

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: FATHER JOSEPH AYINPUUSA

THE LORD INVITES US TO A DESERT EXPERIENCE

Today's gospel speaks of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after His baptism. He was driven by the Spirit into the desert. Jesus remains there for forty days without eating, tempted by Satan, He lives among wild beasts and angels minister to Him.

Jesus was in the desert for forty days. 'Forty' is a number often associated with intense spiritual experiences. God caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights to cleanse the earth (Gen. 7:12). The Israelites were in the wilderness for forty years. Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:28) and Elijah journeyed forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb (1Kgs 19:8).

The desert was the school where Jesus came to distinguish between the voice of God which He should follow and the voice of Satan which is temptation. It is in the desert too that we come to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses and our divine calling.

How many voices do we hear from the moment we get up in the morning till the moment we go to sleep at night? Think of the countless voices in the daily paper, the soliciting voices on the radio and the television, the voices of those who live and work with us, not forgetting our own unceasing inner voices. In the desert we leave most of these voices behind to focus on distinguishing between the guiding voice of God and the tempting voice of Satan. In the desert we come to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses, and our divine calling. In the desert Jesus encountered beasts and angels.

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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-4:30 PM**Tues. - Fri.:** 8:00 AM-4:30 PM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**Outreach Office Hours****Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 2 PM**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**FOOD PANTRY Hours****Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 12 PM**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Religious Ed Office Hours****Monday:** Closed**Tues. - Thurs.:** 12 pm - 8:00 pm**Fri.:** 10:00 am - 6:00 pm**Saturday:** 2:00—5:00 pm**Sun:** 7:00 am - 1:00pm**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF****Pastor** (ext. 111)*Msgr. John Mbinda**jmbinda@rcchawaii.org***Parochial Vicar** (x 104)*Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa**jayinpuusa@rcchawaii.org**Fr. Pat McCormick* (x 108)*(In Residence)***Deacon** Modesto Cordero*mcordero@rcchawaii.org***Deacon** Romeo Ganibe*rganibe@rcchawaii.org***Parish Office Administrator** (x 103)*Jolly Guerrero-Tano**jollygt@rcchawaii.org***Parish Secretary** (x 100)*Dominique Kekiwi**dkekiwi@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 Coordinators***Dcn. Modesto Cordero**Dcn. Romeo Ganibe***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 CORNER

Deeper Meaning of Lent

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. On Ash Wednesday we receive the Ashes that are made from burning the previous year's palms. There is therefore continuity from one year to another. But the deeper meaning of Lent is found in the words that the priest or the minister of the ashes uses.

There are two formulas. The first one is the ancient formula: "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return." (Gen 3:19). A woman who had been away from Church for many years came for Ash Wednesday and as she received the ashes when she heard those words of the priest she was in shock. After Mass the priest heard the woman complain to another woman saying, "why would the priest say such a terrible thing!" So the priest went over and explained to her that these words are taken from the scripture and that is the truth, that God created us out of the dust and some day we shall die and return to our maker. Ash Wednesday reminds us that the time God has given us here on earth will come to an end. Life is short and we need to be prepared.

The second formula helps us to prepare ourselves. "Repent and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15) These words of Jesus underline the urgency of preparedness; to repent of our sins and believe in the loving mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ who is always ready to receive us and forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Relativism and individualism have set in so much that the sense of sin seems to have no place in us. That however, does not do away with our sinful condition. Ash Wednesday invites us back to normalize our relationship with God through the Sacrament of Confession. "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves." (1 Jn 1:8) "Behold now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the time of salvation."

In the coming weeks we shall reflect more as we look on the three pillars of the discipline of Lent: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. So stay tuned.



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There are wild beasts and angels in every one of us. Sometimes, owing to our superficial self-knowledge, we fail to recognize the wild beasts in us and give in to vainglory, or we fail to recognize the angel in us and give in to self-hatred. But in the silence and recollection of the desert we come to terms with ourselves as we really are, we are reconciled with the beasts and the angels in our lives and then we begin to experience peace again for the first time.

Lent is the time for the desert experience. We cannot all afford to buy a camel and head off for the desert. But we can all create a desert space in our overcrowded lives. We can set aside a place and time to be alone daily with God, a time to distance ourselves from the many noises and voices that bombard our lives every day, a time to hear God's word, a time to rediscover who we are before God, a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did. Welcome to Lent! Welcome to the desert!

Be generous and you will be prosperous; help others and you will be helped." (Good News Translation) - Prov 11:25

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018**Second Sunday of Lent****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.

Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com

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

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

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

Monday, February 19, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
George Dona (Birthday Blessing)
Terry Silva (Special Intention)

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
†Maureen Hart
†Benny Marcos

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
†Ray Swider
†Carol Greenamyner

Thursday, February 22, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
†Venancio & Maria Marcos
†Daniel Fernandez
(Death Anniversary)

Friday, February 23, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
†James & Mildred Mizoguchi
Rob Garnsey (Birthday Blessing)

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8 am †Santiago & Tessie Aquino
Alex Braganza
Dollie McGarry (Healing)

5 pm Jim Vangrinsven (Healing)

Sunday, February 25, 2018

7am †Santos "Sandy" Padilla

9 am For the People

11 am Jim Walsh (Birthday Blessing)

6 pm †Bobby Gabriel Asuncion

† Rest in Peace †

HEALING / BLESSINGS: Jane Alukonis, Rosalie Tadda, Rowena, Eric, & Ryan Asuncion, Warren Chalmers, Carrie Becky, Deacon Modesto Cordero, Cheryl Solomon, Clyde Sauget, Felisa Rapisura, Linda Osdieck, David Hall, Evelyn Quinata, Shirley Del Rosario, Carol Towne, Darryn & Ron Bunda, baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, David Torres, Jack & Ellen Cleghorn, Ernesta Tolentino, Lester Wilson, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Jim Vangrinsven, Dollie McGarry, Buena Harding & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Palamene Paselio, Alan Pearson, Orly B. Ceon, James M. Hunkele, Larry Butcher, Teresita Aquino, Rosalina V. Bayona, Agreda Acebo, Maureen Hart, Francisco V. Soliven, Ernesto D. Dumlaio, Teodora Caliboso, Praxedes Salmorin, Milagros Gueco, Bella Rillamas, Phillip D. Meek, Sr., William Brilhante, Barbara Silva, Theresa M. Robles & Alveria Maldonado.

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT †

Castora V. Soriano (RIP)

Monday, March 5, 2018 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 10:30 am

Burial: 1:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

**Upcoming Baptism Ceremony Dates

(Infants to Age 6):

Feb. 25, March 11 & 18, April 15 & 22 ...

*Baptism Preparation Classes:

March 4, April 8, May 6...

**Please contact the Parish Office to make all arrangements in advance 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.

The next 24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will be held on *Friday, March 2*, immediately after the 8 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on *Saturday, March 3*.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

FEB 10/11

Sunday Collection	\$ 12,522. 42
Children's Collection	\$ 15. 00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,188. 20
Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 1,073. 00
One Community Center	
Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 7,122. 75
Candle Sales	\$ 431. 00
Donation- Funerals	\$ 200. 00
Donation- Marriage	\$ 100. 00
Donation- Social Ministry	\$ 20. 00
Donation- Charity	\$ 153. 00
Donation- Mass Intentions	\$ 290. 00

Weekend Total: \$ 25,115. 37

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



A Story of Hope from Iraq

ENCOUNTER MAJD: In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities?



LIFE TEEN REMINDER:

Don't forget Life Night tonight, immediately after **the 6pm mass in rooms 4-5**. The new theme is **DIGNIFIED "The Dignity of the Human Body"**.

All high school teens are welcome and bring a friend.

SEE YOU THERE!

RE ANNOUNCEMENTS: RESTORED ORDER NEWS

Grades 2-5, Edge & Life Teen

Parents may download the One Ohana Videos on Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist in preparation for our students classes schedule for the months of February & March.

Go to: www.catholicahawaii.org/confirmationvideo for Confirmation: One 'Ohana
www.catholicahawaii.org/eucharistvideo for Eucharist: One 'Ohana Catechists have the joyful mission of assisting parents with recognizing Christ's presence in the every day activities of the "domestic Church". Christ is already at work in us and we, the Body of Christ, help to nurture the seeds of faith. We must look to finding God in every day family life.

RE & CYM Upcoming Events:

ALL FRCE CLASSES (2-3 A&B, 4-5A & 6-11A)
Parent Meeting is scheduled for March 4th at 12:30 PM, in the Church.

Respect Life: The spring 40 Days for Life Campaign of prayer, fasting and outreach to protect all innocent life extends from Feb 14 through March 25. Community outreach includes group prayers and physical presence at the facility, located 1350 S. King St., appealing to God to end anti-life procedures in Hawaii and our nation. There will be an opening rally at the site on 2/17/18 from 9 am to noon. All are invited to participate. You may sign-up online at: www.40daysforlife.com/honolulu or you are invited to join a group from St. John the Apostle & Evangelist that will leave our parish parking lot at 9 am on Mondays and arrive back at Church at approx. 11:30 am. Each parish ministry is encouraged to select one day and time for the ministry members to participate together as a group. Sign up at the back of church or contact Mary Smart, cell: 741-2358 for more information.



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 19** in observance of **President's Day**.

Stations of the Cross will be held on the following **Fridays: Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7pm.**

Frugal Meal- The Knights of Columbus and other parish ministries are sponsoring a frugal meal following Stations of the Cross except on **Good Friday, March 30th.**

Food Pantry- If you or someone you know needs food assistance, we can help! Come see us on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 10am—12 noon** at St. John's parking lot.

Augustine Educational Foundation (AEF)- Mahalo nui loa to our parish and parishioners from the Augustine Educational Foundation for your generous and continued support of the Each Student is a Star- Give the Gift of Education campaign 2018 second collection. Your support makes a difference in hundreds of student's lives!

For more, visit their website at www.augustinefoundation.org

Lent and Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross: 7pm (Fridays)
February 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Frugal Meal sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and other parish ministries after Stations of the Cross.

