

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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



NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

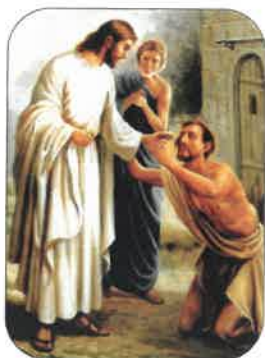
SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: FR. JOHN MBINDA

The account of the man born blind in the Gospel of St. John this Sunday is not so much about the man being healed, but about seeing as God sees. Here we meet a blind man with sight as compared to the intellectual Pharisees who are blind. The Gospel reminds us that our Baptism illuminates us to see and 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. These contrasts emerge from the controversy with the Pharisees. Because they 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 healing of blind man becomes an opportunity for Jesus to manifest once again his own true divine identity for all to see and believe. In the story, Jesus not only gives the blind man his sight, physical light, but he also gives him the light of faith.

The story of the man born blind is about you and me in moments of our own spiritual blindness and darkness. However, we need to focus on the



Joy of the Gospel this Sunday. In baptism, Christ has healed our 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. Jesus heals our blindness so we can see our brothers and sisters as He sees them. Like the blind man, we have been healed and have become fearless disciples ready to give our time, talent and treasure in witness to Christ.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Mon - Sat): 8:00 AM

Sunday: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM,
(Sun) 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
(or by appointment)

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.***

Parish Rectory Hours**Monday:** 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM**Tues. - Fri.:** 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**Outreach Office Hours****Monday - Wednesday:** 9 AM to 2 PM**Thursday - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**FOOD PANTRY Hours****Monday - Wednesday:** 9 AM to 12 PM**Thursday - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**Religious Education Offices Hours****Tuesday - Thursday:** 12 pm - 8:30 pm**Fri.:** 10am - 6pm ~ **Sun:** 7am - 3:30pm**Saturday & Monday:** Closed**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF****Pastor (ext. 111)**

Msgr. John Mbinda

jmbinda@rcchawaii.org

Parochial Vicar (ext. 104)

Fr. Ramon Francisco

rfrancisco@rcchawaii.org

Parochial Vicar (x 100)

Fr. Norlito Concepcion, OSA

nconcepcion@rcchawaii.org

Deacon Modesto Cordero

mcordero@rcchawaii.org

Deacon Romeo Ganibe

rganibe@rcchawaii.org

Parish Office Administrator (x 103)

Jolly Guerrero-Tano

jollygt@rcchawaii.org

Parish Office Secretary (x 100)

Lindsey Higa-Kohagura

lindseyhk@rcchawaii.org

Director of Liturgy

Nicholas Calzada

ncalzada@rcchawaii.org

Grounds & Maintenance

Robert Garnsey

rgarnsey@rcchawaii.org

Outreach Department (x 203)

Pearl Bates

pebates@rcchawaii.org

RCIA Coordinator

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

Religious Ed. Director (x 206)

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

jquiroz@rcchawaii.org

Religious Ed. Secretary (x 204)

Dominique Kekiwi

dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org

Preschool Director (744-9538)

Catherine Awong

cawong@rcchawaii.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE**Capital Campaign Values*****Commitment***

St. Paul was a master fundraiser. In 2 Corinthians 8, he challenged the Christians of Corinth to "*purpose in their hearts that which they should give and follow through by giving that faithfully.*" A capital campaign is a stewardship process with a clear vision and purpose, to which parishioners commit themselves to genuinely give their God-given treasure. Personal commitments are statements of intention to give. Genuinely giving is marked by prayerful discernment, generosity, sacrifice and faith.

Witness

While a personal commitment is between me and God, it is also part of stewardship as a way of life. There are no secret stewards or private givers. King David witnessed to "all the congregation of Israel" what he was giving to build the temple (1 Chronicles 29:10). He appealed to the people to give a similar sacrificial gift. He could not honestly ask the people to sacrifice their treasure until he himself had been committed. Parishioners will always wonder if their priests practice what they say. In my case, when it comes to stewardship commitments, I always commit myself before coming to you to ask for any commitment. I know I have given sacrificially for this capital campaign, and I ask you, dear parishioners to do the same.

