

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

APRIL 4/5, 2020



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!

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

Temporary Office Hours (During COVID-19 Pandemic):

Monday – Friday, 9am to 4pm

Updated Guidelines Due to COVID-19 (March 27, 2020)

All parish Churches remain closed thru April 30, 2020 or until further notice.

All liturgical and sacramental celebrations from now thru April 30 are cancelled.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays is dispensed through April 30, 2020.

Sunday Masses will continue via Livestream.

Please go to the parish website: www.stjohnmililani.org and click on the Link: <https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnmililani/live/>

The celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion) for the Elect, normally celebrated at the Easter Vigil, are postponed to a future day after the COVID-19 crisis subsides.

The faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy. Some ways to do this include: reading the Scriptures of the day, especially the Gospels, praying with your families, reading inspiring spiritual books, following the Mass via available media, and to joining yourself to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion.

Sacramental confessions will not be offered, for the safety of penitents and priests.

All funerals, weddings and baptism are postponed at this time until further notice.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, April 9, in observance of Good Friday and Monday, April 13, in observance of Easter Monday.

Schedule of Live Stream for Holy Week:

HOLY THURSDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Supper, April 9 at 7:00pm.

GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion, April 10, at 3:30pm.

Solemn Easter Vigil Celebration, Saturday, April 11 at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 11:00am.

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



Pastor’s Corner

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)
Dominique Kekiwi
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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

The Easter Holy Triduum

Holy Week begins this Sunday on Palm Sunday and leads into the Easter Holy Triduum, which should be seen as ONE continuous commemoration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The three holy days begin on evening of Holy Thursday and continue till the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding event of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

Please join in following will be the Livestream Masses:

- ❖ HOLY THURSDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Supper April 9, at 7:00pm. Presider: Msgr. John
- ❖ GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion, April 10, at 3:30pm. Presider: Fr. Joseph
- ❖ Solemn Easter Vigil Celebration, April 11 at 7:00pm. Presider: Msgr. John
- ❖ Easter Sunday, April 12 at 11:00am. Presider: Fr. Joseph

These are very difficult times especially for those who are infected by the deadly coronavirus, those who have been laid off, and for you our parishioners at home not able to come to Mass. Please know that Fr. Joseph and I continue to celebrate Mass daily for you privately for the requested intentions and for all families, that God may protect you and your loved ones. Take this opportunity to pray more with the family and to follow the Mass on Sundays on EWTN, Catholic TV and our Livestream on our parish Facebook. Just as Jesus goes through suffering and death in order to rise up, so too we will soon come through the coronavirus pandemic. I want to thank all of you for your commitment to St. John’s and for continually giving so that your parish work may continue even during these days of shutdown.

May you have a blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

PRAYING TOGETHER EVEN WHEN WE ARE APART

*On the day I called, you answered me;
You increased the strength of my soul.
You give me life though I walk amid affliction.*

—Ps 138:1,3,7

Free resources: **Give Us This Day**
<https://offers.giveusthisday.org/free-resource>

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

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

“...THROUGH HIS WOUNDS WE ARE MADE WHOLE”

Today we begin Holy Week, the most solemn week in the Church calendar. We reflect upon the events that brought about our salvation. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem and the drama of the trial, culminating in crucifixion, death and burial for the Christ, as we heard in the passion narrative. St Paul describes the passion of Christ as his *kenosis*, the act of self-emptying by

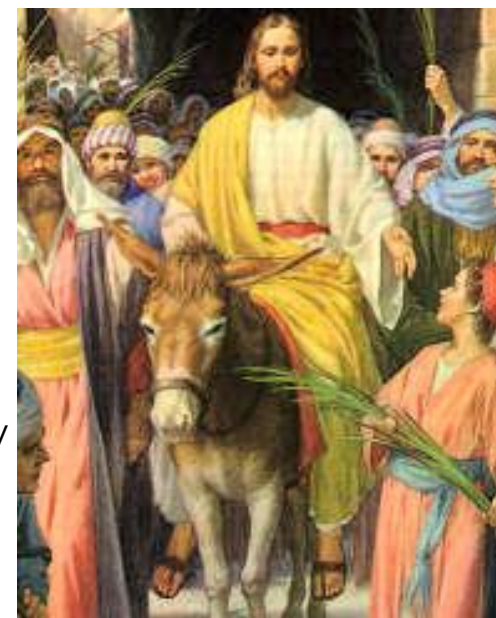
which Jesus made himself entirely receptive to the divine will. Isaiah captures it this way: “He was oppressed and was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth” (Is 53:7).

