018.75
Candle Sales	\$564.00
Offerings - Baptism	\$50.00
Donation - Outreach	\$226.50
Frugal Meal (Op. Rice Bowl)	\$146.00
Mass Intentions	\$240.00
Stewardship Development	\$383.50
BEMO	\$1,757.25
Hui O Laulima	\$327.50
Catholic Relief Services	\$215.00
Operation Rice Bowl	\$52.70
Weekend Total:	\$20,866.47

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

Proverbs 3:9

REPENT

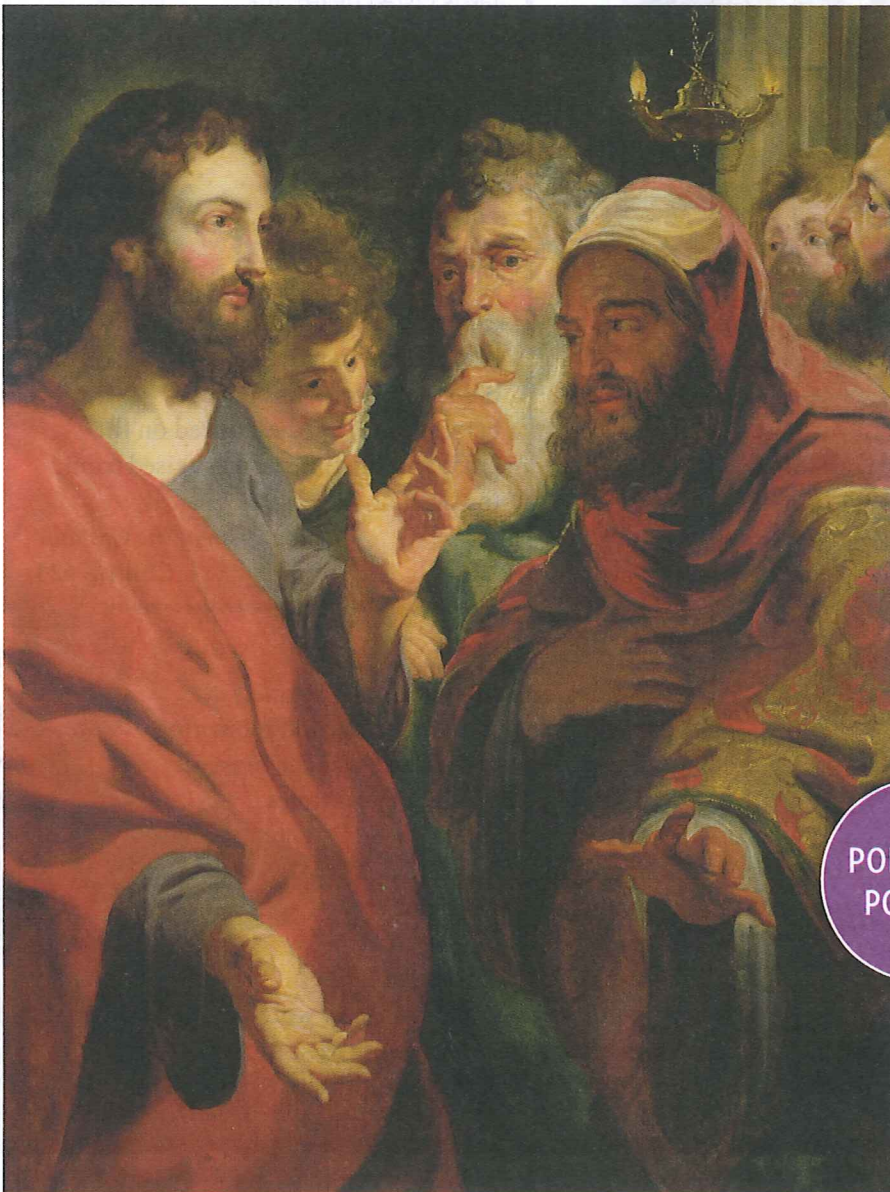
Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

The Name of the Son

John 3:14-21

The events that give rise to the teachings in today's Gospel begin a few verses before when the Pharisee Nicodemus comes to visit Jesus secretly in the night. Nicodemus has heard about Jesus and is curious, but he is also afraid. He wants to believe, but he isn't quite ready to make a public commitment.



