

A mother is she who can
take the place of all
others but whose place
no one else can take.

Happy
Mother's
Day



PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Mario Raquepo
[Cell] 808.228.3053

STAFF

Rev. Deacon Ronald Choo
Sr. Marykuty 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

The Holy Rosary is said 30 minutes before Mass

DEACON & FIRST MARTYR

2747 PALI HIGHWAY, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ~ 808.595.3105

Email: ssccpali@rcchawaii.org Website: 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



"Do not let your hearts be troubled
or afraid."

What a wonderful reminder that we all need to hear on a regular basis. "Do not let your heart be troubled." And "Do not let your heart be afraid." How often do you follow that advice?

Interestingly, it's actually more than advice. It's a command of love from our Lord. He wants to be clear and wants us to know that a fearful and troubled heart is not of Him. To be troubled and fearful is a great burden and weighs us down. Jesus desperately wants us to be free of these burdens. He wants us to be free so that we can experience the joy of life.

So what is it that burdens you in life the most? Is there something in your life that you obsess about, are angry about, can't let go of or that tends to dominate your life? Or perhaps your burden is more subtle. Perhaps there is nothing that overwhelms you but, instead, is a constant burden in a small way, always there in the background. These burdens can be quite difficult when they last from year to year.

The first step to freedom is to see the burden for what it is. Identify it and seek to identify the underlying cause. If the cause of your burden is your own sin, repent of it and seek Confession. This is the best way to experience immediate freedom.

If, however, your burden is the result of another's actions or some situation in life that is out of your control, then you are in a unique position to surrender to our Lord, giving Him complete control of this situation. Freedom is found in total surrender, trust and abandonment to His will.

Spend some time today reflecting upon that which burdens you the most in life. What is it that weighs heavily upon you? It is this, more than anything else, that Jesus wants to enter into and lift for you. He wants you free so that you can experience the joy that He has to offer you in life.

Lord, I want to be free. I want to experience the joy You have in store for me. When the burdens of life weigh me down, help me to turn to You in my need. Jesus, I trust in You.

~ my catholic.life



LAST WEEK: \$1,670.00

THIS WEEK: \$4,470.00

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

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Yes, Lord, We Follow You

Let us march forward intrepidly to meet our Redeemer, Jesus, pursuing our onward course without swerving until we come to the assembly of the saints and are welcomed by the company of the just. It is to join our Christian forebears that we are journeying, to those who taught us our faith....In the place where the Lord will be everyone's light, the true light which enlightens every human person will shine upon all. In the house where we are going the Lord Jesus has prepared many resting places for his servants, so that where he is we also may be. This was his express desire. Listen to His own words: *In my Father's house there are many resting places. And: I will come again and take you to myself so that where I am you also may be.*

You may say, perhaps, that he was speaking only to his disciples, and it was to them alone that he promised there would be many resting places....And what of that statement of his about people coming from all sides to take their seats in the Kingdom of God? Have we any grounds for doubting that God's will is effective? With Christ, surely, to will a thing is to accomplish it. In short, the Lord has not only shown us the way we are to travel, he has also pointed out our destination. Where I am going you know, he says, and the way there is known to you. This destination is our Father's house, and our way to it is Christ, as his own words assure us: I am the way, the truth, and the life....Let us set out, then, upon this way, holding fast to the truth and following in the footsteps of life. Christ is the way that leads us, the truth that strengthens us, and the life that restores us to life in him.

To make sure that we really understand his will, our Lord prays a few minutes later: Father, it is my desire that those whom you have given me be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory. How graciously our Lord asks his Father here to grant what he himself had promised earlier! The promise came first and then the request, not the other way round. Conscious of his authority and knowing the gift was at his own disposal, he made the promise; then as if to exemplify his filial submission, he asked his Father to grant it....

Yes, Lord Jesus, we do follow you. But we can only come at your bidding. No one can make the ascent without you, for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our faith, our reward. We belong to you; be the way that carries us onward, the truth that inspires us with courage, and the life that fills us with renewed vigor.

