



MARCH 19 / 20, 2016

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

ST. JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Email: sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org • Website: www.stjohnmililani.org

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

Reconciliation: (Saturday) 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

NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor

Msgr. John Mbinda (x 111)

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Boniface Waema (x 104)

Deacon Wally Mitsui

(wmitsui@rcchawaii.org)

Deacon Modesto Cordero

(mcordero@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

Director of Liturgy

Nicholas Calzada

(ncalzada@rcchawaii.org)

PARISH PROGRAMS

Outreach (x 203)

Pearl Bates

RCIA Coordinator

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

Religious Ed. Director (x 206)

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

Preschool Director (x 208)

Catherine Awong

Youth & Young Adult Coordinators

Gwen & Dcn. Wally Mitsui

(gmitsui@rcchawaii.org)

PARISH MINISTRIES

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Passion: God's Expression of Mercy

"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ that we commemorate on Palm Sunday is a prelude to Good Friday. That is why the liturgical vestments are red. The Crucifixion and death on the Cross is the highest expression of God's mercy. It is in the sacrificial self-offering of Jesus in his passion and death on the Cross that we see the face of God's mercy. As Jesus takes up his Cross on his way to be crucified, he looks at us with the Father's eyes of mercy and compassion. We cannot understand the passion narrative unless we look at it from this perspective of revealing God's face of mercy.

This year as we read the passion narrative according to Luke (22:14-23:56), we notice its unique features that lack the formal night hearing (22:54) and a separate hearing before Herod (23:6-11). Luke presents Jesus as the innocent righteous one who suffers and extends God's mercy until death. The passion narrative in Luke therefore underlines the mercy, compassion and the healing power of Jesus (22:51;61;23:43). The Father lets his innocent Son suffer and die a gruesome death because of his mercy, to purchase our lives by the innocent blood of his Son; to take us out of the slavery of sin into the freedom of his adopted sons and daughters.

The Lenten season ends this week still guided by the three disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence as we relive the Lord's Passion and Death. During these last few days, we are challenged to enter more deeply into the spirit of the Holy Week during which God shows us his face of mercy in the sacrificial self-offering of his Son on the Cross. Beyond the Cross, however is the joy of the resurrection.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Pastor

VISION / 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.**



Jubilee Year of Mercy: December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016
"Merciful like the Father"

PALM SUNDAY: A CALL TO PROCEED IN INNOCENCE!

Palm Sunday marks the conclusion of our 40-day journey through the desert of our lives! The journey we all started five weeks ago, when marked by the ashes, we were reminded to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.” During this past five weeks, we heard the story about a man from Galilee that taught, healed, and prepared his way for the day when he would go to Jerusalem. We heard stories about temptations, transfiguration, repentance, prodigal sons, tax collectors, adulterous women, and the raising of the dead. All these accounts, from the gospel readings, bring us to an end of our 40-day journey and to a beginning of a new one.

Palm Sunday begins an *extraordinary week* — a week that concentrates on the ultimate meaning of our whole life. We must slow down and make choices so that this week does not go by without us taking the time to listen and entering into the understanding of its meaning. It is clear that the suffering of Jesus is the most prominent feature of the passion story we heard today. However, it is necessary to insist that this story is not primarily about suffering: *it is about love*. It was Jesus' love for us that brought him to his passion and early death, and it was his love for us that opened the way for our redemption. The suffering was a

consequence of his love for us. Now, the question we have in front of us is: *How do we let the power of the passion account move us when it is so familiar to us?* Again, the only way is to slow down, pray, and reflect on the *innocent Man* that gave His life for us so we can become more innocent ourselves.

In the first reading, Isaiah announces the obedience of a suffering servant whose tongue faithfully proclaims God's Word. He encountered suffering and abuse from the crowds; yet he endured mistreatment and continued to proclaim God's word. In the second reading to the Philippians, we heard about Jesus' self-emptying love for us. First, he self-emptied himself by becoming human, one among us. Second, he self-emptied himself again, by embracing a violent and cruel death. How many of us are ready to take, to endure so much pain, shame and mocking to defend *God's Word*?