Parish Lenten Retreat: March 5-7, 7 pm.
Retreat Speaker: **Fr. Charles Willingham**

(Fr. Charles will preach at all Masses the weekend of March 3 and 4)

Lenten Penance Service, March 7, 7pm.

Palm Sunday, March 25

(Regular Mass Schedule)

Holy Thursday, March 29 (No Daily Mass)

*Morning Prayers in lieu of daily mass.

*Mass at 7pm

Good Friday, March 30 (No Daily Mass)

Parish Office Closed

*Morning Prayers in lieu of daily Mass.

***Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
3pm

***Stations of the Cross,** 7pm

Holy Saturday, March 31 (No Daily Mass)

* Morning Prayers in lieu of daily Mass.

* No 3:30 pm Confession

* **Easter Vigil:** 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 1

* Masses at 7am, 9am & 11am

** No 6 pm Mass **

Easter Monday, April 2

Church Offices Closed

Diocese of Honolulu

2018 Lenten Regulations

FASTING

❖ In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on **Good Friday (March 30th).**

❖ To *fast* means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

❖ Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

❖ To abstain means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although eggs and milk products are acceptable. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted, though the penitential character of the abstinence should be kept in mind.

THIS WEEK: February 19 – February 25

Monday – Church Office Closed
President's Day

7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
4 pm– Girl Scouts (Troop 611) (Rm 6)
6 pm – Cub Scouts (Rms 4-5)
7 pm – Charismatic PG (CH)
7 pm– Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday -7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am–Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am–Church Cleaning–Environment (CH).
9 am– Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)
3 pm – Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)
4:30 pm– Children's Choir Practice (CCH)
6 pm– Cub Scouts (Pack 144) (Rm 4)
7 pm– Combined Choir Practice (CH)
7:30 pm – AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Staff Meeting
6 pm – OLPH Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm– RCIA (Rms 4-5)
7 pm– Music Rehearsal (CH)
7 pm– Liturgical Com. Mtg (Conf.rm)
7:30 pm – NA Meeting (Rm 6)

Thursday -7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm– Social Justice Ministry (Rm 6)
7 pm– Stewardship Council (Conf. Rm)
7 pm– Chrism Mass (Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa)

Friday - 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Church Cleaning (Environment)
4 pm– 2 Hearts (CH)
6 pm– Girl Scouts (Troop 104) (Rm 5)
7 pm– Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday- 7:30am– Rosary
8 am– **Daily Mass**
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Liturgical Movement (Rm 4)
10 am– Parish Health Ministry (Rm 6)
11 am– Disability Meeting (Rm 5)
3 pm– RE "B" Schedule (Rm 1/3)
3:30 pm – Confession
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday - Masses:
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm

RE: "A" Schedule (Rms 1-6)
12:30 pm- Baptism Ceremony
7 pm– Lifeteen (Rm 4)

"More than flesh and bones"

4pm — 6pm Choir Practice
(CH)

Planting Seeds for the Future: "Later" can be too late. Don't delay having your will drawn. Make sure your estate plans are in place so that your wishes will be carried out to benefit your family. Gifts you plan for your church through your will can help your church continue to minister and serve.

Please remember *St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church* in planning your will.

Meditations for the First Week of Lent

WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD



Before Jesus began his ministry, the Spirit "drove him out into the desert." After forty 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.

Repent and Believe

Mark 1:12-15

Today's Gospel contains two important aspects to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We are told that he went out into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Next Mark says that,

after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus announced that the "time of fulfillment" was at hand and 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 this season to allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the courage and conviction to act on those changes. This give and take is part of the flow of life and one of the great lessons of Lent.

FOR REFLECTION

- What will I do this Lent as an outward sign of my repentance?
- How might I deepen my relationship with God this holy season?
- How do I overcome temptation?

Lenten Prayer

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return." — Genesis 3:19

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



CatechismCONNECTION

"By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." — Catechism of the Catholic Church, 540



OUR FAITH

Forty Days in the Desert

Why did Jesus spend forty days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number forty has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent forty days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments (Ex 34:28). An Israelite patrol spent forty days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron (Nm 13:25). And the entire Israelite people spent forty years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the promised land (Nm 14:34). Jesus likewise spent forty days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.

Fasting and Abstinence



- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both abstinence and fasting.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat).
- Ash Wednesday is forty-six days before Easter, but Lent is considered forty days long, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Family Calvary Stones

The days of Lent have traditionally been used as a spiritual pilgrimage, during which we symbolically travel with Jesus to his death on the cross. To help emphasize the idea of Lent as a journey, collect forty 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.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Lent

The word "Lent" has a specific religious connotation today, but originally it was used to mean "spring."

The Color Purple

The deep purple color that fills the Church during Lent symbolizes Christ's suffering and death but, because purple is also the color of royalty, it foreshadows Christ's kingship and resurrection.



Ash Wednesday

On this first day of Lent, we receive ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead and are reminded to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." In receiving ashes, we embrace Jesus' journey: the cross of suffering and the promise of resurrection. We are marked as believers, as sinners, and as people in need of Christ's forgiveness and salvation.



Illustrated: Kim Rogers