Involvement

Every successful outcome depends the involvement of all. One biblical example is found in Exodus 35 on the building of the Tabernacle. This was only possible because of the massive involvement of the people of Israel. I will be appealing to all parishioners to be involved in the capital campaign. At the moment as we prepare for the Easter festivities, I ask you to pray for the success of the capital campaign, so that God may accomplish this project through the involvement of all parishioners.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Saint of the WEEK



Guy of Pomposa (? - 1046)

Feast Day: March 31 — This humble Italian monk was raised with fine clothes and the best education available. Eventually he grew weary of keeping up appearances, sold his clothing, gave the money to the poor and set out for Rome in shabby garments. He befriended the hermit Martin and later joined a community of monks at Pomposa Abbey, where he became abbot. He was much sought after as a spiritual advisor and his devotion drew many followers. St. Peter Damian dedicated to St. Guy his book "The Way to the Perfection of Monks."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This brief passage concludes the famous vision of Ezekiel on the dry bones being covered again with flesh and restored to life. The prophet was writing during the Babylonian exile, and the vision refers to the restoration of the people in their own land (centered on Jerusalem) upon their return from captivity. The vision also points to the resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Psalm 130 is a prayer of penitence with great hope in the Lord. It reflects an actual situation evoking a desperate cry of the believer for God's forgiveness. Even in the lowest moments, deep faith helps the believer to trust in God's mercy and redemption. Response: "With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption."

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

The contrast between "flesh" and "spirit" is one of the key themes in Paul's teaching. The "flesh" or the physical characterizes the path of the self-sufficient person who refuses to look beyond what is perceptible to the senses. "Living according to the flesh" means taking oneself alone as the basic principle and goal of existence in isolation from God. "Living according to the spirit" means accepting direction of God's Spirit that leads beyond the physical to eternal life.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The story of the raising of Lazarus in this passage is meant to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. It shows that through faith in Christ, who is the resurrection and life, believers receive eternal life. Jesus is approaching the final journey to Jerusalem and his own death. The disciples seem quite hesitant to go with him, recognizing the danger. Yet Jesus is intent on reaffirming life, and will show that death itself is the road to victory over death.



Masses For The Week

† = Rest in Peace

Monday, March 27, 2017 (8 am)

† Bienvenido & Dolores Baptista
† Andrea Tunac Asuncion
Ellen Cleghorn (Healing)

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 (8 am)

† Fe Guadalupe Villareal
† Andrea Tunac Asuncion
Jeanett Wittwer (Healing)

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 (8 am)

Clyde S. Higa (Birthday)
† Andrea Tunac Asuncion
† Federico Ordonio, Jr. & Sergia Ordonio

Thursday, March 30, 2017 (8 am)

† Thomas & Claudia Borowitz
† Santiago "Sonny" Aquino
† Remeo & Marie Ordonio

Friday, March 31, 2017 (8 am)

† Luz Abanes
† Santiago "Sonny" Aquino
† Alejandro Aquino, Jr.
(Memorial Anniversary)

Saturday, April 1, 2017

8 AM: † Luz Abanes
† Isidoro B. Barayuga
(Memorial Anniversary)

† Santiago "Sonny" Aquino
5 PM: † David Noury

Sunday, April 2, 2017

7 AM: † Luz Abanes
9 AM: *For the People*
11 AM: † Santiago "Sonny" Aquino
6 PM: † Bansiong Mariano



Follow Msgr. John's Homilies!

Blog (text): www.sundayhomily.com

Podcast (audio): <https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

iTunes (audio): [Streaming Homilies](#)

24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Friday, April 7, after the
8 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on
Saturday, April 8.