In Luke's passion account, Jesus hands himself over, not to his executioners, but to his Father: “*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*” An innocent man! On *five occasions* Jesus is declared innocent - *three times by Pilate, once by the Good Thief, once by the centurion at the foot of the cross*. Jesus died not because of guilt, but because of infinite compassionate love for us. Even in the midst

of great suffering, he extended his compassion to others - to the servant whose ear was cut off, to the weeping women, to the Good Thief. His compassion was so total that he willingly emptied himself “*to the point of death.*”

Today we are invited to proceed in innocence by being compassionate toward others and our own selves. This means doing our usual tasks with joy, being kind to those cranky folks around us, meeting setbacks as paths to learning. This innocence is possible when we commend ourselves into God's hands. We grow in innocence through imitating Jesus' compassion for others.

Today we look at the cross and know that the Compassionate One is looking back. He sees the pain we have within us, our weakness, our insecurities, our fears, and our sins. He accepts the cross so our pain can become His pain. He calls us to let go of all that is destroying us and trust in His *Compassionate Mercy*, as you see more clearly the needs of others, love them more totally, and empty yourselves for their sake. Then you and I will share the innocence and compassion of the one whom we celebrate today.

BLESSINGS!

DEACON MODESTO CORDERO

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016



First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

This passage from the Acts of the Apostles is one of several discourses of Peter to Jewish crowds. Peter's address to the household of Cornelius, the Roman centurion in Caesarea, may seem to be a strange passage to be read, but the thrust of Peter's message is the central theme of Easter. It shows how the apostles fulfilled the command to preach the Gospel. The address is a summary of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, with the conclusion that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

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

Psalm 118 is a hymn of thanksgiving to God as Savior of his people, and it looks toward the enthronement of the Messiah as Lord forever. The response fits in with the joy of Easter: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

This passage focuses on the new life that is God's gift in the resurrection. The reading concentrates on the promise of future fulfillment in eternity. Paul's words open to us another dimension of Easter. For Paul, Easter is not only a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, but also of our being raised with Christ to a new life.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Throughout his Gospel, John calls attention to growth in faith through a step by step encounter with Christ. In this account of the resurrection, Mary of Magdala plays an important role in reporting to Peter and the disciple Jesus loved that “They have taken the Lord away from the tomb.” The two Apostles rush to investigate the mystery of the empty tomb. In seeing the circumstances, they begin to believe. It is important to note that all three are witnesses. We also note that the disciple Jesus loved is the first to penetrate the mystery of the empty tomb. “He saw and believed.” This faith has yet to be confirmed and deepened by a return to the Scriptures to see them in the new light of the Spirit, and completed in personal encounter with the risen Lord. The appearances of the Risen Lord would therefore play a crucial role in deepening the faith of the Apostles. They in turn now give witness to Jesus from their own personal experience (cf. Lk 24:13-35, the Gospel for Easter Evening Mass on the Emmaus story).

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

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

Mass for the Intentions the Week

Monday, March 21, 2016 (8 am)

Michael Browning (Birthday Blessing)

Kiana Serrao (Birthday Blessing)

Jarret B. Bolosan (RIP)

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (8 am)

Jarrett B. Bolosan (RIP)

Ernest Gruber, Jr. (Birthday Memorial)

Constancio & Rafaela Guerrero (RIP)

Wed., March 23, 2016 (8 am)

Dominic Cortel (Birthday Blessing)

Yolanda Morreira (Birthday Blessing)

Heather Galicinao (Birthday Blessing)

Thurs., March 24, 2016 (8 am)

Morning Prayer (Holy Thursday)

Friday, March 25, 2016 (8 am)

Morning Prayer (Good Friday)

Saturday, March 26, 2016

8AM: Morning Prayer

(Holy Saturday)

