



There are two instances where The Father, as recorded in the Synoptic Gospels, says these words at Jesus' baptism and the Transfiguration. There is a special essence that transitions into our human psyche when through the wisdom of Almighty God this proclamation becomes the pathway to learning His Plan to share his Love and Life with us.

The Synoptics detail many miracles and parables that set a pattern of the Mission Jesus undertakes to bring Good News to the downtrodden and helpless people He came to save. John's Gospel presents the role of Jesus in a different manner with signs that Jesus is God, yet the outcome remains the same wherein we

have the opportunity to find the way to Almighty God by the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. There is no mystery to the forgiveness God opens to us through His endless Mercy.

What significance do the words "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" portray when only twice they are recorded? There is a providential theme that reaches in a far greater way than just words of this prolific statement. The stage is set and what follows becomes more than a proclamation, it opens for us a theological imprint on two very important events.

At His baptism, Jesus prepares for the most significant step into a journey that sometimes can parallel our own sojourn into the unknown. He is ready for the encounter he must undergo. Think, for a moment, after we have been prepared for a next step in our chosen vocation the anxiety or trepidation that may confront us. Without having a crystal ball about events we will face the unknown will soon reveal the future. Will we be ready to undergo our future?

Imagine being in the position that found Jesus, after fasting for 40 days, confronted with temptations, unlike ours, but nevertheless deep and abiding. The temptations reached into his very soul to find comfort and ease not just from the fasting, but to reject and counter the scourge of attractions which soon would follow. Ours will be easier than those Satan will present to Jesus.

Temptations for us reach by reactions to pleasure, power, and greed. Those of Jesus touched His very Divinity, not for bread or drink, but to turn from His Father and worship the one who has power on earth. At this point, the Grace of Baptism wasn't needed for Jesus, but if he would have failed, the waters of baptism would never have become the grace for all humanity. Think your encounter with the unknown in your chosen vocation is hard? Remember Jesus was true man and true God. Yet, the temptations by Satan were directed more against the Son of God than meeting human needs.

Don't forget, as Paul said, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but powers and principalities" Eph. 6:12. Hence, the temptations of Jesus already become the significance from forces of evil.

*(Continued on the back page)*

## Second Sunday Of Lent ~ March 8, 2020

### PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Mario Raquipo  
[Cell] 808.228.3053

### STAFF

Rev. Deacon Ronald Choo  
Sr. Marykutty Kottuppallil, MSMHC  
Tina Welch ~ Secretary  
Sacristans  
Celine Asato ~ Marisol L. Chang

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday~Friday: 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

### ❖ A Catholic Community ❖ Diocese of Honolulu



### MISSION STATEMENT

*"Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we the family of St. Stephen Catholic Church nurture and sustain our faith through Love, Service and Unity."*

### MASS SCHEDULES St. Catherine Chapel

Monday ~ Communion Service Only  
Tuesday ~ Saturday ~ 8:00 AM  
Saturday (Main Church) ~ 4:00 PM  
Sunday (Main Church) ~ 7:15 AM  
Sunday (Main Church) ~ 9:30 AM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15 to 3:45 PM  
or by appointment

### DEVOTION

Holy Rosary 30 minutes before Mass



## **DEACON & FIRST MARTYR**

2747 PALI HIGHWAY, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ~ 808.595.3105

Email: [ssccpali@rcchawaii.org](mailto:ssccpali@rcchawaii.org) Website: [ssccpali.net](http://ssccpali.net)



# St. Stephen The First Martyr Knights of Columbus Council 16267



2B1 ASK1



Contact Worthy Grand Knight Randy Tom  
eMail Address: [randy.tom0972@gmail.com](mailto:randy.tom0972@gmail.com)



CHOIR PRACTICE  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
6:30 PM



R.C.I.A.

SUNDAY, March 8, 2020

*New Participants are always welcome!*

*Penance & the Anointing of the Sick:*  
*Sacraments of Healing*



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE  
(C.C.D.)

