

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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NKJV (LUKE 6:39-45)

FOR A GOOD TREE
DOES NOT
BEAR BAD FRUIT
NOR DOES
A BAD TREE BEAR GOOD FRUIT

"... For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

~ FEBRUARY 27, 2022 ~



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FIRST Wednesday: After Mass until 6:00 PM
All other Wednesdays: After Mass until 9:00 AM



PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Mario Raquepo
[Cell] 808.228.3053

STAFF

Sr. Marykutty Kottuppallil, MSMHC
Tina Welch ~ Secretary

SACRISTAN

Marisol L. Chang

OFFICE HOURS

Monday~Friday: 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

A Catholic Community

Diocese of Honolulu

OUR 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."

DEVOTION

The Holy Rosary, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is said 35 minutes before Mass.

MASS SCHEDULES

MONDAY

[In the St. Catherine Chapel, Communion Service only]

Tuesday ~ Saturday ~ 8:00 AM
Saturday (Main Church) ~ 4:00 PM
Sunday (Main Church) ~ 7:30 AM
Sunday (Main Church) ~ 10:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment



DEACON & FIRST MARTYR

2747 PALI HIGHWAY, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ~ 808.595.3105

Email: ssccpali@rcchawaii.org Website: ssccpali.net



LINK TO SUNDAY'S 10:00 A.M. MASS STREAMING:

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



St. Stephen The First Martyr
Knights of Columbus Council 16267

2B1 ASK1



Contact Worthy Grand Knight George Abcede
 eMail Address: sggabcede@gmail.com ~ (808) 221-7205

BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY PRAY FOR US!

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

MAGNIFICAT

February 2022, Vol. 23, No. 12 ~ Sunday, February 27, 2022

Laying Hold of Christ's "Store of Goodness"

Each day in the life of a Catholic who would lead a spiritual life—who would, in fact, live as a true Catholic and member of Christ—should flow and develop from the offering our Lord makes of him every day in Mass. The duties of the day are the fulfillment of the promise of loving service; the hardships of the day are the evidence of that generous submission. If this task seems to be above our strength, let us remember the we are not alone. God is with us. And it must never be forgotten that it is in the Mass that he gives us his own Body and Blood as our food so that we may have *his* strength to live *his* life. He has promised that those who eat this bread shall live by *him*.

Not only has he given us himself, but he has given us his Spirit—God, the Holy Spirit—as a permanent gift who dwells in our souls to animate and strengthen us and to make us capable of living divinely as members of Christ. In all things that the will of God demands. God the Holy Spirit is himself our strength more than adequate for their performance. There is then nothing in God's plan of which we are incapable.

That is why we can so confidently offer ourselves to God in the Mass. For in doing the will of God we become the "meat" of Christ; we are "consecrated" and transformed into his Body by the action of the Holy Spirit. Each time we do his will for love of him we are born anew to him, and he in us. We give ourselves to him by doing his will instead of our own, and we find in that very act that he is given to us. By living the Mass we become more and more one with Christ. That is our whole destiny, for Christ is all. We bring him forth in ourselves through faith, hope, and charity by doing the will of God in humble submission. He is the fruit of our lives and we need seek for no other. No more is needed of us, even by God. For Christ is his glory. God made the world for his glory. We must live for that glory. We cannot give him greater glory than by bringing forth Christ in our lives, by putting on Christ, by entering into Christ, for Christ it is through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, is all the glory of God. ~ Dom M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.R.

*Dom Boylan (*1964) was a monk of the Cistercian Abbey of Mount Saint Joseph, Roscrea, Ireland and a renowned spiritual writer and retreat master.*

TONGA RELIEF

In light of the devastation caused by the underwater volcano eruption in Tonga, Bishop Larry is asking parishes to take up a Voluntary Emergency Second Collection for Tonga. Your donations will go directly to Tonga where it will assist parish communities that are in most need.

To give online go to: www.catholichawaii.org/tonga



WEEKLY OFFERINGS ~ February 19-20, 2022

MAIL-INS:	\$220.00
WEEKEND:	\$1,734.46
ONLINE:	\$857.00
TOTAL:	\$2,811.46
LAST WEEK:	\$5,238.00

MAHALO!

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

THE PASTOR'S CORNER
 (REFLECTIONS BY REV. FR. MARIO RAQUEPO)

Bearing Good Fruit Bearing Good Fruit

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit."

Luke 6:43

Conversely, it should be said that a good tree does bear good fruit. This must be our goal. By saying that "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit," Jesus is teaching us the supernatural effect of living a holy life. When we live a life grounded in Christ, the effect will be that good fruit is born from our lives. This is an important spiritual principle to understand.

Hopefully, we all want to live good lives. We all want to make a difference in our world and in the lives of others for the good. But the fundamental question to ask is how do we do this? The answer is that it's not so much a matter of choosing the good actions we do; rather, on a more basic and fundamental level, we must choose to live a life grounded in Christ, thus becoming a "good tree."

