

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 21 / 22, 2020



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: **Msgr. John S. Mbinda**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is also called *Laetare Sunday* – Rejoice Sunday. This Sunday, we celebrate Christ who heals our spiritual blindness, so that we can see as God sees. In the first reading, Samuel struggles as it were in darkness, trying to find a king among the sons of Jesse, 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.

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. This story is about our illumination so that we may see and embrace God's vision, life, goodness, and truth. Our Baptism commits us to be bearers of the truth and to confront the relativism and spiritual blindness of the world with the truth. The passage clearly contrasts light and darkness, faith and the rejection of 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 the blind man gives Jesus the opportunity to reveal his own true divine identity for all to see and believe. In the story, Jesus not only gives the blind man his physical sight, but he also gives him the light of faith. The story which is in the light of the resurrection has far more national and global implications. The good news we take home is that in the light of the resurrection the present global and national Corona Virus will end. Just as Christ heals the blind man, he will scatter away from the present darkness of the Corona Virus from the face of the earth.

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.**

SJAE Mobile App

Download our **FREE** app with these easy steps through *Apple App Store* or *Google Play Store*:



• Search keywords: **ST. JOHN APOSTLE**

www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/JohnHI

 St. John Apostle & Evangelist Mililani

 [saintjohnmililani](https://www.instagram.com/saintjohnmililani)

We look forward to connecting with you!

Pastor’s Corner

Parish Rectory Hours Monday: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM Tues. - Fri.: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday/Sunday: Closed
Outreach Office Hours Tuesday: 9 AM to 12 PM Friday: 9 AM to 11 AM FOOD PANTRY Hours Tues.- Fri.: 9 AM to 4PM
Religious Ed Office Hours Monday/ Friday: Closed Tues. & Thurs. 12 PM - 6:30pm Wednesday: 2 pm - 8:30 pm Sunday: 7 am - 2 pm
PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

Pastor (ext. 111)
Msgr. John Mbinda
jmbinda@rcchawaii.org
Parochial Vicar (x 104)
Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa
jayinpuusa@rcchawaii.org
Deacon Modesto Cordero
mcordero@rcchawaii.org
Deacon Romeo Ganibe
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Parish Office Administrator (x 103)
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Parish Secretary (x 100)
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Outreach Department (x 203)
Pearl Bates
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RCIA Coordinators
Dcn. Modesto Cordero
Dcn. Romeo Ganibe
Religious Ed. Director (x 206)
Julie Quiroz-Zamora
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Grounds & Maintenance
Tony Gonzalez
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Acting Preschool Director
Amytes Quiason (744-9538)
aquiason@rcchawaii.org

How is My Lenten Prayer Challenge?

On the Second Sunday of Lent was inserted a Lenten Prayer Challenge with various suggests for both adults and children. Halfway through Lent, it might be a good idea to check out how I am doing in my Len-ten Prayer Challenge.

What is prayer? Prayer is the lifting up of our hearts and minds to God. Prayer is how we get to know God. It is how we talk to and listen to God. Prayer is about relationship. It is unique for each one of us, yet it is up to each of us to make sure the relationship exists. Prayer is a gift of time to God. After we begin to pray on a regular basis, we can see how God has entered our lives in tangible ways, meeting our needs when we least expect it.

How do I begin? Start each day with prayer. Acknowledge that you are open to God’s plan for your life for this one day and in so doing, turn your entire day into one long prayer. Every thought, every worry, every smile of thanksgiving becomes communion with the One who loves you. Every thought, every great idea, every brainstorm, is the voice of God speaking through your life, if only we take the time to listen.

Some Ideas? During the remaining part of Lent, open yourself to God’s love for you. Take the time to speak and listen to God each day. Here are some ideas for praying these 20 remaining days of Lent:

Ready scripture daily

Read the Magnificat Lenten Companion Daily

Spend time in prayer in our Adoration Chapel

Pray the Rosary

Use St. John’s Parish App for prayers

Listen to and reflect on Catholic Audio Books or CDs

Watch a Catholic DVD as a family



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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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 it 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.

Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com
Podcast (audio):
<https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

Monday, March 23, 2020
(8 am) †Paulina Wong
Dominic Cortel
(Birthday Blessing)
Yolanda Morreira
(Birthday Blessing)
Dr. Sauget & Ava Sauget
(Birthday Blessings)
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
(8 am) †Evangelista Arzadon
Joe & Kathy Ball (Peace & Healing)
Mona DeCosta (Birthday Blessing)
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
(8 am) †Juan Ortega
†Florence Lindsey
Thursday, March 26, 2020
(8 am) †Eric Umetsu
†James & Mildred Mizoguchi
†Fe Guadalupe Villareal
Friday, March 27, 2020
(8 am) †Dieter Pfister
†Claudio & Tommy Malicay
†Vicente D. Comia
Saturday, March 28, 2020
(8 am) Patricia Rodriguez
(Birthday Blessing)
†Exequiel & Magdalena Malicay
†Bonifacio & Dolores Rivera
5 pm †Dieter Pfister
Sunday, March 29, 2020
7am †Adolonia R. Acoba
& Ernesto Perlas Sr.
9 am *For the People*
11 am †Dieter Pfister
6 pm †Dieter Pfister
†RIP

HEALING / BLESSINGS: baby Mairenuí Taotaha-Amo, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhī, Lillian Chalmers, John Durham, Maggie Bae, Suzanna Foster, Shirley Pichon, Mary Anne Q. Llacuna, Caridad Ramiscal, RileyAnn Wills, Rebecca Wills, Laralyn Corthran, Dan Wills, Elaine Kahala, Sandra Gose, Ellen Cleghorn, Hildegard Borowitz, Linda Ward, Jean Tanoue, Kathy & Joe Ball, James Tanoue & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Patricia J. Merideth, Shirley Leong, Leslie Fountain, Irene Moyles, Brian Ching, Marcelino Esdícúl Sr., Gloria Tolentino, Dorothea Suan Agustín, Benjamin B. Bae Sr, Charles Lam, Hipólito J. Agustín, Leonora C. Cabbab, Karen Ann Roark, Anthony Calistro, Andres S. de Leon Jr., Marie Coleman, Florence Lindsey, Antonio C. Aguon & Dieter M. Pfister.

Please contact the parish office to set up an appointment & coordination for the following:

Anointing of the Sick

Baptisms: Apr 19 & 26, May 17 & 24, Jun 21 & 28

Baptism Preparation Classes: (No April Class), May 3 & Jun 7

Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc...)

Funerals

Homebound Communion

Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)



The Catholic Charities Hawaii's Counseling Center is a place for

healing and growth. **Elizabeth**

Lyons, LMFT, along with St. John

Church, provides a safe environment to discuss life's challenges. We are committed to providing counseling services with compassion and dignity. Please call 527-4470 to schedule an appointment. If you're looking for support, change or just someone to talk to, give us a call.

Online Giving – Stewardship is made easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account in 3 easy steps.

1) Visit our church website, www.stjohnmililani.org, and click on **Online Giving**. 2) Set up your account. 3) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.

Do you know of things that are broken on our church campus? If so, please come by the Parish Office and fill in a **“Maintenance and Repair”** form so we can get things fixed! We appreciate your help and will let you know when we have the problem resolved! Thanks for caring about our church and grounds.

Let us serve one another in love!

The One Community Center (OCC) will help in many practical ways to welcome and to serve those who come to our church to encounter Christ. Please remember to contribute toward the completion of your pledge. Mahalo.



