



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-Kahalu'u
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, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **March 16, 2025 | 16 de marzo de 2025**

Second Sunday of Lent

Reading I - **Genesis 15:5-12,17-18** | Psalm - **27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14** | Reading II - **Philippians 3:17-4:1** | Gospel - **Luke 9:28-36**
Primera Lectura - **Génesis 15:5-12,17-18** | Salmo - **26:1,7-8,8-9,13-14** | Segunda Lectura - **Filipenses 3:17-4:1** | Evangelio - **Lucas 9:28-36**

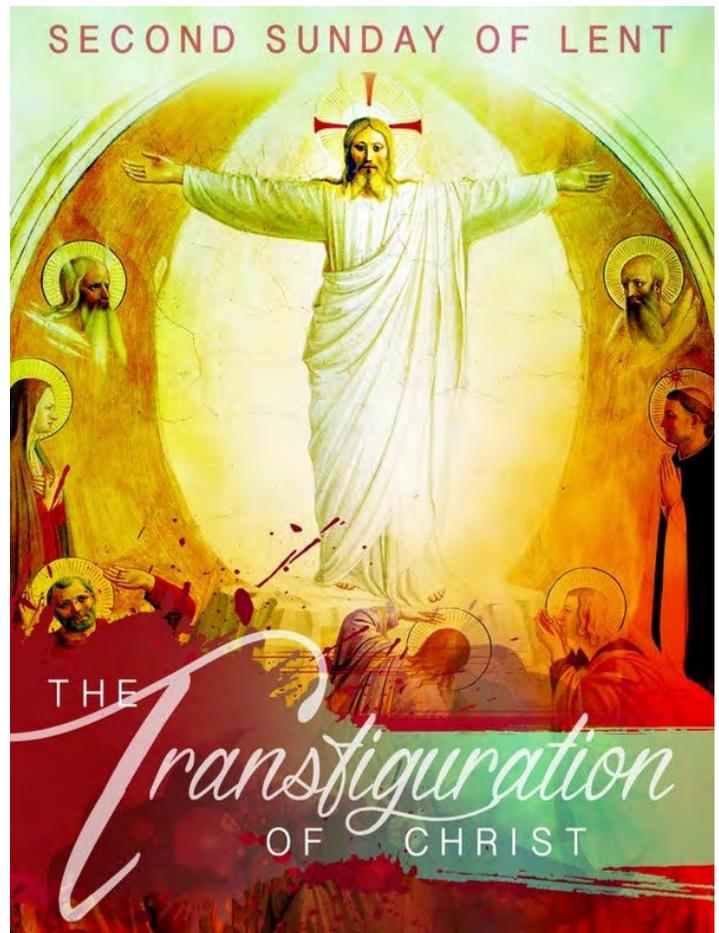
STAND FIRM IN THE LORD

It is not hard to imagine, in this age of wars, evil groups bent on the destruction of humanity, and political follies, that the words of Saint Paul were so accurate, even for his time. It seems that the world never changes. Paul says, many conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is their destruction. Their minds are occupied with earthly things” (Philippians 3:18,19). The result is the destruction of innocent people and of the Earth itself. But Paul says to the Philippians, “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (3:20). He will “change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body” (3:21). Note that he says “body” rather than “bodies.” He is talking about the whole community of believers, who, following the example of Jesus and of Paul, will come into the glory of God. So “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1).

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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.



Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: **Genesis 15:5-12,17-18**

Primera Lectura: **Génesis 15:5-12,17-18**

Psalm/Salmo: **27 (26): 1,7-8,8-9,13-14**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

Segunda Lectura: **Filipenses 3:17 - 4:1**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 9:28-36**

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.

March 16, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36

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

As humans, we are often burdened with heavy crosses. Experiences of loss, lack, failure, and betrayal can riddle our existence, leaving us fatigued and with a weary question in our hearts: What is this all for? And then, we look up. We raise our gaze and see before us the transfigured face of Christ. Having taken on our human form, Jesus stands before us in radiant glory. As we take in the scene, our senses mingling somewhere between admiration and alarm, we remember the promise he made to us. The promise that we, too, will be made new. The promise that our bodies will also be redeemed, and our burdens will be relieved. And as we remember, we respond, like the disciples, “It is good that we are here.” The life of discipleship, at times, can seem to require more than it rewards. But in these moments of intimate encounter, when we see glimpses of Jesus’ beautiful face, he reminds us why we are here on this mountain: to love, to serve, and eventually to reap our eternal reward.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We see why we are here on the mountain, but today’s readings also reveal a weighty reality: before we are transformed, we must *climb* that mountain. The whole story of Jesus’ life is this: before a promise is fulfilled, sacrifice is offered. Our human existence, without the mercy and mission given us by Christ, is empty. But taking up the cross of Christ and following him toward glory, we find our purpose. Earth is our pilgrimage, and our journey will most certainly be punctuated by peaks and valleys. But today, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Philippians that we won’t be carrying around these crosses forever. Though strapped with suffering for a time, we know our eternal destination: “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