ST. STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, March 8, 2020 ~ Class

*Second Sunday Of Lent*

FRIDAY, March 13, 2020 ~ 7:00 PM

*Stations of the Cross ~ Led by Youth Ministry*

SUNDAY, March 15, 2020 ~ Class

*Third Sunday Of Lent*

## CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

The great apostle was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin. He surpassed all his peers in zeal for the Jewish law and their traditions, which he thought to be the cause of God, became one of the most fierce enemies and persecutors of Christians. He was one of the conspirators in the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

After the martyrdom of the holy deacon, the priests and magistrates of the Jews raised a violent persecution against the church at Jerusalem, in which Saul placed himself above the others.

In the fury of his zeal, he appealed to the high priest and Sanhedrim for a commission to take up all Jews at Damascus who confessed Jesus Christ, and bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might serve as public examples to incite terror into others.

But God was pleased to show forth in Saul his patience and mercy: Saul was almost at the end of his journey to Damascus, when, around noon, he and his company were surrounded by a great light from heaven and, fell to the ground. Then Saul heard a voice, which to him was articulate and distinct, but not understood by the rest: "Saul, Saul, why dost thou



## WEEKLY OFFERINGS:

February 29/March 1, 2020: \$4,377.87  
February 22, 23, 2020: \$2,451.00

## MAHALO!

*We are grateful to all who generously contribute their time, talent and treasure to our Parish Community.*

## 2020 SCHEDULES

### CHURCH CLEANERS

#### GROUP 3

Saturday, March 14, 2020

\* Carolyn & Bernard Ho

Christy Nakano

Helen LUKE

Velma Mamuad

Nohea George

### LECTORS

Saturday, March 14 - Scott Bell, Sr. Marykuty

Sunday, March 15, 2020

7:15 A.M. - David Choo, Patti Silva

9:30 A.M. - Frank Jordan, Monica Hahn

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday Mass ~ 4:00 PM

March 14 - Olive Houle, Sandy Wong

Sunday Mass ~ 9:30 AM

March 15 - Arlette Aki, Helen Luke

[Substitute for EMOHC's - Sr. Marykuty]

### ✠ FUNERAL MASS ✠

The funeral Mass for Rosario Sholing Bautista will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, here at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Viewing will be from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Mass will follow at 12:00 PM.



### ✠ FUNERAL MASS ✠

The funeral Mass for Steve Anthony Aki will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020, here at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Visitation will be from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Mass begins at 11:00 AM, with lunch to follow.







**"Living Faith"**  
Daily Catholic Devotions  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
[www.livingfaith.com](http://www.livingfaith.com)

**Giving & Receiving**

**Today you have accepted the Lord's agreement...And today the Lord has accepted your agreement.** Deuteronomy 26:17-18

In some circles today, it is very difficult for parties to come to an agreement. An agreement doesn't need to be anything more than both parties *giving* something and both parties *receiving* something in return. In today's first reading, God and the people of Israel formulate an agreement. God promises to care for the Israelites in a special way, while the Israelites promise to observe God's commands.

What compromises or agreements have you made with others? There are informal ones. *"It's my turn to pick up the tab. You take care of the yard, and I'll do the shopping and cook supper."* And the more formal kind: marriage vows, religious vows, business contracts.

In healthy agreements, both parties have rights and responsibilities. Both receive and both give,

*God of the Covenant, help me to be more willing to give and to receive in my dealings with others—and with you.*

~ Sr. Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.



**"Living Faith"**  
Daily Catholic Devotions  
Sunday, March 8, 2020

**Everyday Fears?**

**But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise and do not be afraid."** Matthew 17:7

I've heard that the message "Do not fear" is written, in one manner or another, over 365 times in the Bible. Apparently, we could stand to hear that every single day. So often, what terrifies us and holds us back, is much less threatening than the fear we harbor around it. That's not to say that we should discount all fears, since there are legitimate fears that we must face at times. But Jesus says, "Rise, and do not be afraid." Notice that we have to rise *first*, and the courage will come. Faith is the catalyst. We do not wait to feel brave. We could wait forever.

