



Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's-by-the-Sea-Kahalua

St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am—4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am—4:45pm / Confessions: **Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church**

WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 11:30am

Gift Shop Hours: Mon - Tue - Wed - Fri 9:30am - 1:30pm & Sun 6:30am - 2:30pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org February 18, 2024 | 18 de febrero 2024

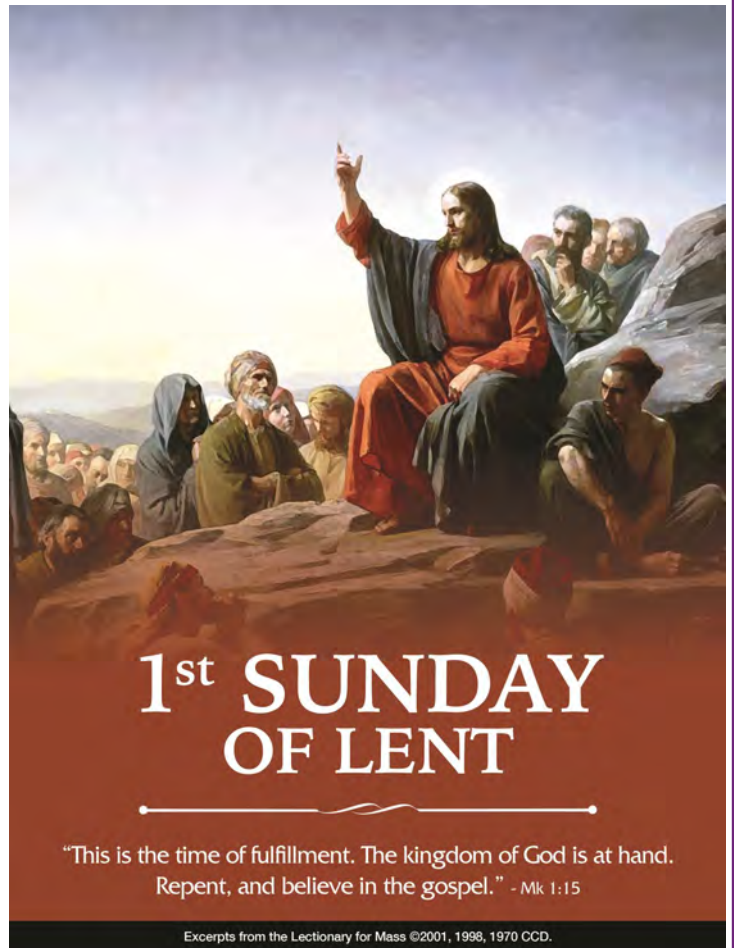
First Sunday of Lent

Reading I - Genesis 13:1-2,44-46 | Psalm - 25:4-5,6-7,8-9 | Reading II - 1 Peter 3:18-22 | Gospel - Mark 1:12-15
Primera Lectura - Génesis 13:1-2,44-46 | Salmo - 24:4-5,6-7,8-9 | Segunda Lectura - 1 Pedro 3:18-22 | Evangelio - Marcos 1:12-15

THE MEANING OF OUR BAPTISM

Lent is the time of year that we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism. The psalm reminds us that if we truly keep the covenant, the way of life God expects us to follow will not be a burden, but a source of love and truth. Peter's letter gives one explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal that we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words that Jesus proclaims immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent and believe in the gospel." It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived in our baptismal promises.