REFLECT

Lent is inherently a season of waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. In our own lives, we may be aching for transformation, perhaps for ourselves, or for another. Remember: God enters deeply into our lives, dwelling so intimately with us that he syncs his every breath with ours. Take the next week to think and pray about how the Lord may be asking you to be transformed. Pray today’s Psalm each day, and “Wait for the Lord with courage.”



Life of Stewardship

In last week's Gospel, we followed Jesus into the desert where He fasted and prayed. This week, He leads us up a mountain to witness His Transfiguration. Why both of these experiences?

He is preparing us to go with Him in a few short weeks to a hilltop - Golgotha - where He will lay down His life for our sake, and then finally to take us to an empty cave where He triumphed over sin and death once and for all.

Jesus perfectly understands our humanity. He knows we need desert experiences - times of self-denial and testing - in order to arrive at mountain-top moments when we see and feel His glorious presence in our lives. The purpose of these two types of experiences is summed up in the description of the Apostles who were with Jesus at that mountain-top experience in today's Gospel: "Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory..."

The reason for all of our fasting and prayer and almsgiving during lent is to be reawakened to all God has done for humanity, and to all that He has done for each of us personally. It is all too easy to get lulled into complacency in our daily routines, to "sleepwalk" through life, getting up and getting ourselves out the door, going to work, returning home for dinner and dishes, meetings, or sports activities, and finally flopping on the couch to watch TV until bedtime. While there is nothing inherently sinful in this routine, as Christian stewards, we are called to so much more!

This lent, let us train ourselves, or more precisely, allow Him to train us to say "Yes" to His will and to offer our lives back to Him in gratitude. In so doing, we, too, will become "transfigured." This is what it means to live fully awake; this is a stewardship way of life and it is glorious indeed.

- *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Chat with Hope Services – Sunday, March 16

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:40

Grab a beverage and donut after the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, March 16 and join us in the Grace Parish Center to chat with staff from Hope Services about their work with the homeless, their outreach services and activities at the Friendly Place.

40 Days for Life

The Respect Life Committee continues their 40days For Life prayer vigil that started on Wednesday, March 5 until Sunday, April 13 in front of St. Michael's Church. 40days For Life is a peaceful prayer vigil to end abortion occurring nationwide and internationally. Sign up at: www.40daysforlife.com/en/kona.

40 Cans for Lent

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

Lenten Soup Supper

Join us for a simple soup supper on Wednesdays. Come and spend an hour of adoration between 7:30 and 5pm. Then join us for Benediction at 5:00pm. Different ministries will

provide a simple soup supper with bread in the Grace Parish Center. We will have paper goods available but you are welcome to bring your own soup bowl and spoon. We look forward to seeing you for this simple meal as we come together to embrace the Lenten season.

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.**

Lenten Fish Fry Friday - March 21

After attending the Stations of the Cross, meet fellow parishioners on Friday, March 21st for Lenten Fish Fry Fridays from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for just \$10 per person, in the Grace Parish Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

12-day Pilgrimage to the Philippines

Join Bishop Larry Silva and Monsignor Gary Secor on a 12-day pilgrimage to The Philippines from July 20 to 31. There will be an informational meeting on March 22 at 10am available via zoom. For a QR code with the detailed pilgrimage itinerary, please refer to the flyer on the kiosks.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

You are invited to join the Annunciation Parish Feast Day on Sunday, March 23 in Waimea. Mass will begin at 11:30am followed by Lunch, Fellowship and Entertainment. RSVP to our St. Michael Parish Office.

10th Year Anniversary - Saturday, March 29

Celebrate our 10th year anniversary on Saturday, March 29. Mass will be at 10am followed by lunch in the Grace Parish Center. No 7am Mass. Confessions at 9am.