† **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Santiago "Sonny" Aquino (RIP)

Wed., March 29 ~ Mililani Memorial

Wake Service: 6:30 pm (Makai)

Thursday, March 30 ~ St. John A&E

Visit.: 9:30 am ~ Mass: 10:00 am

Burial: 1:00 pm ~ Hawaii State
Veteran's Cemetery



HEALING / BLESSINGS: Darrlyn & Ron Bunda, Matt Faris, Ramona DeCosta, John Bates, James & Elaine Kahala, Ken Enomoto, Ellen Cleghorn, baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ron Thames, Gregory Castillo, Elaine Utu, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Mina DeJesus, John Basug, Alfred & Carmen Fajota, Santiago Tumpap, Bella Rillamas, Norma & Ethan Belamide, Jane Alukonis, Rosalie Tadda, Rowena, Eric, & Ryan Asuncion, and all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Fr. Paul Minchak, Fr. Joseph Carroll, Demetria Manandic, Juan Vicente Jamora, Fernando Acierto, Alice Mirafior, Santiago Q. Aquino, Kathy Beaver, Marciana Eugenio, Fulvia Perry, Andrea T. Asuncion, and Richard McNally.

***Upcoming Baptism Ceremony Dates (Infants to Age 6):**
April 23 & 30.

***Baptism Preparation Classes:** April 2, May 14, June 9...
** Please contact the Parish Office to make all arrangements in advance and for more information. **

Marriages are scheduled by meeting with a clergy, at least 6 months prior to wedding date.



Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc.),
Anointing of the Sick, Homebound
Communion, Funeral Services/Notices: Please call the parish office for further coordination.

Join us in an appreciation *Aloha & Farewell*
farewell potluck for
Fr. Ramon Francisco on **Sunday, March 26**
after the **6:00 pm** Mass.
Please bring a dish to share.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - MARCH 18 / 19

Sunday Collection	\$14,848.59
- Children's Collection	\$49.43
- Online Donation (WeShare)	\$1,510.50
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$1,141.00
One Community Center Capital Campaign (non-assessed)	\$32,205.75
Candle Sales	\$689.00
Collection - Catholic Relief Services	\$10.00
Catholic Relief Services - Frugal Meal	\$93.00
Donation - Charity	\$28.00
Donation - Social Ministry	\$10.00
Mass Intentions	\$160.00
Offering - Funeral	\$1,000.00
Stewardship Development	\$9.50
Weekend Total:	\$51,754.77

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

Planned Giving: Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship. Give thanks to God by expressing your love for family, and showing charity towards others. Please remember **St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church** in planning your will.



2017 Central Vicariate Penance Services:

Wednesday, March 29 - 7:00 PM

St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church (Mililani)

Thursday, March 30 - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Sorrows (Wahiawa)

Wednesday, April 5 - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Good Council (Pearl City)

Lent Schedule:

Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm (Fridays)
March 31 & April 7

Lenten Mission/Retreat: "A Covenant of Mercy" with
Fr. David C. Robinson, S.J. - March 27-29, 7:00 pm
Penance Service: March 29, 7:00 pm.

Palm Sunday: April 9

Holy Triduum

Holy Thursday: April 13, (No Daily Mass)
8:00 am Morning Prayer
7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: April 14 (No Daily Mass)
****Parish Office Closed****

8:00 am Morning Prayer
3:00 pm - Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Saturday: April 15 (No Daily Mass)
8:00 am Morning Prayer — No 3:30 pm Confessions
7:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: April 16
7:00 am & 9:00 am Masses will be held at our Parish Church
11:00 am Mass will be at Kipapa Park with Bishop Larry
**** No 6 pm Mass ****



Volunteering is Fun!!
Do you enjoy working with youth and teens? Can you play an instrument: guitar, drums, ukulele? Do you like to sing? Do you like to have fun? Are you tech savvy? Do you have a flexible work schedule ... free on weekends?

Would you like to volunteer with our Youth Programs?