If you want to bear good fruit and make a holy and positive difference in the world, then you need to do one primary thing. Work at becoming holy. To use the image that Jesus gives, see yourself as a tree that is planted in the ground. See your roots stretching far and wide. See yourself being nourished and basked in the Sun. And see yourself growing and flourishing.

This is the life of grace and the effect is that good fruit automatically comes forth. The life of grace is accomplished by focusing upon your own health and spiritual well-being. You become this "good tree" by doing the basics well. First, pray, pray well and pray hard. Let your life be centered in prayer. Second, learn your faith. Listen to the Gospels, learn all that God has revealed through the Church, read the teachings of the saints, and learn from other holy people. Third, live a good sacramental life. Go to Mass, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, understand the grace of

Praise the Lord!

Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing a song of praise. ...James 5:13

My wife is a great writer of thank you notes. Any small gift will earn a note from her. She also loves to receive thank you notes, but that is a rarer event, a habit not widely shared.

God would understand. He hears all my problems. Health or finance, work or family, I'm filling God in all the time on what my needs and wants are.

What I am not so good at it is praising God for the gifts received, the blessings felt, the kindnesses seen. In Scripture, we know the story of the ten lepers healed by Jesus but only one returning to thank and praise him. It is so easy to take the good things in stride, or to attribute those blessings to our own endeavors, rather than to see them as the gifts they are.

When the day is beautiful, praise the Lord. When the family is together, praise the Lord. When the lab report comes back negative, praise the Lord.

O Holy Spirit, may my heart overflow with gratitude for all your gifts.

~ Greg Erlandson

The Most Essential Part of Life

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be. ...

Psalm 92:15

One of my ministerial joys come from meeting monthly with a small group of community members who are in their early 90s. We have enriching conversations about the later years of life and how this stage affects their spiritual growth. They remind me that no amount of physical diminishment or limitations can mar a person's ability to seek an ever closer relationship with God. Psalm 92 proclaims that the lives of elders can continue to be fruitful in new ways. I hear this in their descriptions of increasing gratitude for the things overlooked in the past—such as being able to take a shower, relishing quiet time for deeper contemplation and increasing awareness of the endless opportunities to extend a kindness to someone nearby. These older women have become more convinced about the most essential part of life's journey: a vigorous

Bearing Good Fruit (Continued)

your Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, etc. Know that the Sacraments nourish you in powerful ways and embrace that nourishment with your whole heart.

Reflect, today, upon the important mission you have been given to go forth and to bear an abundance of good fruit in our world. This mission can be accomplished only as a result of a life of holiness. This holiness is only accomplished when your roots are firmly grounded in the life of grace. Embrace this life of grace through the many means that God has set before you, and know that the commitment you make to holiness will bring health not only to your own soul, but also to the souls of those whom God will touch through you.

Lord, I love You and I give my life to You. I pray that I may be planted in the fertile soil of Your abundant love and mercy. Help me to be nourished by the life of grace You have lavished upon me and, as I grow in holiness, bring forth an abundance of good fruit in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Living Faith (Continued)

The Most Essential Part of Life

union with the One who has claimed their hearts.

~ Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.



Burning of Palms: *Shrove Tuesday*, March 1, 2022:
Gathering at 6:00 PM.

Burning of Palms at 7:00 PM.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Ashes will be

ASH distributed at the 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM Mass in the Main Church.

The Holy Rosary will be prayed prior to each Mass: 7:25 for the 8:00 AM Mass, and 5:55 for the 6:30 PM Mass. All are invited to join in.

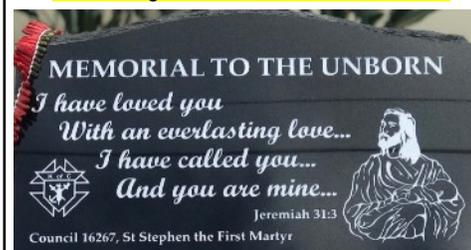


Stations of the Cross

Begins On:

Friday, March 4, 2022, 7:00 PM

Rosary at the Memorial



The Holy Rosary will be prayed at the *Memorial To The Unborn* on the first three

Fridays of the month, at **6:30 PM.**

All are invited to participate.

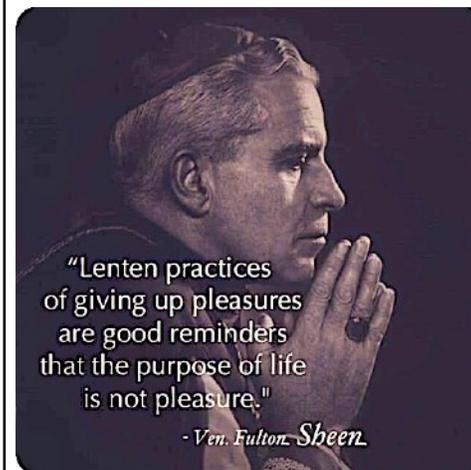
RESPECT LIFE

Juanita Ruis, Respect Life Coordinator

This year's **40-days for Life Spring Campaign** is from March 2 to April 10.