Fear, like any emotion, can only exist in the present moment. We may become depressed by focusing on the past, or suffer from anxiety by worrying about the future. But right now, the present moment, is the only safe place we have. God's love casts out fear. We have a choice right here—which will we choose? Love or fear?

~ Kristin Armstrong

**MASS Intentions**

Sunday, March 8

**7:15 A.M. Mass**

✦ Jack Wong

✦ Kenneth Asato

**9:30 A.M. Mass**

✦ Vera Asbitomi

✦ Karen Lee

✦ Salvador Solidum

✦ Sam Chun

✦ Steve Aki

✦ Donna McDonnell

Monday, March 9

**8:00 AM Communion Service**

✦ Beatrice Tom

Tuesday, March 10

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

Healing Prayers For: Mary Souza

Birthday Blessings For:

Wayne & Patti Silva

Wedding Anniversary Blessings For:

Barbara & Edwin Guieb

Wednesday, March 11

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

Birthday Blessings For:  
Jackson

Thursday, March 12

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

Birthday Blessings For  
Jimmy Solidum

Friday, March 13

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

For The Sick & The Homebound  
Of The Parish

Saturday, March 14

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

✦ For The Deceased of the Parish

**4:00 P.M. Mass**

✦ Doreen & Francis Chia

✦ Nancy & Raymond Tom

✦ Ron Asato

✦ Arthur Sham

**Prayer Requests**



**For The Sick & The Homebound**

Nancy Asato, Margaret Robello, Mary Souza, Carrie Talwar, Richard Wong,

**✦ For The Deceased Of The Parish ✦**

Steve Aki, Kenneth Asato, Ron & Tomiko Asato, Vera Asbitomi, Benito & Rosario Bautista, Rosalie G. Cadiz, Dr. Joseph & Priscilla Chang, Doreen & Francis Chia, Betty & Albert Chong, Sam Chun, Steve Fujii, Eileen Green, Ron Kano, Betty Lowe, Karen Lee, Frederick Lum, Salvador Solidum, Beatrice Tom, Gladys Wong, Jack Wong, Don Yee

**CONVERSION OF ST PAUL (Continued)**

thou persecute me? Christ said not: "Why dost thou persecute my disciples, but me: for it is he, their head, who is chiefly persecuted in his servants." Saul answered: "Who art thou, Lord?" Christ said: "Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecute. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad: - to contend with one so much mightier than thyself."

There was a Christian of distinction in Damascus, Ananias, greatly respected by the Jews for his irreproachable life and great virtue. Christ appeared to this holy disciple, and commanded him to go to Saul, who was at that moment in the house of Judas at prayer. Ananias trembled at the name of Saul, being familiar with the misdeeds he had done in Jerusalem and the errand for which he set out to Damascus. But our Redeemer overruled his fears, and charged him a second time to go, saying: "Go, for he is a vessel of election to carry my name before Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel: and I will show him how



## RESPECT LIFE

Juanita Ruis, Respect Life Coordinator

### DAILY READINGS



**Monday, March 9**

DANIEL 9:4-10

*St. Frances of Rome*



**Tuesday, March 10**

ISAIAH 1:10, 16-20



**Wednesday, March 11**

JEREMIAH 18:18-20



**Thursday, March 12**

JEREMIAH 17:5-10



**Friday, March 13**

GENESIS 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28



**Saturday, March 14**

MICAH 7:14-15, 18-20

[ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com)



## SUNDAY

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday  
Of Lent

### FIRST READING

EXODUS 17:3-7 (28A)

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

### SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:1-2, 5-8

### GOSPEL

JOHN 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26,  
39a, 40-42

### Local Pregnancy Resources on Oahu

#### A Place for Women in Waipio

[oahupregnancycenter.com](http://oahupregnancycenter.com) 94-1044  
Waipio Uka Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Waipahu,  
Hawaii 96797  
678-3991 **free ultrasound on-site**