Our Religious Education Department is seeking the "young at heart" and young adults who are interested in joining our parish **RE & Youth Ministry Teams**. In readiness for the **Restored Order of the Sacraments** and the **Sacrament of Confirmation** being given to students, grades 2-12, starting next RE year 2017-2018, we invite & encourage parishioners to become catechists, classroom aides, youth ministers, youth leaders, family supporters & Confirmation Sponsors. ALL candidates are required to complete a background check and training that will take place this summer: June & July. Online Catechist Certification courses available.

If you are interested, please contact the RE Office:
623-3332, ext. 204/206 or sjaeRE@rcchawaii.org



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, March 27 in observance of the Prince Kuhio State Holiday.

Mahalo Nui Loa to all the Attendees, Volunteer Parishioners, Senior Ministry Members, and Parish Staff for all your support and assistance in making this year's Dementia Workshop a very successful one! Over 200 people, island-wide, were in attendance.

Easter Flower Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also donate online by visiting our parish website, clicking "Online Giving".

The Hui O Laulima Food Trolley will be out next weekend. There is a need for *non-perishable, single-size serving foods: cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jam, and fruit, ramen, rice (5lb bags), canned goods (meats, soups, pasta, vegetables, beans, fruit), mac & cheese, spaghetti sauce, etc.* Please kokua.

The Spring 2017 40 Days for Life Campaign continues. A group from our parish will pray in front of the *Planned Parenthood Facility on S. King Street: 3/27, & 4/3*. Sign-up at the back of the church. The carpool will leave the church at 9:00 am & return before noon. OR Participate online: www.40daysforlife.com/honolulu.

Attention all LADIES of our Parish! The next St. John Women's Guild meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 12**, at 10 a.m. in the Church. All current, new and interested members are encouraged to attend! **New WG Officers** will be installed & discussions of **special events** is on the agenda. Come for the camaraderie and share your God given talents with us!

The next Catholic Book Club meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 20**, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in classroom 6. The title of the discussion book is *Angels and Saints: A Biblical Guide to Friendship with God's Holy Ones* by Scott Hahn. Open to everyone! For more information, call Linda Ward (277-1307) or email Melissa Crisostomo (alohamc@yahoo.com).

In the Footsteps of Sts. John & Paul! Journey on a **12-day Pilgrimage to Greece & Turkey** with Msgr. John Mbinda, Spiritual Advisor, & Dr. Timothy

Mullner, Pilgrimage Host, from **October 5-16, 2017**. **Reservation deposits are due!** For more information, contact Jolly: 623-3332, ext. 103, jollygt@rcchawaii.org.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Collection: This weekend our parish is participating in the CRS Collection to respond to **Jesus in disguise**. This collection will help 6 Catholic agencies to provide relief & support for struggling communities here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the CRSC. Please drop your donation during offertory or donate through "Online Giving".

ENCOUNTER COMMUNITY! We encounter Maria in Mexico, where a community of hardworking women share joys, sorrows and fellowship while growing economic opportunity at a greenhouse. How have your communities helped you encounter Christ anew this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.



FOR YOUR SECURITY PLEASE...

PARK SMART!

Take **ALL** your belongings with you.

Car thieves like to window shop!

... **AND SECURE YOUR VEHICLE!**



THIS WEEK: March 27 - April 2

Monday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

****Parish Office Closed****

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 5)
7 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)
7 pm - Parish Lenten Retreat (CH)

Tuesday - Daily Mass (8AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)
3 pm - Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm - Parish Lenten Retreat (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
6 pm - OLPH Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm - RCIA (Rm 4/5)
7 pm - NA Meeting (Rm 6)
7 pm - Parish Penance Service (CH)

Thursday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am - Church Cleaning (Group 5)
7 pm - Our Lady of Sorrows Penance Service (Wahiawa)

Friday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
5 pm - Two-Hearts Prayer Group (CH)
6 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 5)
7 pm - Stations of the Cross
(Frugal Meal Sponsored by the Marriage & Family Life Commission)

Saturday - Daily Mass (CH)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9:15 am - Liturgical Movement Ministry (Rm 4/5)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm - Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday - Religious Ed: "A" Schedule

