

# St. Elizabeth Church

## FEBRUARY 21, 2010

### 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Today's Readings

1st Rdg: Dt 26:4-10  
 2nd Rdg: Romans 10:8-13  
 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

#### Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18  
 2nd Rdg: Phil 3:17-4:1  
 Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36



### Upcoming Events

#### **FEBRUARY 22-28, 2010**

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> - MONDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
 6:00 PM CCD 1st Communion Parents' Mtg - Hall  
 7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> - TUESDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
 2:45 PM Beginning Hula - Hall  
 6:00 PM CCD Retreat Staff Mtg - Hall Mtg Room 8  
 7:30 PM Baptismal Class - 4th Grade Classroom

#### **24<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
 9:00 AM Seniors' Gathering - Conf Room 1-2  
 3:00 PM Intermediate Hula - Hall  
 6:00 PM 8am Choir Practice - Church  
 6:30 PM Tai Chi - Conference Room 1-2  
 7:00 Knights of Columbus - Hall Meeting Room 8  
 7:00 PM Finance - Conference Room 3  
 7:00 PM YCL Gathering - Hall  
 8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

#### **25<sup>th</sup> - THURSDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
 5:00 PM Line Dancing - Hall  
 6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2  
 6:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

#### **26<sup>th</sup> - FRIDAY**

#### **YCL FOOD FAST BEGINS TONIGHT**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
 8:15 AM SES MASS - Church  
 6:30 PM Mass / Stations - Church

#### **27<sup>th</sup> - SATURDAY**

7:00 AM MASS / Novena / Rosary - Church  
 8:30 AM CCD Classes (K-6) - Hall Mtg Rooms  
 10:00 AM Hula - Hall  
 4:00 PM Baptisms - Church  
 6:00 PM Mass - Church  
 7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom  
 8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

#### **28<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY**

*(Regular Mass Schedule)*  
 9:30 AM RCIA - Conference Room 1-2  
 4:30 PM CCD Classes (7th-HS) - Hall Mtg Rooms



#### *A few words for today ...*

As we enter the great Lenten fast, we see in today's Gospel that after his baptism in the Jordan by his cousin John, the Spirit directed him into the desert where he fasted for 40 days and resisted temptation by the devil. And afterwards, scripture tells us "*he was hungry.*" An understatement if there ever was one.

Like athletes training for the Great Aloha Run or the Honolulu Marathon, our spiritual body needs some discipline or at least a 64,000-mile checkup and refueling. Don't you wish there was a Jiffy Lube for that? Get it taken care of in one hour.

Unfortunately, like bacteria from an infection or the flu, it takes time to heal and recover. Lent comes from the German word that means springtime. And isn't spring a time of new birth, flowering and renewal of the earth? So, as God's last creation shouldn't we need a time to turn over a new leaf and try again?

Holy Mother Church calls us to more intense prayer, fasting and good works as a training for our will and to teach us how to resist temptations and to allow the desire to do good works grow in us. It's a time to ask God the important questions – *What do you want of me? How can I love you more? How can I become a more perfect gift to you?*

Jesus confronts and defeats the devil by being confident in his Father's love for him and knowing how to separate his purpose in life from what hurts it. So for us, the Church calls us to look more closely at what defeats us in life from being good and true disciples. Is it anger? Is it excessive love of money, status? How about that nagging desire to be right all the time? The devil makes himself known to us all the time in dismayingly common and annoying ways.

#### *And what does God really want from us?*

That we become loving persons, for then we are his images. For he is, as St John tells us, love itself, and he wants there to be creatures who are similar to him and who thus, out of the freedom of their own loving, become like him and belong in his company and thus, as it were, spread the radiance that is his.