7 PM: James & Mildred Mizoguchi

(RIP)

Jarrett B. Bolosan (RIP)

Sunday, March 27, 2016

7AM: Jarrett B. Bolosan (RIP)

9AM: For the People

11AM: Bienvenido & Dolores

Baptista (RIP)

6PM: Abraham Miram (RIP)

Please pray for our Members & Friends

HEALING / BLESSINGS: Sue



Mamiya, Sammie Chang,

Annie Chang, Chang

Family, Mike Culkin, Joyce

Agsalda, Darlene Catekista, BJ

Sagocio, Ben & Helen Guerrero,

Mina DeJesus, Bob & Mel Knott,

Baby Lily, Judy Amasol, Betty &

Charles Deinhardt, Tom Harris,

John F. Gora, Darrlyn Bunda, Ellen

Cleghorn, Hilaria Santos, Fr.

Edward Turner, Maureen Hart,

Monica Pangelinan, Diane Kotch,

Mona DeCosta, Josephine Ponce,

Aiden Phillips & Family, and

everyone mentioned in our Prayer

Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Selbistre "Stan" Narito, Cheryl Calvin, Ignacia V. Benitez, Jaime Maldonado, Sr., Thomas E. Silva, Sr., Mary G. Cordero, Jarrett B. Bolosan, Walter S. Rabacal, John Gibson, Catherine Phillips, David Twelker, Mr. & Mrs. Hilburn T. Miller, Robert Atiburico, Greg Cain, Stanley T. Patinio, Isidro J. Loquere, and Charles Deinhardt.

HOLY TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday: March 24, (No Daily Mass)

8:00 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11 pm.

Good Friday: March 25 (No Daily Mass)

Parish Office Closed

8:00 am - Morning Prayer

3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

3:30 pm - The Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Saturday: March 26 (No Daily Mass)

8:00 am Morning Prayer

No 3:30 pm Confessions

7:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: March 27 (No 6 pm Mass)

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Easter Monday: March 28

Parish Office Closed

Our parish will be participating in the **Operation Rice Bowl Collection** on **Holy Thursday, March 24th**, at the 7:00 pm Mass. All donations collected during offertory will directly support this collection. You may also donate online by visiting our parish website, selecting "Online Giving".

Hungering to Build Community - We



follow Jesus this week on our Lenten

journey as he enters Jerusalem, a

community he knew well. CRS Rice

Bowl asks us to prayerfully enter into our own

communities, to find those who are hungry and

thirsty, those who need our help. How does our

Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we

encounter in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org.

Please turn in your cardboard Rice Bowl Box by

Good Friday, March 25. Please give generously.

Holy Land Collection - Once a year on **Good**



Friday, our parish is called on to support

Christians in the Holy Land. When you

donate on **Good Friday, March 25**, you support

Christians in the Holy Land. You may drop your

donation during offertory or donate online by

visiting our parish website, selecting "Online

Giving".

Catholics Returning Home - If you are a non

-practicing Catholic or know of someone who

left the Church and is not practicing his or her

faith, we invite you and ask you to encourage

others to join us for informal listening sessions &

an update of the Catholic faith. For more info,

contact the CRH team home@stjohnmililani.org.



The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, March 25th and Monday March 28th in observance of Good Friday/Prince Kuhio Holiday & Easter Monday.

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, clicking "Online Giving".

EASTER EGG HUNT! Bring your *Easter Egg*



Basket and join us after the 9 am Mass on

Sunday, March 27 at the Kipapa

Neighborhood Park for our Parish Easter Egg Hunt,

sponsored by the RE Department. There will be

two children's age groups: *Group 1* (ages 1-5) &

Group 2 (ages 6-10). For more info, contact the

RE Office at 623-3332, ext. 204.