7 am, 9 am, 11 am, & 6 pm - Mass
****ALOHA SUNDAY****

9 am - Catechumen Dismissal
2 pm - Baptism Prep. Class (Rm 4)
4 pm - 6pm Choir Practice (CH)
6 pm - LifeTeen Night

St. John Apostle and Evangelist Parish Lenten Mission

Mercy:
the bridge that connects
God and **man,**
opening our hearts
to the **hope**
of being **loved** forever
despite 
our *sinfulness.*
-Pope Francis

A Covenant of Mercy: Beyond the Jubilee Year

March 27-29, 2017 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Fr. David C. Robinson, S.J.

(Fr. David will preach at all Masses the weekend of March 25/26.)

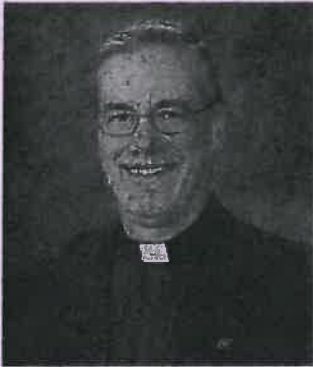
March 27: Beginning with the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Fr. Robinson will lead us through an examination of mercy through the lens of Christ's own life. We will discover important lessons on how to treat one another, particularly during "times of division."

March 28: Fr. Robinson will focus on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*, concentrating on how we as a people of mercy should treat God's creation.

There will be a discussion on cultivating love and mercy with the family, drawing from the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. In this letter, the Holy Father reminds us that familial love extends far beyond our own family units. It crosses over to our parish, the Church at large, and finally the whole of humanity.

March 29: The mission will conclude with a Penance Service at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Robinson will be the homilist.

For more information call 623-3332 ext. 100 or email sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org



Rev. David C. Robinson, S.J.

Fr. Robinson was born and raised in Billerica, Massachusetts, in the historic shadow of Lexington and Concord. After completing undergraduate studies at Boston University, he went to UC Berkeley for graduate work in English Literature. His spiritual journey then led him to migrate 'across the road' to the Jesuit School of Theology and the Graduate Theological Union, immediately north of the Cal campus, where he commenced an odyssey of exploration in varied areas of philosophical studies, biblical literature and languages, systematic theology, and the sociology and anthropology of religion. After entering the Society of Jesus in 1982, he began a decades-long connection to ministry in the Latino community, as well as pursuing advanced studies in music. He earned his Ph.D. in Theology and the Arts from the Graduate Theological Union in 1995.

On the professional front, he spent nearly fifteen years at the University of San Francisco at the College of Professional Studies, in the areas of Interdisciplinary Studies, Academic Administration, and Educational Mission and Spirituality. From 2007 to 2009, he was Director of the Nestucca Sanctuary Spirituality Center on the Oregon coast. His ministry at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality includes liturgical work with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, support for Latino community groups, Ignatian pedagogy workshops for professors at Jesuit Universities, and spirituality and the arts projects focused on music, photography, and website development. On the personal front, he considers himself a work-in-progress—mingling interests in music, tennis, media, and global networks with an ongoing connection to international Jesuit educational ventures (especially online), organizational spirituality, and the impacts of complex-systems theory on contemporary models for learning and communication.

The Fourth Week of Lent

PROCLAIMING CHRIST

Meditations for the Season of Lent

"The Holy Spirit helps us to view others with fresh eyes, seeing them always as brothers and sisters in Jesus, to be respected and loved."

— POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER, MAY 13, 2013



Spiritual Sight

John 9:1-41

In today's Gospel Jesus gives sight to a man who was born blind. As the man repeatedly tells the story of how Jesus healed him physically, there is a gradual change in the man's understanding of who Jesus is. He sees Jesus first as a man, and then as a prophet, and then as someone who came from God. Finally, he falls to his knees and worships Jesus as the Lord. This man went from being blind to receiving physical sight to seeing through the eyes of faith.