Christ was no stranger to hardship, privation and suffering, long before that final day of his life. “Being in the form of God,” as St Paul says, from the moment he came on earth, Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are (Phil 2:6f). He, the most high God, suffered the hardships of the poor, at times not even having a place to lay his head. He endured hunger and thirst, and after long days surrounded by crowds seeking a cure, he often spent whole nights at prayer in the hills.

Despite his compassion for all who came to him, he met with hatred and rejection, in particular from the Pharisees and priests, who planned to have him, the Son of God, killed. Yes, the sweat-stained features of Jesus were the features of the Son of God. The forehead streaming with blood, the hands and feet nailed to the cross, the body wounded, the side pierced with a lance, were the flesh of the eternal Word, who dwelt among us. “In truth this was God's Son” (Mt 27:54).

Why did he suffer so much? In the words of Isaiah, “On him lay the punishment that brings us healing, through his wounds we are made whole” (Isaiah 53:5). To accompany Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to his last days on earth is to accompany him to Calvary. But Calvary itself also leads to the empty tomb, to the joy of the resurrection, and to the certainty that life is stronger than death and that love is stronger than hate.

So, what we commemorate and relive during this Holy week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in him, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. May the grace of his Passion bring healing to us, especially as we battle with the wounds and pains of this Coronavirus pandemic. May we find the courage to walk in the footsteps of Jesus this week and enter into the joy of his resurrection next Sunday morning.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

This passage is Peter's address to the household of Cornelius, the Roman centurion in Caesarea focuses on the central theme of Easter. It shows how the apostles fulfilled the command to preach the Gospel. Peter teaches on 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 for ever. 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

Paul in this passage highlights the new life that is God’s gift in the resurrection. Paul’s words open to us another dimension of Easter. For Paul, Easter is not only a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, but also a celebration of our being raised with Christ to a new life. Consequently, we have to think of the things that are above.

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 Jesus’ body has been taken away. 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.” The appearances of the Risen Lord would therefore play a crucial role in deepening the faith of the Apostles. They in turn may give witness to Jesus from their own personal experience (cf. Lk 24:13-35, the Gospel for Easter Evening Mass on the Emmaus story.)

HEALING / BLESSINGS: baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhi, 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, Willie Rash & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

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

APRIL 4/5, 2020

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 6, 2020
(8 am) †Paulina Wong
†Maria D. Rivera

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
(8 am) †Dieter M. Pfister
†Maria D. Rivera

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
(8 am) †Maria G. Sablan
†Federico G. Badua
(Birthday Memorial)

Thursday, April 9, 2020
(8 am) †Dieter Pfister
†Maria D. Rivera

Friday, April 10, 2020
(8 am) †Maria D. Rivera

Saturday, April 11, 2020
(8 am) †Maria D. Rivera
†Phil & Charlotte Hodapp
5 pm Willie Rash (Healing)

Sunday, April 12, 2020
Stephen Chua
(Birthday Blessing)
For the People
†Maria D. Rivera
†Perla Alonzo

†RIP

Stewardship of Treasure
March 28/29

Sunday Collection	\$1,185.00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$2,192.60
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 89.50
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$5,739.26
Donation— Social Ministry	\$ 10.00
Donation— Stewardship	\$ 47.50
Donation— CRS	\$ 30.00
Donation— Rice Bowls	\$ 10.00
Candle Sales	\$ 65.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 100.00

Weekend Total: \$ 9,468.86

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

Sacrifice of Praise

Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4–7 / Philippians 2:6–11 / Matthew 26:14–27:66



Judas Not the Only One to Betray Jesus

Like Judas, sometimes we can allow our earthly desires to cloud our ability to see God's plans. We may also imitate Judas in putting our tasks ahead of receiving God's blessing. At the Last Supper, Judas received the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ then left before receiving the final blessing. Technically, Judas is the first person to leave Mass early. While legitimate reasons exist to leave Mass after Communion, every effort should be made to remain until we are sent forth — graced and blessed.