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1st SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*"Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit."
- 1 Peter 3:18*

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Genesis (Génesis) 22:1-2,9-13,15-18**

Psalm/Salmo: **116(115):10,15,16-17,18-19**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Romans (Romanos) 8:31-34**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Mark (Marcos) 9:2-10**

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

February 18, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today is the first day of Lent! It is the beginning of a new liturgical season in the Church, a season of prayer, service and self-sacrifice. It is a time of preparation, culminating in the holiest day of the year: Easter. As we embark on our Lenten journey, we hear a reading from Genesis in which God makes a covenant with Noah where he promises, “the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings.” The Lord has said that no matter our disobedience, sin and rebellion, he will never destroy us! Saint Peter explains how the story of Noah, “in which a few persons ... were saved through water,” prefigures baptism, and baptism, as we know, marks us as the Lord’s own forever. We are sealed with a sign that can never be relinquished. So, just as the great flood signaled a rebirth for the world, our baptism is a rebirth of our soul in Christ. We are washed clean of our original sin, and the door to salvation is opened for us. It is fitting that at the beginning of our Lenten journey we hear the story of the beginning of our eternal covenant with the Lord. Both the covenant, and Lent, will be fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As a child, Lent meant lentils for dinner, Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and no TV ever. For a 10-year-old, it was a time to be endured. Now, as an adult, Lent can still be hard, but I recognize it as a time of opportunity as well. It is a chance to strip away all the excess in my life and focus on what matters most. While I am not exactly jumping for joy at the thought of fasting, I can’t deny that it is easier for me to spend time in prayer when I’m not mindlessly grazing on chips and chocolate all day long. I may grumble at times, but with God’s grace I have grown in understanding of the Church’s wisdom in encouraging us to fast, pray and give alms during Lent. All three practices invite us to reflect on the great sacrifice of the Lord and prepare our hearts to receive him each Sunday in the Eucharist, as well as on our final judgment day.

PRAY Lent is the perfect time to take stock of your current spiritual practices and add new ones to your daily routine. Remember the words we heard from Jesus today: “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Start off your Lenten season right by taking time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and designating a time each day to pray. If you aren’t sure what to say to God during this time, choose a verse or two of Psalm 6 and let your heart take it from there.



Life of Stewardship

Today's readings remind us why we partake in this 40-day Lenten journey — to prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Christ on Easter.

St. Peter reminds us in our Second Reading of the blessings we receive from Christ's passion, death, and resurrection — "Christ suffered for sins once... that he might lead you to God." And again, "[Baptism] is... an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

To receive the blessings more readily from Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, we too are called to endure 40 days "in the desert." In our Gospel, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where He was tempted by Satan. Jesus was called to face trials and to confront evil. During this time, He committed to intense prayer and fasting. It was not necessary for Jesus to go into the desert so that He might be purified, but rather, to endure the temptations of man for our sake. He was fully man, and experienced temptations just like us, yet responded to them perfectly, never falling into sin.

We should strive to fully participate in this Lenten season by mirroring Jesus, the model steward by Whom we are called to imitate. Through our time in the desert, we will confront evil by weeding out the roots of sin in our lives through fasting. And we will be sustained and nourished in the desert by prayer.

Let us strive to purify our hearts so that we might be ready to receive the glorious gift of Christ and partake in the riches that pour forth from this Gift.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News

Infant Baptisms

Our next Baptism class for parents and godparents will be on **Saturday, February 24 at 9am** at St. Michael's. Please email baptism.stmichaekona@rcchawaii.org to register.

AARP Tax Aide Offers Free Tax Preparation

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

- Hale Halawai on Thursdays from 8am - 12noon serving clients in-person; first-come/first-served walk-in basis.
- Yano Hall on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm. Both walk-ins and appointments accepted. APPT. LINE for Yano Hall location only: (808) 765-9141

Visit <https://hi1.taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/taxpayer-information/> for more information.

40 Cans for Lent

The Knights of Columbus are starting their annual "40 Cans for Lent" campaign. **Please consider donating one can for each day of our Lenten season.** Donations can be left in the carts near the front entrance.

Augustine Educational Foundation

This week's special collection will be taken up for the **Augustine Educational Foundation** which provides tuition assistance for families sending their children to Hawaii Catholic Schools. Envelopes are in the kiosks.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

CRS Rice Bowl is a staple on the table of Catholic families across the country during Lent. This simple cardboard box is a tool for collecting Lenten alms and comes with a calendar that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections and stories. **Please prayerfully consider participating with your family this year.** Rice Bowls were distributed at our Ash Wednesday Masses and can be found in both kiosks.