#### Pearson Place [pearsonplace.org](http://pearsonplace.org)

942-0328 free pregnancy tests,  
counseling, assistance & referrals

#### 24 hour Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline (877) 558-0333

Mary Jane Home - a home for pregnant  
women 261-9776

#### Aloha Pregnancy Care & Counseling Center

[alohapregnancy.com](http://alohapregnancy.com) 234-7233

Option Line, available 24/7 to discuss  
options, listen to your  
concerns and answer questions  
[optionline.org](http://optionline.org) 1 (800) 712-4357

Kokua Closet adult & children's clothing  
at First Baptist Church in Wahiawa  
694-0000

**PRO-LIFE OB/GYNs** Dr. Irwin Lee &  
Dr. Grace Wong: 522-7380

Dr. Richard Oh: 677-7793; Dr. Emma  
Avilla: 842-1585; Dr. Angel Willey,  
947-5606

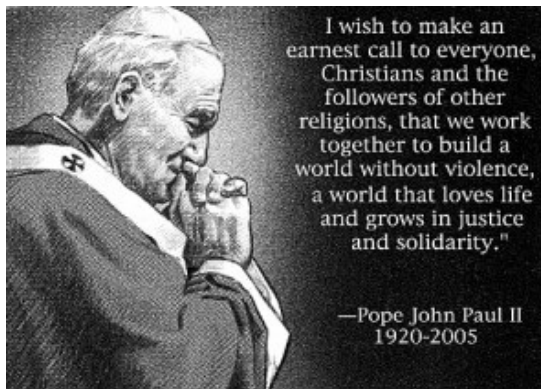
**THE ADOPTION OPTION:** House of  
Ruth a Private Adoption referral  
service, 524-0844

#### Hawaii International Child

[adoptionhawaii.org](http://adoptionhawaii.org) 589-2367, a local  
Non-Profit Adoption Agency

#### Adopt International-Hawaii

[adoptinter.org](http://adoptinter.org) 523-1400, a local Non-  
Profit Adoption Agency. [the 24/7 line  
(808) 636-1398] [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com)



## THE GOSPEL (Continued)

Satan leaves Jesus to only return at His Passion for one last try to discourage the Son of God, in his last attempt to defeat Almighty God, but for all eternity will not. Now Jesus is ready to begin his ministry which is to save humanity as his Father has directed him. This is the deeper meaning of "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased."

On the mountain where Jesus took Peter, James, and John, a new revelation is pronounced as Jesus is Transfigured before them and the pronouncement the second time, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" becomes the final direction and commission that Jesus undertakes, before his entrance into Jerusalem. However, the glimpse of Jesus in his glorified body, following His Resurrection, assured the Apostles, as well as us, it isn't the passion and death that will follow which we rest upon, but the triumph over death, sin, and eternal damnation for just those who choose that road to perdition.

Our salvation, our resurrection, and our eternal life with Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit can relish in the words "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" are more than a statement. They are a preamble to eternal life with God, and the only words that will assure us of that.

[catholic365.com](http://catholic365.com)

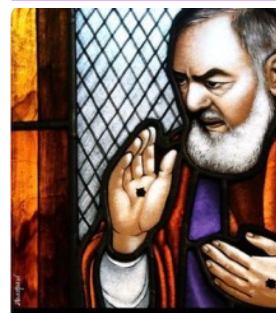
### CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL (Continued)

much he has to suffer for my name. For tribulation is the test and portion of all the true servants of Christ."

Thus a blasphemer and a persecutor was made an apostle, and chosen to be one of the principal instruments of God in the conversion of the world.

St. Paul never recalled his wonderful conversion, from which have poured forth many blessings, without raptures of gratitude and praise to the Divine and His mercy. The Church, in thanksgiving to God for such a miracle of his grace, to commemorate so miraculous an instance of his almighty power and to propose to penitents a perfect model of a true conversion, has instituted this feast, which we find mentioned in several calendars and missals of the eighth and ninth centuries, and which Pope Innocent III commanded to be observed with great solemnity. ~

[catholicnewsagency.com](http://catholicnewsagency.com)



Padre Pio was asked by one of his spiritual sons, "Father, teach me a short cut to reach God."

He answered,  
"The short cut is the Virgin."