~ Saint Nilus of Sinai
Saint Nilus († 430) was a monk, theologian and ascetic writer. He was a student of Saint John Chrysostom



"Living Faith"
Daily Catholic Devotions
Saturday, May 9, 2020
www.livingfaith.com

MOVING ON

So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. Acts 13:51

A recent convert told me how difficult it is to live with her non-Christian parents. The photos from her baptism have to stay in her bedroom, even though she'd like them in the living room. She came home from a weekend retreat on fire for Jesus, and her parents didn't want to hear a word about it. Serious health issues make it difficult for her to live elsewhere.

It's not always possible to move on to another location as Paul and Barnabas did when they were persecuted. We may be reliant on others for caregiving and earthly needs, and those situations may not be possible to change. But we can pray for the grace to shake the dust from our feet mentally and spiritually, refusing to give up space in our hearts and souls to those who would separate us from the Lord.

Jesus, close my eyes and ears to those who would separate me from you.
~ Melanie Rigney



"Living Faith"
Daily Catholic Devotions
Sunday, May 10, 2020
www.livingfaith.com

PRAYING A BLESSING

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 115:15

In our everyday living, we may sometimes call on God to bless another in a special way. "God bless you" after a sneeze can be a prayer calling for good health. The shortened form, "Bless you," can be an acknowledgement of someone's help or a way of expressing thanks. Another abbreviated phrase, "God bless," is often the close of a phone conversation. Even our goodbyes are actually a prayer that "God be with you."

To pray, asking that the Holy One will bless another person, is powerful indeed. We are God's creation, God's handiwork. We honor the maker of heaven and earth when we know ourselves as beloved and pass that on to another.

~ Sister Chris Koellboffer, I.H.M.

RESPECT LIFE

Juanita Ruis, Respect Life Coordinator

For all mothers: That they may be supported and encouraged in their special vocation of love. We pray to the Lord.

For all mothers awaiting the birth of their children: That the Lord protect them and bring their babies to safe delivery. We pray to the Lord.

For all mothers: That all might treasure and support God's plan for life and love. We pray to the Lord.

For all married couples struggling to have a child: That the Lord grant them peace as they hope for the gift of a son or a daughter. We pray to the Lord.

For all mothers: That their children will honor their many sacrifices by lives of service and virtue. We pray to the Lord.

For all those longing to welcome a child through adoption: May the Lord guide their journey to parenthood and grant them peace along the way. We pray to the Lord.

(Continued on Page 4)

MASS *Intentions*

Sunday, May 10, 2020

9:30 A.M. Mass

✦ Vera Asbitomi

✦ Karen Lee

✦ Salvador Solidum

✦ Sam Chun

✦ Steve Aki

✦ Baby Wong, and all who
grieve the loss of their children

✦ Walter Clausen

Healing Prayers For:

Marylynne Bacus



**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, Clement Yee, Don Yee

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



I wish a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day to all Parish mothers, new mothers, and expecting mothers. May the Lord bless you and shower you with grace and love for all that you do and give. This is a special day, and we pray to our Blessed Mother Mary to ask her beloved son Jesus to send the Holy Spirit upon all of our earthly mothers that He may give them the strength to be the model for their children, as well as the one who partners with her husband to keep the family together. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Fr. Mario

Are you wondering how to access the live streaming Sunday morning Mass? Use the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-Catholic-Church-Niuanu-100906711581421/>



Photo credit: Flickr/Maurits Verbiest

ARE WE LOVING WHO CREATED US?

On different occasions I have heard people say... 'How can I love God who created us?'.

Is it possible to love God who created us? Well, I think it is possible to love God who created us.