- Place your CRS Rice Bowl on your family dinner table.
- Follow the calendar's daily reflections.
- Put your Lenten sacrifices into your CRS Rice Bowl.
- Visit crsricebowl.org for additional resources.
- Turn in your gifts on Holy Thursday to benefit Catholic Relief Services.

Please Help Our Media Ministry

Our Media Ministry keeps very busy creating pieces for Parish programs, booklets, posters, flyers, and electronic displays. They also continuously update our website as well as post on our social media platforms and they can always use photos. If you have any photos of our Parish events to share, please email to smkonamedia@rcchawaii.org.

St. Michael's 14th Annual Golf Tournament

St. Michael's 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on **Saturday March 23rd** at **Kona Country Club**. Come be a member of our organizing committee, or be a golfer, a volunteer, or a sponsor. For more information, call Don David 808-756-6912.

President's Day Holiday - Office Closed

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

Faith Formation Grades K-5

Please help! We are in need of an assistant who speaks Spanish to help with some of the students in 4th grade. We meet on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass and end by 11:30. If the Holy Spirit is calling you to help, please contact Margaret Essex at messex@rcchawaii.org.

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Mandatory Safe Environment training for all Youth grades 6-12 on March 3rd from 5 -7 pm at Grace Parish Center. Next Youth Ministry class will be on March 17th.

Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** will be celebrated at the **4pm Mass** on **Saturday, February 17**. During the Rite, the catechumens will sign their names in the *Book of the Elect*. Catechumens are those who are unbaptized and preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Our 2024 catechumens are Jessica Avendaño-Silva, Navid Avendaño-Silva, Nayeli Avendaño-Silva, Jonathan Cancino Hernandez, Kevin Cancino Hernandez, Napo'oanaokalā L. H. Llanes, Ava Sueko Ota Alvarez, Noah Makoto Ota Alvarez, Miley Reyes Silva, Levi Legay, **June** Legay, Bradley Llanes, Mele Schultz, Terry Ward, and **Kaleo**.

Stewardship of Treasure

Feb 5th - Feb 11th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,935.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 13,227.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 8,950.13

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$4,860,560.68** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

Mahalo for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$10,831.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$1,724.18**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in *'Ohana in Christ* to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab**. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed at **5pm at St. Michael's in English** and at **6pm at Immaculate Conception in Spanish**.

Life in Spirit Seminar (Feb 13 - Apr 2)

Set your faith on fire! Join the Charismatic Prayer Group for **Week #2 - Salvation** on **Tuesday, February 20** from 6:30 to 8:00pm at St. Michael's Grace Parish Center.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

OCIA classes continues on **February 19th, March 4th & 18th** from 5:45 to 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center.

Children's Rosary

Parents: Please encourage your children to pray just one decade of the Rosary with other children after the 9am Mass on Sunday, February 25 on the North Lanai.

40 Days For Life

The Respect Life Committee continues their **40 Days For Life campaign from Wednesday, Feb 14th to Sunday, March 24th** on the sidewalk in front of St. Michael's Church. The 40 Days For Life is an event that aims to end abortion through 40 days of peaceful vigil, fasting, and community outreach. To sign up for the vigil, visit website www.40daysforlife.com/kona. Please keep those with a crisis pregnancy and their unborn baby in your prayers.

First Sunday of Lent

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A

young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it mean?" Beneath the humor of his glorious over-reaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God

sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What does it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment - but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

- Father John Muir, ©LPI

Treasures From Our Tradition

Fasting may be a priority in your Lenten spring cleaning regimen. Almost every religious tradition recognizes that fasting is a key to heightened spiritual awareness. You know this from your own experience. When you are engaged in a hobby, painting a room, keeping vigil near a delivery room, or standing watch at a sick-bed, you may simply forget to eat. What you are doing so fills you that the intensity of the action is itself nourishing. In fasting from food, or drink, or habitual behaviors, you make room for what is truly important.