Card. Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI; Salt of the Earth; c. 1997



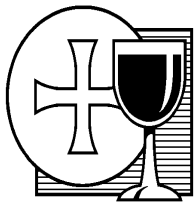
## PRAYER and FASTING

“Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” Col 4:2

Recently I was teaching my eight-year-old son Max about the angels. We read several passages from the Bible in order to learn more about how these heavenly beings can help us, guide us, and protect us. Then we read about Satan, the fallen angel, and the temptations he placed before Jesus in the desert. As I re-read this familiar scene with my son, I marveled at the way it depicts temptation with psychological acuity. Aren't the temptations that Satan places before Jesus precisely the ones that I face every day? First there is the simple attack on the passions: aren't you hungry ... why not just turn these stones to bread? Then there is the attack on the intellect: doesn't Scripture say that the angels will protect you? Finally, there is the all-out assault on the will, on the love that binds one to God: just worship me, says Satan, and I will give you everything. Every day we find ourselves assaulted by the tempter in each of these ways. How many times have we snapped at our spouses because we were hungry? How many times have we justified our actions with a “word from God,” even when we knew better? How often do we avoid doing what is right because we are tempted to worship a strange god – our public image, our reputation, our material possessions. This constant assault of the enemy is why Paul never tires of encouraging his dear children to be persevering and watchful in prayer. It is prayer alone that will enable us to counter the onslaught of the enemy. Christ himself would only meet the temptation of the evil one after his forty days of prayer and fasting. We can do no better. Let us follow his lead and devote ourselves wholeheartedly to a life of prayer and fasting.

*Dear Lord, you showed through your own life the immense need that we have for prayer. Give me the grace to persevere in prayer, even when it is difficult. Watch over me and protect me from the snares of the enemy!*

Written by: Lisa Lickona



### COMMUNION CUP

We will be serving the Precious Blood starting Sunday, February 21. The flu season is not over yet. Those who have symptoms of cold or flu please refrain from drinking from the communion cup. Thanks for your understanding.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Pastoral Council of St. Elizabeth Church has been working on formulating a mission statement. It is as follows:

**St. Elizabeth Parish in Aiea, a Roman Catholic faith community in the Diocese of Honolulu lives and proclaims the Gospel through the joyful celebration of the Eucharist. We are committed to on-going faith formation and engaging in the ministries of charity.**

*St. Elizabeth Pastoral Council membership 9/2/2009*

**Please review it and give us your feedback by February 28. your suggestions to improve and modify it are most welcome.**

**Fr. Tom**

# Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

## Breaking Open the Word for February 21, 2010: The First Sunday in Lent, Year C

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10**

The whole Book of Deuteronomy takes place in the plains of Moab after the people have wandered for forty years in the desert and before they cross the Jordan River to the Holy Land. In today's passage, Moses is telling the people how to thank God both for saving them from the Egyptians and for giving them their land. The people are told to have a yearly ceremony in which they offer God the firstfruits of their crops and recall all the mighty acts that He has done to save them from death at the hands of their enemies and from the desert.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15**

We traditionally hear Psalm 91 on the first Sunday of Lent because this is the psalm that the devil quotes in the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert in Luke's Gospel. The devil tried to lead Jesus to a wrong understanding of the psalm's promise that "to his angels [God] has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." But the last two verses of this psalm passage also claim that only those who truly acknowledge God and depend solely upon Him will be delivered from troubles. Thus, with Jesus' resurrection being the fulfillment of this psalm, we can see that God's deliverance from troubles does not necessarily mean deliverance from the troubles we might go through in this world, because Jesus was delivered through His Resurrection into a new life. Our own deliverance will be to the resurrected life promised us if we acknowledge God, depend upon Him, and live a life of faith.

### **Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13**

In this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, he is trying to assure them that Jesus will indeed save them from eternal death. Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 28:16), where Isaiah is warning the people against putting their faith in political treaties rather than putting their faith in God. Paul understands Isaiah's words to have been fulfilled in Jesus. It is only by putting their faith in Jesus as raised from death that anyone will be saved from their own death. This simple declaration of faith in Jesus' Resurrection forms the backbone of all Christian belief, which is why Easter - the day on which we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead - is the highest point of our liturgical year, even higher than Christmas.