Grief Recovery Method Program

The Grief Recovery Method program provides a safe environment for you to look at your old beliefs about coping with loss, which losses continue to affect your life, and take effective actions that will lead you to complete unresolved emotions that may still be causing you pain. This is an "action-based" program, involves reading and writing assignments outlined in *The Grief Recovery Handbook, 20th Anniversary Expanded Edition* (book provided). This program is not a drop-in group, and registered participants meet for 8 weekly sessions. There is **no cost for this program**, but it does require a firm commitment and attendance at all sessions, for success in learning to recover from unresolved grief. The 8-week program will be held **Wednesdays, April 2 - May 21, 2025, from 10 am-12 noon**, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish Center. For more information, please see the *Grief Recovery Method Overview flyer* on the church kiosks. Registration before April 2 is required. To register, contact **Suzanne Zaw**, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, at (808)339-7980.

Jubilee Days of Study

The Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is scheduling Days of Study throughout the year to help people learn more about the Jubilee Year, the history of the church and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Stewardship of Treasure

March 3rd - 9th, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,730.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 21,783.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 29,691.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,761,593.79** 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 MARCH 2025

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

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.

The next day of study scheduled on **Hawaii Island is on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Annunciation Church in Waimea**. The themes of the Days of Study are broad, covering the Jubilee Year's emphasis on hope, the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism. The general outline of a Day of Study will include prayer, a keynote talk, thematic workshops, group discussions and refreshments. Open to all ages. The workshops align with the Jubilee Year's focus on spiritual renewal and also offer an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes for March are on March 23, and 30. No class on March 16.

- Margaret Essex, Catechist

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Happy Lent! Enjoy your Spring Break, next session March 30th. First Confession Saturday, April 5th meet at 8:30 am for instruction on the plaza. Youth Ministry for April 6, 13, & 27 from 5:15-7:15. Parent meeting for Sacraments, April 6.

-Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister

Second Sunday of Lent

St. Thomas Aquinas said that friends share three things: time, possessions and secrets. For example, how do I know if you're my friend? Well, let's say we've been to Mexico together, you've tried my shaky attempts at pasta carbonara, and you know what ridiculous costume I wore in a music video I filmed in my early twenties. We, dear reader, are definitely friends. We've shared time, possessions and secrets.

How does friendship with Jesus develop? The same way.

Jesus lives and eats with his disciples. Then he takes Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor and there reveals to them his deepest secret: his glorious, divine Sonship.

The majesty of God shines from within his humanity in a way that goes beyond description. God the Father confirms this "secret," saying, "This is my chosen Son, listen to him" (Luke 9:35). It's all so precious that "they fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone." Do we take time to be alone with Christ, to allow him to mystically share this "secret" with us as his dear friends?

Lenten challenge: This week, identify one time when you experienced an awareness of some specific aspect of Jesus - perhaps on a retreat, at Mass, in prayer or in an act of service. Spend ten minutes consciously re-living that experience in your heart. If you can't recall one, set aside at least two hours this Lent as a mini retreat, either alone in nature or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Focus on him and ask him to share the secrets of his heart with you. He will. Then, as his friend, share the secrets in your heart. - *Father John Muir, ©LPI*

Treasures from our Tradition

By now, many may have failed in Lenten discipline to some measure or another: the daily doughnut is simply too alluring, or a furtive puff on a cigarette irresistible. There is meaning even in the failure, though, a kind of reminder that we cannot save ourselves. Part of the power of Lent is that we do it together, and although individuals decide on different ways to keep it, it is fundamentally the same journey. We fall, we get up, we keep moving. The desire to "give something up" for Lent is an age-old impulse in the Christian heart. We get better at it over the years, and move more deeply into the meaning and message of acts of sacrifice; so there is no shame in stumbling, as long as we are not discouraged by the failure and give up. We are clearing space in our lives, after all, and some of the things we desire to give up are worth rooting out completely anyway.

What do we do with the space we have cleared out by our sacrifice? The Lenten question of giving up is balanced by the Easter question of our response to Christ's embrace of us in love: "What are you taking on for Easter?"

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

Everyday Stewardship - The Resurrection and Spiritual Hangriness

I want to talk about being hangry. I'll give you a quick description of hangriness, though I warn you, it doesn't come from the Oxford English Dictionary. Hangriness is when you're so hungry you get angry. You turn into a real piece of work. You can't get anything done and you're probably not a joy to be around, at least until you grab a snack. Everybody gets this way sometimes.

We can be this way in our souls, too. It's so easy to get distracted by the hungers of this world: greed, pride, anxiety. We can become ruled by the needs of our bodies and the desires of our mind and, in doing so, neglect the needs and the desires of our souls.