Even though Lenten Sundays stand apart from the Lenten fast, you will notice traces of fasting in our liturgy. We fast from singing the Gloria and Alleluia, we fast from flowers bedecking the altar, and there may be a noticeable drop in the number of infant baptisms as parents elect to wait until Easter. This hints that fasting is a prelude to feasting, and the vigor of our Easter alleluias is rich fare after a long silence. In the same way, even a small fast - no cream in the coffee, no pepper in the soup, no radio in the car - can not only point to deeper hungers, but help us rejoice more fully in the feast when we break our fast together.

- Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Everyday Stewardship - Seeing Past the Distractions

When I was a teenager, the experience of Catholic retreat basically changed my life. I wasn't lost or hurting, but the 3 days placed me on a path that led to where I am today. Certainly, my experiences of faith before and after that weekend also played a role in the person I have

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Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
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Parish Life Coordinator

WALTER BACXA
Music Ministry

RENE LEMUS
Music Ministry & Spanish Baptism Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH / LOUELLA BRANCO
Funeral Ministry

PAULETTE ADAMS
Wedding Coordinator

MAYRA RAMIREZ
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become. However, the power of God I felt in that short period of time had such a profound effect on me it became a type of lens through which I then came to see the rest of my life.

Sometimes we need to get away from it all to realize what really matters in life. We step back and see things more clearly. When we are fully in the world it is hard to get past the busyness and constant noise of modern existence. Distractions are all around us and our attention span can be so limited when it comes to truth.

This Lent, find the time to slow down, to get away from it all, and to rest in the peaceful arms of God. Go to the desert and work on surrendering all you are, and have, and will be to Jesus. Reflect on the many gifts you have been given and discern the best ways to cultivate those for God's glory. As this season begins, be mindful of the fact that this time will never come again. There might be a Lenten season next year, but God is calling you now. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Lent and the Flood

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché - or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent is the desert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood? It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide.

Unless...it is. Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

- 4pm - , Roland Fornataro, 2nd Anniversary Remembrance

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7am - Marcelino Bacxa, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Janice Unger, Rest in Peace
- 1:30pm - Etienne Anori Galindo, for Health and Strength
- 4:00pm - Temoterio & Restituta Requina, May they Rest in Peace

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

- 7am - Vicki Moses, Birthday Blessing
- 5pm - Conrado Ombao, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

- 7am - James "Jimmy" McClean, 2nd Anniversary of Death
- 5pm - Donald R. Jasinski MD, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

- 7am - Richardson Smith, Sr., deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Jenny Peralta, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

- 7am - David Livingston, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Dorothy M. Lacey, 13th Anniversary of Death

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

- 7am - Rodolfo Gonzalez Gonzalez, 1st Anniversary of Death, May he Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**.

If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, **please call well in advance of the date to secure it.**

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

Stay Strong

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 9:8-15 - Covenant with Noah
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:18-22 - The purpose of Christ's suffering
- ▶ Mark 1:12-15 - Jesus' temptation; the call to conversion

This is the first Sunday of Lent, and we have 40 days stretching ahead of us before Easter. Maybe by now you have settled on some sort of Lenten commitment for the next six weeks. We often think about Lent as a time to give up a bad habit or something that we know isn't good for us, such as coffee, sweets, or alcohol. Traditionally, Catholics are encouraged to commit to something in three areas: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the poor).

We are encouraged to strengthen our prayer lives. If we have a prayer practice, maybe we can add a little time to it or add in something extra. If we haven't been good at making regular time for prayer, Lent can be the push we need to get a regular practice started. It could be as simple as following a Lenten prayer booklet or online daily retreat program, or getting up a few minutes early to pray and journal.



JFD

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"I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings."
Sheepish Question:
 How do I respond to God's loving promise of salvation?