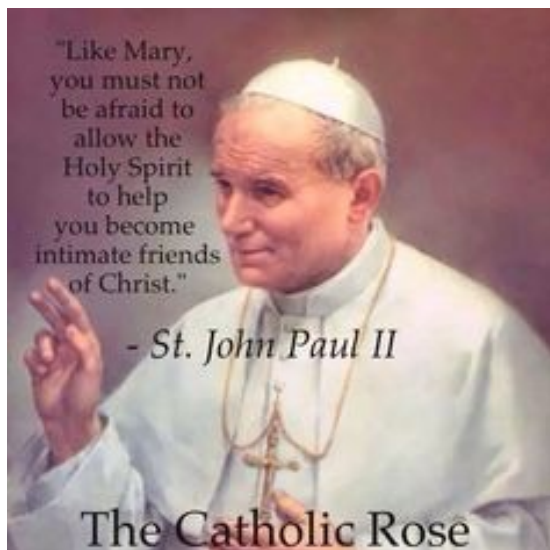
Two ways to love God who created us, is by loving our neighbour and by loving nature.

To love God, we are to let the unborn babies to live, to grow and be part of society. We are to provide food for those who are finding it difficult to have a decent meal each day. To provide a decent place for the homeless to live in. To help the drug addicts to overcome their problem and seek new pastures in their lives. Of course, there is much, much more how we can love God who created us, through loving our neighbour.

How about nature? Are we loving nature, the birds, the animals, the rivers, the sea, the land etc? Are we protecting the nature as God wanted us to? Loving nature is another way of loving God.

So yes, there are different ways how to love God. Let's start by loving our neighbour and loving nature.

~ George Calleja, catholic365.com



DAILY READINGS



Monday, May 11
ACTS 14:5-18



Tuesday, May 12
ACTS 14:19-28

*St. Nereus & Achillens. St. Pancras,
Martyrs*



Wednesday, May 13
ACTS 15:1-6

Our Lady of Fatima



Thursday, May 14
ACTS 1:15-17, 20-26

St. Mathias, Apostle



Friday, May 15
ACTS 15:22-31

St. Isidore



Saturday, May 16
ACTS 16:1-10

Armed Forces Day

ewtn.com



SUNDAY

May 17, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BREAKING BREAD FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17
Page 157

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Let all the earth cry out to God
with joy.*
Page 158

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:15-18
Page 158

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

Who do you turn to when things go bad?

When things start to go bad, most of us just try to take care of it ourselves. We think that just by working harder at it we can get past it. Well, what about working smarter? Have an issue? Go to someone big enough to fix it, guaranteed. Go to God. We can pray directly to God, and we should, but we can also ask others to pray for us, especially the saints in Heaven.

Many of the saints in Heaven God has given special charisms to assist us. St. Anthony's charism is to help find lost items. St. Lucy's charism is help with eyes. If you have a problem, there is a saint with a charism that can assist you. Then, there are the saints that can help in all cases. Mary and Joseph.

Mary is the Mother of God and since we call Jesus our Brother, we can safely call her our mother. And so, she can assist like any, in all cases. So what about Joseph? I have heard it said by Dr. Mark Miravalle, "What Joseph is to Jesus, Joseph is to us." Joseph was father to Jesus. Not a father by conception, but a father much like foster-fathers. So, we can go to Mary and go to Joseph as well.

When things go bad, we can work harder or we can work smarter. If we befriend our friends in Heaven, the Saints, we definitely will be better situated to work smarter. Sure, God can do it by Himself if we go to Him, but Our Heavenly Father enjoys seeing His children helping each other as earthly fathers enjoy as well.

Mary and Joseph, stay close to us so that we may invoke your Heavenly assistance when things go bad. Amen

Troy Kroening ~ catholic365.com

RESPECT LIFE (Continued)

For mothers facing unexpected pregnancies: That they may find strength and courage in the example of our Blessed Mother. We pray to the Lord.

For mothers who mourn the loss of a child: That they may find peace and consolation in the hope of eternal life. We pray to the Lord. ~ uscclb.org

"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."

~ Mother Teresa