The religious leaders who were questioning this man had physical sight, but they had no spiritual sight. They were blinded by prejudice, pride, fear, and animosity toward Jesus.

Spiritual sight allows us to recognize the presence of God in our

FOR REFLECTION

- › How have you experienced spiritual sight?
- › Are there things in your life that make you spiritually blind?
- › What can you do during Lent to follow more closely in the footsteps of Christ?

lives and in the lives of people around us. We strive to love unconditionally as Christ loves.

Spiritual sight is a gift that flows from our relationship with Christ and our deep desire to follow in his footsteps. Once we have received the gift of spiritual sight, nothing is ever the same.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Making the sign of the cross with holy water when entering a church is a renewal of our baptism and a cleansing of venial sin.
- *Laetare Sunday*, which is today, marks the halfway point during Lent. Priests wear rose-colored vestments as a reminder that Easter is coming.
- The feast of the Annunciation is March 25.



Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

What Do You See?

It's only the Fourth Sunday of Lent. You still have three weeks to bring your spiritual sight into sharper focus. Maybe you need to forgive someone. Maybe you need to seek forgiveness. Maybe you need to experiment with new prayer forms. Are there virtues you need to cultivate? Vices you need to tame? Good intentions that need to be acted upon? We are all called to follow more closely in the footsteps of Jesus. What does that mean in your life? What sacrifices will it entail? How will you begin?

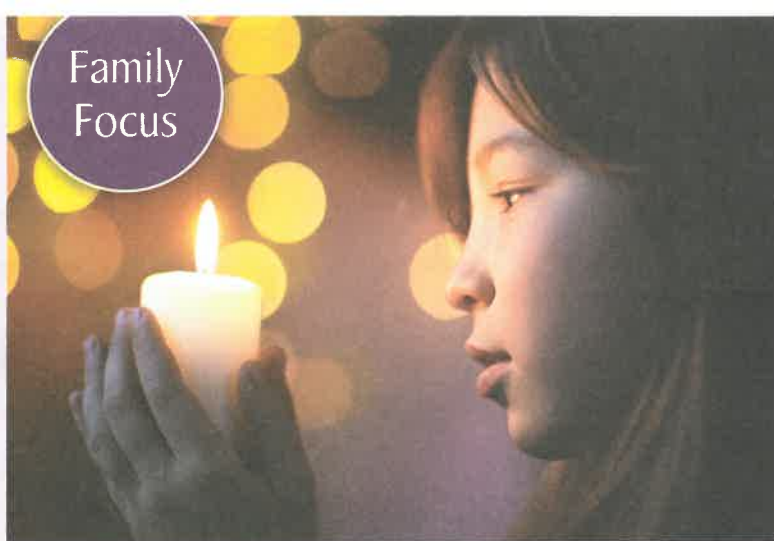


CatechismCONNECTION

"The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our *enemies*, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself."

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1825

Family Focus



Help your children understand that many children are less fortunate. Light a candle at church this week for children who are sick or hungry. Take the kids grocery shopping and bring the food to your parish pantry or a local food bank. Clean out closets and donate gently used items. Google "Catholic Missions" on the internet. Then pick one mission and decide as a family how you can help by sending money, clothing, or supplies.

Reaching Out to Those in Need



Our greatest temptation when faced with people in need is to look away. But when we look away, we turn our backs on Christ himself. Jesus assures us that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner, we do these things for him (see Mt 25:31-41).

We all know people who have suffered a death in the family, serious illness, divorce, a job loss, or some other personal tragedy. We have heard shocking stories of violence, oppression, poverty, prejudice, and abuse in our communities and in our world. Maybe you know of people who have been affected by twists of fate, natural disasters, accidents, or injuries. We can't stop bad things from happening. But we can find ways to reach out to people in need. Promise yourself that for the remainder of Lent you will go out of your way to help someone every day.

Lenten Prayer

Our prayer this week is a reflection from St. Teresa of Avila:

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people."