Also, we are called to fast from something that is unloving, unproductive, or just not good for us and the world community. That might mean fasting from gossip. It could mean fasting from social media that keeps us from connecting in-person in our daily lives. Or maybe it is fasting from buying things we don't need. Finally, with almsgiving, we are called to share our resources with the poor. It is exciting to think of all the good that can come from Lent if we can stick to our promises, and many other people do the same.

Of course there will be temptations. Satan, who tempted Jesus in the desert, doesn't want us to stay faithful to our commitments either, because he knows how much good we can do.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What are you committing to for a Lenten practice this year?
- 2 What do you think will be your greatest temptations to "cheat" or abandon your promises? How might you ask for help to stay strong?

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



In His Mercy

Loving Father,
you sent a rainbow
as a sign of your mercy
and of our relationship with you.
Soften our hardened hearts.
May the mercy that we show others

be a sign that through the waters of baptism
you live in us and that we are your
adopted children.
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Abundant Mercy



Today's readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15. “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature.” With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day's Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God's Word is always relevant.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 19 The Neighbor

In Matthew 22:36–39, Jesus tells the scholar about the two greatest commandments: loving God and loving neighbor. Today's passage from Matthew depicts how our actions show love for both God and neighbor. Inviting the sheep on his right to the kingdom, the Son of Man recounts that their feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger also fed, clothed, and welcomed Christ. When a reminder is needed on how God expects us to treat our neighbor, return to this passage. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8–10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, February 20 Patiently Waiting

Both the psalm and Gospel show us how to pray. Portraying the need for trust, the psalmist sings, "I sought the LORD and he answered me, / delivered me from all my fears." In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they need to come to God with humility as they pray that his will be done. Instead of expecting instant gratification from prayer requests, keep in mind that God acts in his time, not ours. Be patient and trust; God will not leave you alone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–7, 16–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, February 21 Grateful Hearts

Jesus comments in today's Gospel on the generation's desire for a sign. How many times have you prayed and asked for a sign? Many of us want proof that God will come through for us. Remember that God knows what is best for each of us. During this Lent, seek to discern and appreciate what you have been given and thank God for what he has provided. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, February 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Upon Peter's assertion that Jesus is the Messiah, we hear Jesus tell Peter that he is the rock upon which the Church shall be built. As Christ's followers, we too must voice that Jesus is our Savior. Our faith can be the foundation upon which others' faith can grow. Pope Francis implores us to go out in mission so that through encounters with others, the Church will grow. Our faith is not a secret but a wonderful gift. This Lent, how will you contribute to strengthening the foundation of the Church? *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4–6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Friday, February 23 Continuing the Mission

On the optional Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr, the Church recalls a second-generation Christian who was a disciple of the apostle John. Before St. Polycarp was burned at the stake, he put his trust in God. He was unafraid of what would happen to him. Pray to be able to trust that God is with you, no matter the trial you face. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, February 24 Learning to Love

"If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?" we hear in today's Gospel. To love without conditions can be difficult. Yet this is what Jesus asks from us. When we have been wronged, it is tempting to seek revenge. Yet, Jesus shows us a higher path. Instead of revenge, Jesus loves everyone and instructs us to forgive. What would it mean for you to love your enemy and to forgive someone who has hurt you? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



PARISH EVENTS

(may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- OCIA (Feb 19, Mar 4,18) 5:45-7:15pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee & Sweets with Fr. Lio 7:30-9:00am
- Life in the Spirit Seminar/
Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Men of Faith 5:00-6:30pm

THURSDAY

- Bible Study 10:30-12noon
- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(2nd & 4th Thursday of each month)

FRIDAY - NO EVENTS

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father After 1:30 Mass
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:20-11:20am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(See the Faith Formation section of bulletin for class dates)

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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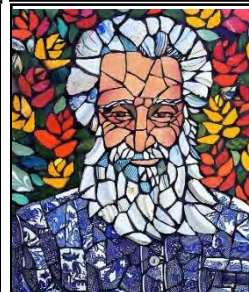
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I humbly ask you, through the intercession of
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Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
I will be forever thankful if you present my
request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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