Marriage & Family Life Commission - Sign

up and attend the *Choice Wine Marriage Enrichment*

Program: 7 Steps to Superabundant Marriage, April 8

- June 3, each Friday, 6:30-8:30pm in the Church,

\$25 registration fee. To register, call Heidi Sparks

626-1623 or Duane & Wanya Ogata 625-8863.

The next 24-hr Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament will be held on *Friday, April 1*,

immediately after the 8:00 am Mass and

ending at 7:30 am on *Saturday, April 2*.



Planned Giving

Your gifts to the church are a testimony of your faith & confidence you have in your church. Both lifetime gifts & testamentary (those given through your will) express your feelings in a meaningful way. Please remember *St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church* in your will.

Stewardship of Treasure - March 12 / 13

Sunday Collection	
- 5:00 PM (Saturday Vigil)	\$3,111.00
- 7:00 AM	\$2,753.00
- 9:00 AM	\$3,544.00
- 11:00 AM	\$2,743.29
- 6:00 PM	\$2,087.29
- Front Office	\$773.52
- Online Donation (WeShare)	\$3,904.50
Candle Sales	\$546.00
Stewardship Development	\$33.25
Mass Intentions	\$440.00
Donation - YYA	\$140.00
Donation - Outreach	\$84.00
Easter Flowers	\$148.00
Easter Offering	\$47.50
Building Fund (non-assessed)	\$372.00
BEMO	\$1,201.25
Hui O Laulima	\$148.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$282.50
Holy Thursday (Rice Bowl)	\$5.00
Frugal Meal/Rice Bowl	\$151.03
Weekend Total:	\$22,515.13

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9

Protecting God's Creation • Embracing Gospel Justice • Nurturing Spiritual Fulfillment

Gratitude & Generosity

Our Lenten practice this week is almsgiving—exploring new ways of opening our hearts.

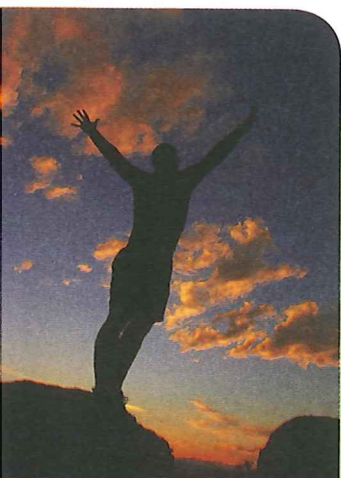
For forty days of Lent, we have been trying to embrace Christian simplicity by bringing contemporary meaning and value to the discipline of fasting. Abstaining from overconsuming or recklessly wasting God's creation is essential for anyone striving to walk in the footsteps of Jesus today. Taking up our cross means making decisions to die to our selfishness by overcoming self-centeredness and indifference to the needs of our world.

This week we recall how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, asking us to follow his example. We believe in Christ, but we also follow Christ by living and acting as Jesus did. Washing feet is a model of generosity and service for us to imitate.

We live in a nation of great wealth. Jesus had a lot to say about not being attached to our possessions and taking responsibility for the common good.

Gratitude and generosity go together like fire and heat. Gratitude is ignited when we realize how precious the fragile gift of being alive on this beautiful planet is and how blessed we are. Generosity naturally flows from a sense of being part of the web of God's creation. When it finally dawns on us that we participate in one vibrant community called life, we rediscover a responsibility to get involved and make a difference.

As Christians, we practice simplicity for the sake of generosity. Fasting and almsgiving are Lenten companions. In the end, our observance of Lent 4.2 is not only about doing less harm. It is about doing *more good* by sharing what we can. The goal is to bring forth a new springtime in our world—a human presence that is environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just.



Use your voice to speak on behalf of the poor, the unborn of future generations, the immigrant, Earth, and those marginalized by our society.

"If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

—John 13:14-15

What the Church Is Saying

1. Justice Is Enlivened by Love

"Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society."

—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*

2. Generosity Is a Fundamental Christian Virtue

"Suffering today is because people are hoarding, not giving, not sharing. Jesus made it very clear. Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me. Give a glass of water, you give it to me. Receive a little child, you receive me. Clear."