At 8:00 a.m. on March 5, the 40-days for Life Hawaii Chapter in conjunction with the Sidewalk Advocates for Life Chapter and the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu Respect Life Ministry is hosting an Opening-campaign Mass at St. Theresa's Co-Cathedral. At 9:00 a.m. on the same day, the opening rally is being held on the sidewalk fronting Planned Parenthood at 839 S. Beretania Street.

Please attend on this day or from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on any day during the campaign. To sign up to pray, go to www.40daysforlife.com/honolulu.



"Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are good reminders that the purpose of life is not pleasure."

- Ven. Fulton Sheen

Mass Intentions



Sunday, February 27, 2022

7:30 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 6:55 AM

“THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES”

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

For the Repose of the Soul of:

- † Celine & Kenneth Asato
- † Josefina & Honorio Bautista
- † Catherine Choo
- † Tony & Sarah Louis
- † Francis Nagasawa
- † Al Tagab
- † Clement Yee

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim
Preston P.

10:00 A.M. Mass

For the Repose of the Soul of:

Holy Rosary at 9:25 AM

“THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES”

- † Steve Aki
- † Celine & Kenneth Asato
- † Vera Ashitomi
- † Catherine Choo
- † Rosa Fernandez
- † Stephanie & Frederick Foo
- † Helena Kim † Karen Lee
- † Salvador Solidum
- † Nancy & Raymond Tom
- † Al Tagab † Clement Yee

Healing Prayers For:

Nancy, Annette & Robert Contrades
Isaiah Ares Kim
Mary Souza

Prayers Of Thanksgiving For:

Matea Ranit

† Anniversary Remembrance:

† Derek Albarado



Monday, February 28, 2022

8:00 A.M. Communion Service

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM

“THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES”

For the Repose of the Soul of:

† Stanley Onishi

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim



Tuesday, March 1, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM

“THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES”

Shrove Tuesday

For the Repose of the Soul of:

† Sr. Tessy Sebastain
† Stanley Onishi

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim



Wednesday, March 2, 2022

8:00 A.M. & 6:30 PM Mass

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM & 5:55 PM

“THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES”



For the Repose of the Soul of:

- † Maurice, Monica, & Patricia Contrades
- † Deacon Thomas Contrades
- † Stanley Onishi

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim



Thursday, March 3, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM

“THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES”

Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim



Friday, March 4, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM

“THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES”

Saint Casimir

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim



Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM



Saturday, March 5, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 7:25 AM

“THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES”

For the Repose of the Soul:

† Don Yee

Healing Prayers For:

Isaiah Ares Kim

4:00 P.M. Mass

Holy Rosary at 3:25 PM

“THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES”

For the Repose of the Soul of:

- † Celine & Kenneth Asato
- † Doreen & Francis Chia

Healing Prayers For:

Paula Carrington
Isaiah Ares Kim
Juanita Ruis
Ken Ryan
Patti & Wayne Silva



Prayer Requests



For The Sick & The Homebound

Luz Abcede, Nancy Asato, Stephanie Baron, Paula Carrington, Nancy Contrades, Robert Gerard Contrades, William Cuenca, Bernard Ho, Isaiah Ares Kim, Sophia Lacuesta, Annette Manaday, Margaret Robello, Ken Ryan, Patti & Wayne Silva, Mary Souza, Carrie Talwar, Isabella Torres, Richard Wong

† For The Deceased Of The Parish †

Steve Aki, Celine & Kenneth Asato, Ron & Tomiko Asato, Vera Ashitomi, Ignacio Q. Babauta, Benito & Rosario Bautista, Rosalie G. Cadiz, Dr. Joseph & Priscilla Chang, Doreen & Francis Chia, Betty & Albert Chong, Sam Chun, Stephen Fujii, Eileen Green, Ron Kano, Betty Lowe, Karen Lee, Frederick Lum, Salvador Solidum, Vicky Solidum, Al Tagab, Beatrice Tom, Gladys Wong, Jack Wong, Shirley Wong, Clement Yee, Don Yee



Office of Worship

Diocese of Honolulu

Memorandum: 2022 LENTEN REGULATIONS

FASTING

❖ In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday (**March 2, 2022**) and Good Friday (**April 15, 2022**).

❖ To *fast* means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

❖ Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

❖ To abstain means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although eggs and milk products are acceptable. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted, though the penitential character of the abstinence should be kept in mind.

EASTER DUTY

❖ All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Trinity Sunday (**June 12, 2022**).

LENTEN PRACTICES

❖ The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.

❖ Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on **March 2**. Ashes are to be blessed as a sign of our entry into a season of conversion, repentance, and reconciliation. Ashes are to be blessed by a bishop, priest, or deacon. Others may be associated with the clergy in the distribution of ashes.