Meet Maria Ana

Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit crsricebowl.org.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE		MAR. 14 - MAR. 15
Sunday Collection	\$	9,446.60
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$	1,366.10
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$	1,092.50
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$	2,802.00
Donation- Children's Collection	\$	5.00
Donation- Stewardship	\$	23.75
Donation- Charity	\$	13.00
Donation- Flowers	\$	731.00
Donation- Operation Rice Bowls	\$	41.50
Donation- CRS Rice Bowls	\$	25.00
Donation- Frugal Meal	\$	47.00
Candle Sales	\$	730.00
Mass Intentions	\$	190.00
Weekend Total:		\$ 16,513.45
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." - Proverbs 3:9		

Respect Life:

"There is an everybody heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers' who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life."
(*The Gospel of Life* 86)

CALLS, TEXTS & EMAILS SCAMS! There has been a scam affecting many parishioners. Please never respond to such email messages or texts from clergy and staff of St. John's. For more information, see the link below.
https://www.malwarebytes.com/scam-call/?utm_source=double-opt-in&utm_medium=email-internal-b2c&utm_campaign=EM-B2C-2019-July1-



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, March 26th in observance of the Prince Kuhio Holiday.

Remember and/or honor a loved one at Easter... **Easter Flower Envelopes** are available at the back of the church or you may also donate online by visiting our parish website, clicking “online giving.”

The Catholic Relief Services Collection– This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **help Jesus in Disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or donate online through our “Online Giving” and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Please check the parish website, parish app, Facebook or call the office at 623-3332 for updates.

THIS WEEK: MAR 23 – MAR 29

Monday–
7 pm– Troop 144 (Rm 5)
7 pm– Charismatic (CH)
Tuesday–
8 am– Catholic Charities Hawaii (OCC Conf Rm)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
9:30 am- Women’s Bible Study (CH)
Wednesday–
Thursday– Office Closed – Prince Kuhio Day Holiday
9 am– Church Cleaning (Group 3)
7 pm– Stewardship Council (Conf Rm)
Friday–
9 am– Church Cleaning (Environment)
6 pm– Acts Ministry Core Mtg (Rm 4)
Saturday–
9 am- Catholic Women’s Bible Study
Sunday– **NO Masses**
NO Religious Education

2020 Lent and Easter Parish Events:	The following have been canceled due to COVID-19
Holy Thursday , April 9—(No 8am Daily Mass) Morning Prayers– 8am Mass of the Lord’s Supper , 7pm	Stations of the Cross Lenten Penance Service Adult Formation Scripture Class
Good Friday , April 10 (No 8am Daily Mass) Morning Prayers– 8am Stations of the Cross , 3pm Passion of the Lord , 3:30pm	Daily Mass and Sunday Mass cancelled until March 31,2020. <i>In view of this, Bishop Larry Silva has dispensed all Catholic in the Diocese of Honolulu from the obligation of attending Mass during these 2 weeks.</i>
Holy Saturday , April 11 (No 8am Daily Mass) Morning Prayers– 8am No Confession Easter Vigil , 7pm Easter Sunday , April 12—Masses at 7am, 9am, & 11am. No evening Mass	Baptism Funerals Prayer groups and Ministries meeting of more than 10 people. Religious Education FRCE Sponsor/ Parent Meeting Healthy Brain, Aging and Dementia Workshop Showing of the movie Paul, Apostle of Christ 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines Hawai’i Celebration The Women’s ACTS Retreat No Saturday Confessions (by appointment only)
FASTING: In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (April 10, 2020). 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.	<u>PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE:</u> When your attorney prepares your estate planning documents, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive remaining benefits after other beneficiaries are remembered. Please remember <i>St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church in planning your will.</i>

Sacrifice of Praise

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41



The Blessing of a Thankful Heart

In today's Gospel, the disciples questioned Jesus if sin caused the man's blindness. Did he or someone in his family warrant this punishment by their offense to God? The disciples listened and accepted Jesus' explanation that the man's lack of sight was not due to sin but instead was to show the glory of God. Meanwhile, the Pharisees refused to accept Jesus' teaching and in essence became the blind ones. Ironically, their inability to see could be directly attributed to sin — specifically, the sin of pride.