### **Gospel: Luke 4:1-13**

In Luke's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert, he paints the picture of Jesus going into the desert immediately following His baptism in the Jordan River, where he was "filled with the Holy Spirit." Notice that this Spirit leads Jesus to enter into the desert, not into temptation. Instead, it is the devil who tries to lead Jesus into temptations to misuse the power that the Holy Spirit gives Him. For Luke, Jesus overcame the temptation to use His power for purposes other than the purpose of that power in the first place: using both words and deeds to spread the Gospel that God's Kingdom is being made present among them through Jesus. Notice that it is not only Jesus who quotes from Scripture, but that the devil does, too. The devil misuses Scriptural quotes by taking them out of context, but Jesus counters with His full understanding of Scriptures as they were meant to be understood, and is thus able to overcome the temptations to use His power in contradiction to what the Father gave Him the power for. Notice also that "when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him *for a time*." The devil does not leave Jesus for good, and neither is Jesus done with temptations. Like every other human being, Jesus experienced temptations throughout His life; however, unlike other human beings, Jesus did not give in to the temptations and commit sin.



### **Readings for the Week**

Monday, February 22

1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday, February 23

Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 24

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, February 25

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday, February 26

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, February 27

Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48



**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Last Week's Collection .....	\$ 11,069.50
Building Fund .....	\$ 499.00
Energy .....	\$ 687.00
Initial .....	\$ 40.00
<b>Total Collection for 2/13-14/10 .....</b>	<b>\$ 12,295.50</b>
<i>Catholic Herald</i> .....	\$ 105.00
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i> .....	\$ 50.00

Every year, the Diocese approves a list of second collections and provides envelopes for this purpose. In March, the collection is for: Catholic Relief Services. To assist with this, St. Elizabeth's will donate 10% of the 4th Sunday's collection in March.



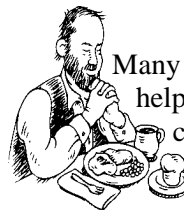
Some of the best-dressed cooks around! Many thanks to all for a successful **First Night of Soup & Bread!** Don't forget to join us *each Friday* night in Lent through March 26. A simple meal to feed the soul and charitable donations to help the Our Lady of Good Counsel food pantry. *Blessings for a good start to your Lenten program of growing in holiness.*



**Stations of the Cross – A Sacred Walk With Jesus Continuing the Walk ...**

Thanks to the Pastoral Council for taking the lead for our Stations of the Cross walk last Friday, Feb 19. Join us in continuing our sacred walk next Friday, Feb 26. And don't forget ... come down to the Hall afterwards for a soup and bread meal with the family.

*...Let us continue to walk with the Lord and allow Him to carry our burdens. Let us nail ourselves to Him. Let us walk in love and repentance, behind Jesus, our Savior and Redemption.*



**HELP FEED THE HUNGRY...**

Many thanks to all of you who so graciously give your time to help feed the homeless at the IHS shelters. Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, Feb. 24** and put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board just outside the Church entrance. Join your friends! Get involved! Make a difference! Our I.H.S. Ministry needs help serving dinner to over 300 homeless men, women & children at the two shelters.

- ❖ Dinner is served at the women's & children's facility from 5-5:30 p.m. and
- ❖ at the men's facility from 6-6:45 p.m.
- ❖ We need 17 people to help; 5 at one shelter and 12 at the other.
- ❖ We also need desserts ...

**Please bring your desserts to the rectory between 8am & 3:30pm on Wednesday.** Our team will pick it up & deliver it to the shelters. God bless you for caring & helping! *For details of how to get to either one of the shelters, please see the bulletin board just outside the Church.*



Lent is a time to be reconciled with God and others, and our 5<sup>th</sup> graders in CCD know it! Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade CCD class celebrated Mardi Gras and prepared for Lent during class on Saturday, February 13. "Mardi Gras" is French for Fat Tuesday, the final big feast before fasting during Lent. Class started with prayer and reflection on ways that 5<sup>th</sup> graders may pray, do penance, and do good works during Lent. Students suggested contributing money for

people in Haiti, going to confession, volunteering in shelters, and contributing to Operation Rice Bowl. The class then feasted and celebrated our Mardi Gras with malasadas, cookies, candy, relay races, and balloon stomping.



## RCIA - the Journey of a lifetime

As we all know, to "scrutinize" means to examine something very closely for a purpose. In the RCIA we actually have a ritual of "scrutinizing" for three Sundays. No, we're not holding exams, oral or written. But in a prayerful way we call forth the Elect (those preparing for Baptism) to stand before the assembly and present themselves for an intense prayer that God will remove any doubts or indecision from their hearts and thus fully prepare them to worthily stand at the font and ask to be baptized.