Everyday stewardship calls us to a constant reflection on the truth that we are not made for this world, as

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Soup Supper (after Benediction) 5:30pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY

- Stations of the Cross - English 5:00pm
(St. Michael the Archangel)
- Stations of the Cross - Spanish 6:00pm
(Immaculate Conception)
- Lenten Fish Fry 5:45-7:15pm

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)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class.
To register, please email
baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

Christ clearly shows us in his Transfiguration. He reveals himself in his heavenly glory, just before he is going to be deprived of all earthly needs and wants - even his very life. He shows us that this is what we were meant for. This is what we are striving for.

Lent exists to remind us that we are not made for this world. When you become spiritually hangry - or as Scripture more eloquently puts it this week, when your mind is "occupied with earthly things" - turn your thoughts to the Transfiguration. I promise you, it's even better than grabbing an energy bar.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Divine Confidante

My husband pretty much knows that if he tells me something - anything - he's also telling my sister.

Most of us have that person that we run to when we have important information. I'm not even talking about gossip; I'm talking about stuff we just have to discuss. We joke that I don't really know how I feel about something until I've run it by my sister first.

There's not really anything wrong with that. When we're trying to figure out how to think about something that has happened or how to react to a certain situation, it's always helpful to get the opinion of someone we trust.

But what if we ran as quickly to discuss the situation with God as we did to discuss it with our "person?" Wouldn't that be ideal?

After witnessing the transfiguration - an event that had to have been as confusing as it was astounding - we hear that the disciples "fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen."

When something profound, frightening, or confusing happens, our first confidante should be God. I'm reminded of Luke 2:19: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." There is something to be said for taking a moment to keep that information sacred between ourselves and the One who can really help us confront it.

Sure, maybe we don't understand what just happened. Maybe we're scared by it. We don't really know how we feel about it. And that's totally okay. The divine confidante knows how to help us pray through that confusion, that fear.

If you're someone's "person" and they come to you wanting to talk, that's great. Talk it out. But remind them - and remind yourself - to pray about it as much as you talk about it. Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond. - Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

4pm - Steve Lopez, Happy Birthday, 77 years young

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7am - Red & Betty Kanuha, deceased, May they Rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Judy Bouchard, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, MARCH 17TH

- 7am - Kathy Sutherland, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Fran Sullivan, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH

- 7am - Hilina'i Morimoto, Birthday Blessings, 16 years
- 5pm - Ofelia Mijares Ongaco Payoan, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH

- 7am - Antonio Romolor, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Rena Borro, for Healing

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST

- 7am - JoAnn Muntean, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Dr. Diana Norman, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND

- 7am - Richard Russel Gooding, 27th Anniversary of Death

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

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**.

Listen, Even if You Don't Understand

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 - The covenant with Abram
- ▶ Philippians 3:17-4:1 - Christ our goal
- ▶ Luke 9:28b-36 - Jesus transfigured

As the apostles followed Jesus around the land of Galilee, they would have had plenty of ordinary moments with a seemingly average human: hiking from town to town, looking for places to camp or sleep, meeting all sorts of different people and sharing meals and wine with them, praying in synagogues on the Sabbath, etc. Then there were the incredible experiences that would have convinced them Jesus was more than an ordinary human: feeding crowds of thousands, healing the sick and crippled, speaking words of forgiveness that Jews thought only God could speak. Then, one day, three of the apostles witnessed this mysterious transfiguration of their friend on a mountaintop as two people from their history books appeared with him.

The experience was something the apostles couldn't have understood with their minds, yet they were asked by the voice from the cloud to listen to Jesus. They were asked to trust in him, to listen to him, and to follow him, even though he was such a mystery to them.

The transfiguration may not have cleared up any of the apostles' questions about Jesus' identity, but they were still asked to trust in this person who was bringing healing, freedom, and new life to so many people. It's as if



“Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a savior.”

Sheepish Question:
God has kept his promise, but how am I doing with mine?

God was giving them a gift in saying “You don't have to understand how this is happening, how Jesus' clothes look whiter than white, or how two dead men are alive here. What I do want you to do is to listen to him.” Only that. Don't worry about understanding with your head. Follow with your heart.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Have you had any experience of being asked to trust Jesus/God even though you couldn't understand something with your mind?
- 2 In what ways is God inviting you to give up trying to understand his workings so that you can more freely follow Jesus' call to you?