They refused to believe in the miracle which had occurred right before them and would never be able to see the miracles Jesus could perform in their lives. Their metaphorical blindness remained because they were unwilling to believe in any truth other than their own. Jesus has the power and authority to open anyone's eyes, to break through anyone's darkness, but first we have to be willing to see.

Sometimes we face circumstances truly beyond our control, which make

FOR REFLECTION

- Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each one.
- In difficult situations, are you able to recognize reasons to be thankful?
- What burdens keep you free from embracing a hope-filled life in Christ?

us wonder what we've done to be abandoned by God or what may have angered him. It is imperative to understand an important truth about God: He does not bring hardships; these exist as a result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God has given each of us free will so that we may be able to freely choose to enter into a relationship with him — one based on love, not coercion.

Trusting in God's promises that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28), or that "for human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mt

19:26), can be difficult in the midst of a tragedy, trial, or difficulty. However, one who continues to pray in thanksgiving maintains a grateful heart and remains hopeful, like the man born blind. Although Jesus' method of curing the man's blindness may have seemed strange, the man, thankful for a chance at healing, followed Jesus' instructions.

Lent is the perfect time to rub mud in our eyes, figurately speaking, and allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness. Whether currently struggling through a difficult time, or scars from past battles that are hard to forget, prayers of thanksgiving can mold those experiences into blessings. Clarity of vision of the cumulative experiences in our lives belong only with God; apart from him, we will never make sense of them. Remaining close, thankful, and open to seeing his hand in all that happens in the world, keeps our hearts safeguarded from growing hard. Lent is a time to reflect on what blinds us from saying, "Lord, I believe," and a time to refocus on following the Light of the World.

PRAYER TIP

When do you find time for prayer within a typically busy day? Some days do not lend themselves to dedicated or uninterrupted prayer time. Instead of skipping prayer, find ways to build it into the things you are already doing. Here are a few suggestions:

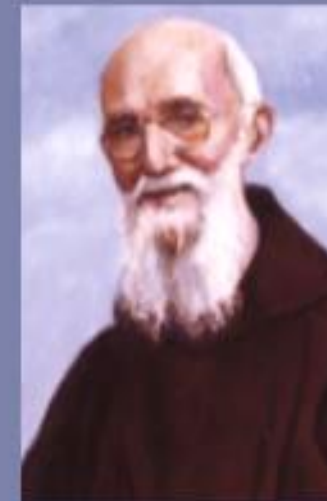
- Use your morning coffee time to read a Scripture verse.
- Recite the Rosary on your drive to work.
- Bring joy to your chores by thanking God for the food that dirtied the dishes, the clothes that now fill the hamper, and a floor that requires vacuuming.
- Offer a Hail Mary while brushing your teeth.
- Pray before (and even after) each meal.

“Give thanks to the Lord ...
whose love endures forever.”

— 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Thank God Ahead

Blessed Solanus Casey was a simple Capuchin friar from Oak Grove, Wisconsin. Blessed Solanus is an extraordinary example of how a person can foster devout faith amid an ordinary life. Through his many hardships, he learned the blessing of maintaining a heart of gratitude, regardless of current circumstances. Solanus often counseled people to consider the good God would do in the future for them, and to “Thank God ahead of time!”



Portrait: Steve Dault/Quinn

CATECHISM CONNECTION



“The inexhaustible richness of [the Eucharist] is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called:

“Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God’s works: creation, redemption, and sanctification.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1328

“Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is. Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head.

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2637



Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I remember each day this Lent to thank you for each blessing and each cross. May the devotion I offer you be from a place of great love and not hinge on my happiness, but instead on the blessed hope found in Easter. Our blessings are abundant; so should our thanks to the One who bestows them. Lord, this week, I will pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.