—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, MC (Mother Teresa)

3. Respect and Gratitude for the Gift of Creation

"Brothers and sisters: creation is not a property, which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of some, of a few: creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude."

—Pope Francis

4. Take Only Your Fair Share

"God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity."

—Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*
(Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)

5. Concern for Our Neighbors Abroad

"The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. . . . Concern for our neighbor transcends the confines of national communities and has increasingly broadened its horizon to the whole world."

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

"True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring."

—Martin Luther King Jr

Throughout Lent we have been discerning ways God might be calling us to embrace Gospel justice and protect creation by living more simply, reducing consumption, and wasting less. Now at the end of Lent, we have an opportunity to spend—and spend lavishly! Spend time getting involved in projects for the common good. Spend energy advocating for causes you believe in. Spend money to support organizations working to care for creation and promote justice. The opportunities are many. Challenge yourself to be charitable and act on behalf of the common good.

Making Choices

- \$8 buys fifteen organic apples OR twenty-five fruit trees for farmers in Honduras.
- \$30 buys a pair of jeans OR a first aid kit for a village in Haiti.
- \$73 buys a new mobile phone OR a new mobile health clinic to care for AIDS orphans in Uganda.
- \$2,400 buys a high-definition television OR schooling for an entire village in Tanzania.

Action Steps



If There's Only One Thing You Can Do . . .

Join the microfinance movement. Fund at least a \$25 loan. Online organizations like Kiva.org, Oikocreditusa.org and Opportunity.org offer possibilities for microloans and job training for people in the developing world. You can help alleviate poverty through empowering people. Gift certificates from these organizations make great gifts for friends and family.

Connect

- ☐ Practice acts of social kindness—pick up litter, watch your neighbor's kids for free, visit a shut-in or a person in a nursing home, coordinate a meal for someone who has lost a loved one or is ill.
- ☐ Go out of your way to make contact with a person of another race, nationality, religion, or lifestyle. Consider inviting them for a meal.
- ☐ Buy fair-trade products. With each purchase you can “vote” for businesses that respect God's creation and ensure equitable pay for their laborers.
- ☐ Plant a tree. It's a personal investment in caring for future generations.
- ☐ Volunteer with an organization in your community working on behalf of social, racial, economic, or environmental justice. Or work with a group dedicated to care for Earth.

Advocate

- ☐ Use your voice to speak on behalf of the poor, the unborn of future generations, the immigrant, Earth, and those marginalized by our society.
- ☐ Learn how to uproot causes of inequity and change policies to help lift people out of poverty. Look into Catholic Relief Services, Tearfund, or Micah Challenge.
- ☐ Speak to the powerful. Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice and creation-care a priority.
- ☐ Get involved by subscribing to the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Franciscan Action Network, or Ignatian Solidarity Network.

Share

- ☐ Give to a project you care about. The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance (www.give.org) can help you make informed decisions about giving, including an in-depth report on national charities.
- ☐ Contribute to Catholic Relief Services at www.crs.org.
- ☐ For ways to make a difference in peoples' lives year-round, join Catholics Confront Global Poverty at www.confrontglobalpoverty.org.
- ☐ Adopt a refugee family that has moved into your area. Donate furniture, household items, or clothing to help settle immigrant families.

Prayer

*Loving God,
your heart is open
to the call of your creatures and all creation.
Open our eyes to see the needs of others.
Open our ears to hear their cry.
Open our hearts that we might feel their anguish.
Open our hands that we might respond.
Give us compassion like your own.
Amen.*

Steps Continued

1. How rich are you? Input your earnings at globalrichlist.com and find out what percentile you're in.
2. Learn about Socially Responsible Investing (SRI).
3. Look into programs offered by JustFaith Ministries.
4. Explore online resources at Education for Justice.
5. Learn about the Charter for Compassion.

All this and more available online at www.Lent42.org.