The people of the Gospels aren't so very different from us. Nicodemus is intrigued by Jesus but unwilling to be seen publicly with him. How often have you learned that someone you've known for a long time is or was raised as a Catholic? This is particularly true of famous people who are afraid that making their faith public will harm their careers. Sometimes we fall victim to this same temptation, hiding our faith out of fear. While we fear that we may be mocked or made fun of for our faith, in some parts of the world today people are being killed for their Christian beliefs. Truly the words of 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"*) are at the very center of our faith. The season of Lent is the perfect reminder that we are called to let our faith show in our daily lives — with joy and fervor!

POINTS TO PONDER

- Do the people I work with, go to school with, and spend free time with know that I am Catholic?
- Who encourages me most in my faith? Who can I encourage?
- "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light" (Jn 3:21). How can I come more closely to the light of Jesus this Lent?

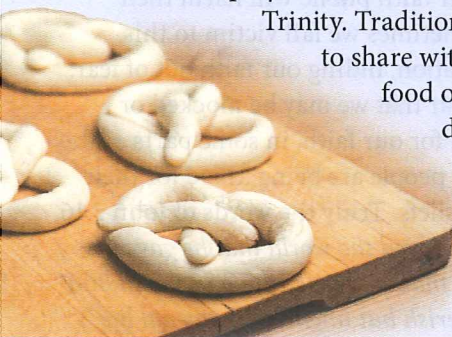
A Good Pharisee

Although the word “Pharisee” has come to have a negative connotation, not all Pharisees were wicked. Nicodemus, the curious Pharisee in today’s Gospel, was one of those who eventually followed Jesus. A member of the Sanhedrin, he defends Jesus when the chief priests are debating what to do with Jesus. And after the Crucifixion, along with Joseph of Arimathea, he brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloë to anoint Jesus’ body. Tradition says that he was martyred for the Faith.

FamilyActivity

Pretzel Prayers

Once considered the official Catholic food of Lent, pretzels date back at least 1,400 years. Because fat, eggs, and milk were part of the Lenten abstinence, these little bites of bread made only with flour, salt, and water were invented. They were wrapped in the shape of arms crossed in prayer, and the three holes in the middle represented the Trinity. Traditionally, pretzels were the perfect food to share with people who were struggling for food or living on the streets because they didn’t spoil easily. Make your own pretzels as a family (find a recipe on the Internet), and share them with someone in need in your neighborhood or community.



LENT PRAYER

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“No one who lights a lamp hides it away or places it [under a bushel basket], but on a lampstand so that those who enter might see the light.” — Luke 11:33

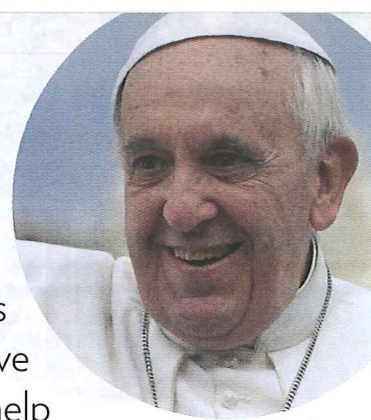
Lord, give me the courage to be a brave and bold witness to you in all that I say and do.



The liturgical color for Lent is purple, symbolizing pain, suffering, and mourning. But why purple? Purple was the most expensive color in biblical times. Extracted from a sea snail, it took as many as 12,000 shells to get enough dye to color a handkerchief. Because of the enormous cost, only the wealthiest wore purple garments. When soldiers mocked Jesus for being the “King of the Jews,” they put a purple robe on his shoulders to belittle his claim. Therefore, we use the color purple during Lent to remind us of the passion and death of the Lord.

“Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts.”

— Pope Francis, Lenten Message 2014,



Catechism CONNECTION

“By the grace of God’ Jesus tasted death ‘for every one’” (Heb 2:9). In his plan of salvation, God ordained that his Son should not only ‘die for our sins’ (1 Cor 15:3) but should also ‘taste death,’ experience the condition of death, the separation of his soul from his body, between the time he expired on the cross and the time he was raised from the dead.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 624