What about us? Well, Lent IS the time of scrutiny for the faithful. We are all called to examine our lives in the light of the Gospel and pray intensely that God will forgive our misdeeds and show us the way to a more perfect discipleship. We are called to confess our sins and do penance.

The way of the Elect is the way for all of us ...

Listen to the whispers .... and respond!

*"Our God is not a distant God ... Our God has a heart,"*  
Pope Benedict XVI

For more information ... please cOntact our Ministry Coordinator,

Linda Cacpal, at **487 7994** or by email at:  
**RCIA2000@hawaii.rr.com**



## Senior Citizen Outreach Ministry .....for the Young at Heart

*Mission: Faith Community whose mission is to nurture the spiritual, social, health and service needs of all seniors of St. Elizabeth Church by fostering hospitality, involvement, and opportunities for spiritual growth.*

Please join us for fun and fellowship at our monthly gathering on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in Conference Rms. 1 & 2 at 9:00 a.m.

We thank Williette Wong for her wonderful presentation on Orchid Culture at our last meeting. It was a great hands-on session. Several of us went home with orchid plants that she gave as door prizes. Nurture your orchid plants, perhaps we can have a St. Elizabeth Seniors Orchid Show in the near future.

This month's gathering will be a fun session playing games.

You may bring a snack to share if you wish.

Come and enjoy.....

- ❖ Socializing with old friends and making new friends
- ❖ Praying together
- ❖ Talking story with your fellow St. Elizabeth Seniors



## CCD News

Just some updates  
on CCD....



- Our third and final meeting for parents' of First Communicants in the CCD program is Monday, Feb. 22 at 6pm in the church hall. This meeting will be about Eucharist. Your attendance is required.
- On Friday, March 5 CCD will be sponsoring the Stations of the Cross. Please come and join us.
- Our 7th and 8th Grade Retreat has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the church hall.
- Our CCD Phase I students are hosting a Lenten Service Project to help the **Next Step Shelter** in Kaka'ako. A Hawaiian food menu is being planned. To help with this task, we are asking for donations of food and/or monetary donations (Note: checks should be made payable to St. Elizabeth Church). Items needed:

**Non-Perishable:** Rice, long rice noodles, chicken broth, potatoes, macaroni, mayonnaise, juice syrup, bottle water, can juice paper plates, forks. *Will collect at any time.*

**Perishables:** kalua pig, cabbage, green onion, chicken, eggs, pineapple, carrots, olives. *Will collect on March 21st only.*

With your help, we know this will be a successful project.

Please contact the CCD Office, Manette, at 487-7994 for any questions or concerns and donations. Mahalo.

**It's ALOHA SUNDAY ...** Gather with fellow parishioners & enjoy light refreshments...in the hall after the 6, 8 & 10am Masses. Our hosts:

6am - *Select Members*

8am & 10am - *St. Elizabeth School*

See you there!



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## **A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

**ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** for the 2010-2011 school year; space is currently available in all grade levels. Check with the school office at 488-5322 if you are interested.

All are invited to join **St. Ann's Church in Kaneohe for the 2010 TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE**, Friday, March 12 at 7:30PM ( *Prayer service to begin shortly after the 7PM Stations of the Cross*). Taize is a quiet, contemplative form of community worship. Some key elements of the service include Taize songs, scripture readings, moments of silence, and Veneration of the Cross.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** a peer ministry support group for the widowed, divorced and permanently separated. We invite people of all faiths to join us. Call Arlene 949-3387 or Linda 294-8571 for more information.

**Marriage Help – RETROUVAILLE** (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information call 625-7430 or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

**FREE MINISTRY** For nationwide Mass times & locations, call: 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or check on-line at [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).

**REMEMBER HIS WILL IN YOURS** - You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest in your Will. Simply include the following statement in your Will - "*I leave to the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, St. Elizabeth Church, 99-312 Moanalua Road, Aiea, Hawaii 96701, \$\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate (choose one). My gift may be used for general purposes (or specify for school, building fund, Diocese, etc.)*". For more info see your Pastor or contact Robert J. Stillwell, Ed.D., Director of Development, at 203-6723.