This Palm Sunday reading from Matthew's Gospel presents many other ways we, even unwittingly, betray Jesus. Many people do not accept the teaching of the Eucharist as the Real Presence — that is, Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul, and divinity.

Thousands of Jesus' followers turned away in response to his pronouncement, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and

FOR REFLECTION

- In what ways do you deny Jesus?
- Do you believe the Eucharist is truly Jesus Christ — body, blood, soul, and divinity?
- Have you ever participated in the Holy Week liturgies? How can experiencing Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies enhance your Easter experience?

the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (Jn 6:51). Jesus did not call after the retreating hordes saying they misunderstood. No, instead he turned to those who remained and inquired if they would accept this difficult teaching or also leave. Peter speaks for those remaining: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (v. 68).

This is the same Peter who will deny Jesus during the Passion. His declaration of fidelity reveals an intention to remain faithful; however, fear, confusion, and uncertainty rocked his faith.

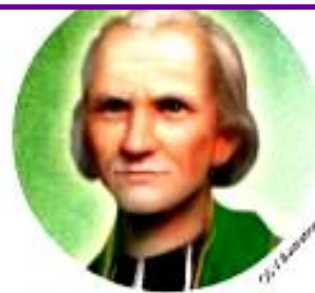
He, like the rest of the apostles, when their Shepherd was struck, scattered like sheep. At the foot of the cross stood four people with faith we would be wise to emulate — the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Evangelist, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the wife of Clopas. These are our examples for remaining faithful and trusting in God's plan, even when all seems lost.

Last, what about the question Jesus asks of his disciples when he finds them asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane: Could you not stay awake one hour with me? (see Mt 26:40). Could we not give even more than an hour to Jesus during Holy Week? We could do so by not only attending Palm Sunday Mass, but also Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies. Maybe this will be the year you come as a family to the Easter Vigil, regardless of the longer length of the Mass, so to give God the glory he deserves. Are you ready to fully enter into Easter like never before, aware of the sacrifice Christ made for our salvation?



“There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, he would have given it to us.”

– ST. JOHN VIANNEY



The Real Presence

“The mode of Christ’s presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as ‘the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend.’ In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist ‘the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially* contained.’ This presence is called “real” — by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be “real” too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense; that is to say, it is a *substantial* presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374

HOLY WEEK LITURGY HIGHLIGHTS

Palm Sunday

- Distribution and blessings of palms
- Gospel reading: the Passion of Our Lord

Holy Thursday

- Washing of feet
- Eucharistic procession — consecrated Hosts are reserved for Good Friday services and placed in a tabernacle on an altar of repose outside the sacristy
- After Mass, the faithful are encouraged to spend time in Adoration

Good Friday

- Gospel reading: the Passion of Our Lord
- Veneration of the Cross
- Communion service (only day of year there is no Mass)
- Some parishes offer the Stations of the Cross or special prayer services between noon and 3:00 p.m.



At the Foot of the Cross

Mary Magdalene, traditionally counted among the women in Luke’s Gospel who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, accompanied Jesus throughout the time of his earthly ministry. Mary Magdalene had the unique blessing of being present during most of the events of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection.

She is the first to see Jesus alive following the Resurrection, documented in this remarkable exchange in John’s Gospel: “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?’ She thought it was the gardener and said to him, ‘Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni,’ which means ‘Teacher’” (20:15–16). Mary Magdalene becomes then the apostle to the apostles, telling the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection. Do we not, too, wish to be apostles sharing this Good News as we celebrate Easter?



Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the glorious week of blessings that await us. We offer you the last forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in thanksgiving as preparation to fully receive your Easter joy! May I seek to participate fully in all activities and services my parish will offer this Holy Week. Inspire my heart, removing all obstacles, to make a good confession of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Beginning with Palm Sunday, through the Triduum, and into Easter, may I seek to encounter you, Jesus, as never before. Amen.

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