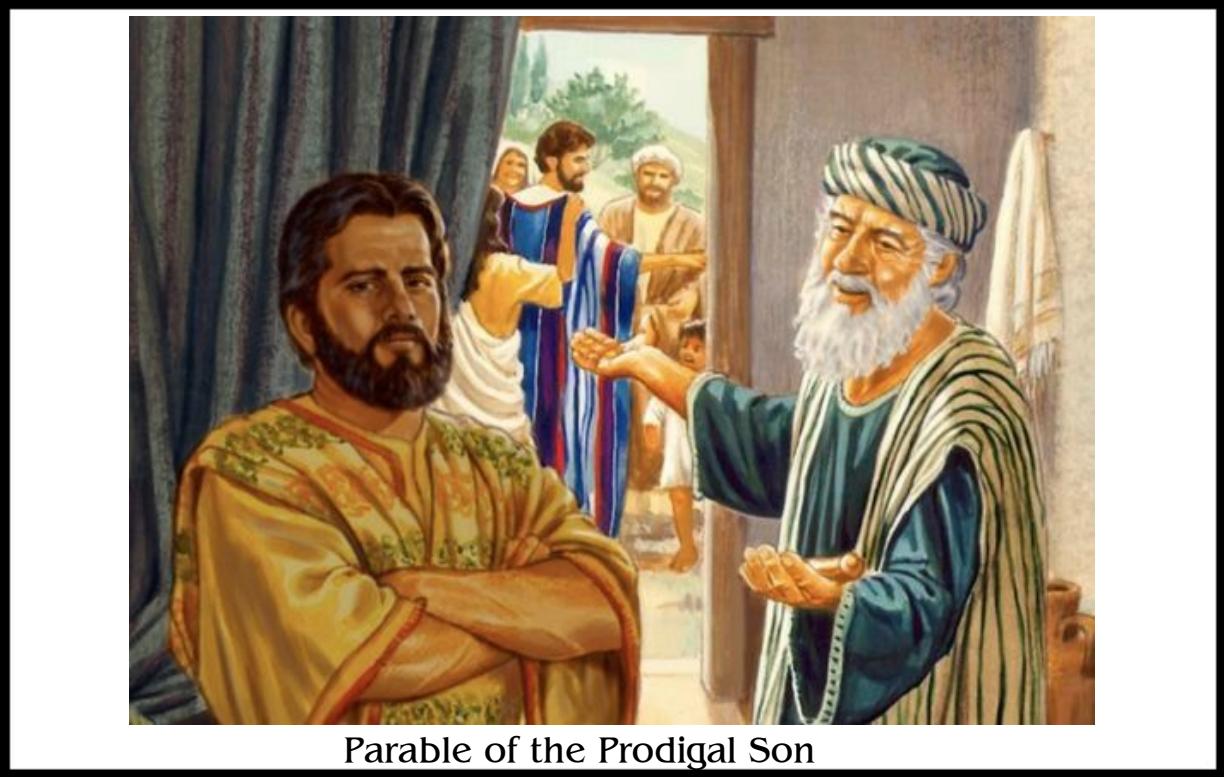


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Parable of the Prodigal Son

MARCH 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]

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/>



MEDITATION OF THE DAY

MAGNIFICAT

March 2022, Vol. 23, No. 13 ~ Sunday, March 27, 2022

The Holy Confidence of the Prodigal Son

Look at the prodigal son. He leaves his father's house. He displays frightful ingratitude toward his father who is so good; he demands his part of the inheritance to go carousing far away. Soon he finds himself stripped of everything and is forced to reflect. In the depths of his abjection, he has the grace to recall the goodness of his father. *I shall rise up and go to my father.* That is confidence. But humbly he recognizes himself to be a sinner. *I shall say to him, Father; I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.*

You know how the father received him, not as a servant, but as a beloved son. Seeing him coming from afar, he runs to meet him; seized with compassion, he throws himself on his neck, presses him to his heart, and embracing him, he tells his servants: *Bring forth quickly the finest robe and put it on him and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet; and bring here the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and make merry.* And there was dancing and music. These eloquent details with which the story ends show us a father exulting in his happiness. And why? He tells us why, and repeats it to the jealous older brother:

Oh, this desire, this need of the Father of mercies to retrieve his lost child and give him life! That is the heart of God! Remember that each time you pick yourself up after a fall, the feast of the prodigal son is renewed. Your Father in heaven clothes you again in his most beautiful cloak, puts a ring on your finger, and tells you to dance with joy. In a living faith, you will not approach the confessional with dragging feet, but as if you were going to a feast, even if you have to make a great effort each time to humble yourself and to conquer the monotony of the routine. After the absolution, you should dance like the prodigal son did at the request and for the joy of his father. We do not dance enough in the spiritual life.

~ Jean du Coeur de Jésus d'Elbée

Father d'Elbée (†1982) was a French priest and spiritual author. He was a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

MARCH SAINT OF THE MONTH

ST. JOSEPH

Ancient traditions hold that Saint Joseph was considerably older than the Virgin Mary. Other traditions tell that he was married previously and that the "brothers" of Jesus were half brothers from Saint Joseph's previous marriage. Scripture tells us he was a carpenter and that Jesus was known as the "carpenter's son" (Mt. 13:55). Joseph may have been more precisely a builder, who worked with the native stone so common to Palestinian construction. A Jewish ritual bath made of stone discovered beneath the church of St. Joseph in Nazareth, a church which long traditions says was built over the Holy Family's home, may be Joseph's very own handiwork. A firm tradition teaches that Saint Joseph died long before his Son's death. This is based not on biblical evidence but on the lack of it. It can be reasonably presumed that Saint Joseph would have been present at his Son's crucifixion, as was Mary. Yet no mention is made of him being there. From this absence, biblical scholars have, from the beginning

MARCH SAINT OF THE MONTH

ST. JOSEPH

surmised that Saint Joseph was by then dead. Thus, Saint Joseph is the Patron Saint of a Happy Death, because he presumably died with Jesus and the Virgin Mary at his side. This is how all of us want to die, with Christ holding our hand on one side of the bed and the Virgin Mary seated beside us on the other side. Saint Joseph died in the best of company. May we do so as well.

Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, guide all those under the care of their pastors to see not their imperfections but their God-given obligation to fulfill God's plan. May your humble and faithful service inspire all fathers to lead their flocks with tenderness, wisdom, and strength.

Source: mycatholic.life

COMING TO YOUR SENSES

Fourth Sunday of Lent

mycatholic.life

Coming to his senses he thought, "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son' treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." Luke 15:17-19

Why do we cling to our sins? This passage comes from the story of the Prodigal Son. We should know that story well. The son decided to leave his father and take his future inheritance, spending it on a life of sin. When the money he had ran out, he was in desperate need. So what did he do? He came to his senses!

This line alone is worth our meditation. First, it reveals what happens to a person who falls into a life of sin. In this case, the son eventually reaped the fruit of his sin. He found that his sin left him destitute and alone. He didn't know where to turn. And though our sins may not be to the extent of this son, we will all experience the empty effects of the sins we commit, just as this son did.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold action. The son sees his misery and also sees his father as the person to whom he can confidently turn. We must strive to do the same in our own lives. The Father in Heaven will never reject us. No matter what we have done or how far we have turned away, the Father's love is perfect, relentless, unconditional and always inviting. He is ready and willing to dismiss every wrong we have done if we only turn to Him in confidence. Come to your senses in regard to your sins! Let go of them, repent and trust in the mercy of God.

Lord of perfect love, my sins do leave me dry and empty inside. I see the misery and pain that result from the sinful choices I have made. Help me, dear Lord, to come to my senses and to turn from every sin I commit. Help me to see that Your mercy is far greater than anything I have done. I thank You for Your perfect love and turn to You in my need. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

St. Stephen The First Martyr Knights of Columbus Council 16267



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

BLESSED MICHAEL McGIVNEY
PRAY FOR US!



WEEKLY OFFERINGS

March 19-20, 2022

WEEKEND: \$2,022.00
ONLINE: \$759.00
TOTAL: \$2,781.00
LAST WEEK: \$2,520.00

MAHALO!

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

LivingFaith

Daily Catholic Devotions
Sunday, March 27, 2022

Love Isn't Fair

My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours....Luke 15:31

A n open letter to the elder son in the parable of the Prodigal Son:

Dear Elder Son: I hear you! I understand why you're so upset and refuse to go to the party. After all, you are the dutiful son, the responsible one. You didn't run off and squander your inheritance like your ingrate of a brother. No, you stayed on the farm and worked your tail off. And yet, when your younger brother comes crawling home, your dad throws a party for him! A huge party! It isn't fair! It just isn't fair!

And there, dear Elder Brother, is "the rub." Yes, the party isn't fair—precisely because LOVE isn't fair! Fair is what is deserved, what is earned, what is merited. But love goes way beyond fairness. It morphs into ecstatic welcoming, into unfathomable mercy, into unconditional forgiveness. So, Elder Brother, go to the party and enjoy yourself. Why? Because the love being poured out on your brother is the same love that is being poured out on you! Rejoice! Rejoice!

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

"Like Mary, you must not be afraid to allow the Holy Spirit to help you become intimate friends of Christ." St. John Paul II

ALOYSIUS FOOD BANK

The St. Stephen First Martyr Knights of Columbus continue to request donations of canned or non items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Please leave your donations next to the door opposite the left side of the stage in the Church Hall. Your participation in this effort is appreciated.

Mahalo!

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: Carrying of the Cross



Scripture: And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him

away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. (Matthew 27:31-33)

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death



Scripture: There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:18-30).

Source: mycatholic.life

Inspiring Quotes

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." St. Augustine of Hippo

"Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed." Pope Benedict XVI

"If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint."

St. Ignatius of Loyola



Sunday, March 27, 2022

7:30 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 6:55 AM

For the Repose of the Soul of:

- † Celine & Kenneth Asato
- † Josefina Bautista
- † Catherine Choo
- † Tony & Sarah Louis
- † Francis Nagasawa
- † Al Tagab
- † Donna McDonnell

Healing Prayers for:

- Isaiah Ares Kim
- Preston P.

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

10:00 A.M. Mass

For the Repose of the Soul of:

Holy Rosary Prayed at 9:25 AM

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

Healing Prayers for:

- Nancy, Annette & Robert Contrades
- Isaiah Ares Kim
- Mary Souza
- Denise Lin-DeShetler

Birthday Blessings for:

Zachary Tamayo

50th Anniversary Remembrance

† Gussie Jordan

Thanksgiving for Good Health for:

Minda Blanco & Family

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 28, 2022

8:00 A.M. Communion Service

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM

For the Repose of the Soul of:

† Steve Aki

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

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Birthday Blessings for:

Keanu Silva

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Thursday, March 31, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM

For the Repose of the Soul of:

† Jennifer Chu

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Birthday Blessings for:

Michael Chang

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Friday, April 1, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Wayne Silva

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM



Saturday, April 2, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 7:25 AM
Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit

For the Repose of the Soul:

† Don Yee

Healing Prayers for:

Isaiah Ares Kim

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark

4:00 P.M. Mass

Holy Rosary Prayed at 3:25 PM

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

Prayers for Fast Recovery of:

Mark



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