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Our Saving Light

Bountiful God,
you are our light and our salvation.
Our hearts speak of you,
yearning to see your face!
We ache as we seek your presence.
Hear the sound of our call.
Though we have strayed from you,
guide us back to your bounty;
help us to stand firm in your way.
Grant us the wisdom and courage
to wait for you, who saves.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Listen to Him



Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1 or 3:20–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. Some knowledge of ancient treaties is helpful to understand today's Scripture passages. In the reading from Genesis, we hear the Lord make two promises to Abram: an heir and land. To the promise of land, Abram requests a sign from God: "How am I to know that I will possess it [the land]?" God asks Abram to bring him a "three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram does so and proceeds to cut up the animals, which, at the time, was a way of making a treaty. After darkness falls, a smoking fire pot and

a flaming torch, representing God, pass between the cut-up animal pieces: a sign that God and Abram have entered into a covenant.

As we begin the second week of Lent, reflect on your relationship with God. How can you imitate Abraham and put your faith in the Lord? How can you deepen your relationship with God or enter into an understanding of growing faith? Though your answers to these questions likely won't involve three-year-old heifers, goats, rams, turtledoves, or pigeons, try to commit to a tangible and realistic offering you can bring to God. Bring your reflection to your prayers as you spend time in silence, listening to the Lord.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 17 St. Patrick

As a teen, St. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and treated as a slave. At the time, Ireland was not a Christian land. Turning to God in his captivity, Patrick wrote about his love for God. Around the age of twenty, Patrick escaped and was eventually ordained a priest. He preached and converted many to Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick is known to have used shamrocks to explain the Trinity. To celebrate St. Patrick, reach out to someone and share three things you love about your faith. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 18 Preach and Practice

Jesus warns those gathered not to be hypocritical. It is indeed important to practice what we preach and to do so in a non-performative way. We are called to serve others and praise God humbly. Pray about your motivations. Why do you serve others? Do you do so for praise or seats of honor? Ask God for the strength to preach and practice modesty, with your heart set on Christ. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 19 St. Joseph

Scripture portrays St. Joseph's kindness in his unwillingness to expose Mary to shame upon learning of her pregnancy. Instead of denouncing her, Joseph intends to divorce her quietly. Scripture does not reveal Joseph's response to the angel, but we know of his yes to God's call to be Jesus' earthly father. Consider a difficult situation in which you have found yourself. Despite the hurt you may have experienced, what could you have learned from St. Joseph's example? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Thursday, March 20 Walk in the Way of the Lord

Jesus tells the Pharisees about a rich man's neglect of Lazarus, a poor, sick man at the rich man's door. After the men die, their fates are a reversal of their earthly reality: the rich man finds himself in "the netherworld, where he was in torment" while Lazarus "was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham." This serves as a jarring reminder that what we do to our neighbors, we do to Christ. Whom have you neglected to serve? How can you reconcile that this week and walk in the way of the Lord? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 21 The Cornerstone

Jesus quotes Psalm 118: "The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone; / by the Lord has this been done; / it is wonderful in our eyes." The early Church used this psalm as a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. After reading today's Gospel, turn to Psalm 118. Familiarize yourself with the psalm by reading it once. Read it again, identifying a word or phrase that stands out. Read the psalm a final time, allowing the word or phrase to settle in your heart. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 22 Love for Repentant Sinners

Enter today's Gospel through the practice of Ignatian contemplation. Begin by placing yourself in the presence of God. Ask the Lord for guidance. Read Luke 15:1–3, 11–32. Visualize what you read, paying attention to the details. Place yourself in the scene, and interact with the Gospel. Where do you find yourself? Reflect on what stood out to you from your prayer. Respond to God with a word of gratitude. Close with the sign of the cross. *Today's readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*

REV. KONELIO FALETOI
Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
West Hawaii Vicariate

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
Parochial Vicar

**DEACON SÁNDOR
HERNÁNDEZ MORALES**
MEALI'INANI DUARTE-HERNÁNDEZ
Deacon / Pastoral Associate
shernandez@rcchawaii.org

DEACON CRAIG CAMELLO
PAMELA CAMELLO
Deacon / Pastoral Associate
ccamello@rcchawaii.org

EDWINA FUJIMOTO
Youth Minister
efujimoto@rcchawaii.org

MARGARET ESSEX
Children's Faith Formation K-5
messex@rcchawaii.org

CHERYL APPLEBY
Baptism Ministry
baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

SHIRLEY DAVID
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Spanish Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator

BILL CULHANE
Food Pantry Ministry

THELMA BACXA
Community Outreach Ministry

SUSAN KEEN
Business Manager
skeen@rcchawaii.org

JANICE LACRO
Administrative Assistant
stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org



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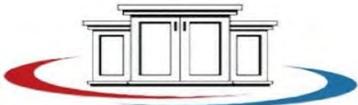
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