

# St. Elizabeth Church

## JANUARY 10, 2010

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD



“John said, ‘I baptize you with water, but one is coming who is mightier than I.’”  
Luke 3:16

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## Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 11-17, 2010**

**11<sup>th</sup> - MONDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
6:00 PM Women's Hula - Hall  
7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2  
7:00 PM YAM - Young Adult Office

**12<sup>th</sup> - TUESDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2  
7:30 PM Baptismal Class - 4th Grade Classroom

**13<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
6:00 PM 8am Choir Practice - Church  
7:00 PM YCL Gathering - Hall  
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus - Hall Mtg Room 8  
7:00 PM Tai Chi - Conference Room 1-2  
8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

**14<sup>th</sup> - THURSDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
11:00 AM Funeral Mass (+Randall Sumida)-Church  
5:00 PM Line Dancing - Hall  
6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2  
6:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

**15<sup>th</sup> - FRIDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
8:15 AM SES MASS - Church  
6:00 PM Adoration / Benediction - Church\*

**16<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  
11:00 AM Lighthouse Discussion Grp - Conf Rm 1-2  
6:00 PM Mass - Church  
7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom  
8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

**17<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



\*Adoration will begin at 6pm for the remainder of the month. We are hopeful that this timeframe will allow more parishioners an opportunity to attend.

### Today's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38  
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

### Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5  
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11  
Gospel: John 2:1-11



*Jan. 10-Baptism of the Lord  
Come to the Water*

In the First Letter of St. John we read, “In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him.” (John 4:9)

Didn't we just celebrate this revelation (epiphany)? Didn't we just see the Magi make the “jump” to the manger scene, kneeling in adoration?

In today's Gospel we read the familiar account of Jesus (now an adult) coming to the Jordan river asking for baptism by his cousin, John.

What brought Jesus to the river? If we think about it, we might answer that the river is where he belonged. He felt called to begin his new life, the life he was always meant to live – why he came into the world. We know that soon we will be seeing him in the desert, on a preparatory retreat for the Mission of his life. He encounters temptation and defeats it. Strengthened for his Mission, he begins his public ministry, all the way to the Cross.

We also are reminded that we came to the baptismal font, the waters of life, to begin our Mission, the life we were meant to live. The catechumens in the RCIA process are anticipating their own coming to the river at the Easter Vigil with eagerness and perhaps wondering what new paths their life will take.

We who were baptized as children are reminded that like Jesus, we have a Mission, a responsibility, that comes with Baptism. We are called to go into our world – families, workplace, supermarkets, shipyards, and live like we have encountered Christ – living honestly, with dignity, love and compassion for God and our brothers and sisters.

God has a purpose for us in this world. He wants sons and daughters in whom he is well pleased.



Dear friends,

I am happy to write the Pastor's page, as I spend this month assisting Fr. Jon, in the absence of Fr. Tom who is away on vacation. I spoke to him this week and he sounded quite happy to be among his family and friends. He had recovered from his Jetlag and was moving around visiting his family. I told him how happy I was at St. Elizabeth, and that Fr. Jon and the rest of the staff have been extremely hospitable. Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The Gospels recount that Jesus went to John the Baptist near the Jordan River, and asked to receive the baptism of penance from him. But immediately after, while he was praying, "the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'" (Luke 3:21-22).

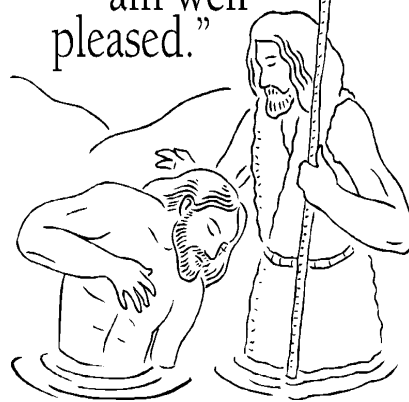
In the words of Pope John Paul II, it is the first public manifestation of the messianic identity of Jesus, after the adoration of the magi. This is the reason why the liturgy relates the Baptism to Epiphany, with a chronological leap of some 30 years: The Child, whom the magi worshipped as the messianic king, is consecrated today by the Father in the Holy Spirit. In the Baptism in the Jordan, Jesus' messianic "style" is already clearly perceived: He comes as the "Lamb of God" to take upon himself and to take away the sin of the world (see John 1:29,36). This is how the Baptist presents him to the disciples (John 1:36). In the same way, we, who at Christmas celebrated the great event of the Incarnation, are invited to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, the human face of God and the divine face of man.

In the Gospel, you will hear the words, "You are my beloved child in whom my soul delights." I have always appreciated those lines that emphasize that God delights in us. As Jesus was baptized, I can see God up in heaven, looking down at Jesus, his child, and saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom my soul delights." And so it is when you and I are baptized. God looks down at you and me and says, "This is my beloved son, this is my beloved daughter in whom my soul delights." Remember, No matter what our age may be, no matter where we are in our life, this is God's fundamental attitude towards us: delight. God delights in us, as a parent delights in a child.

With blessings and prayers,  
Fr. Paulson Mundanmani

And a voice came from heaven:

"You are my Son,  
whom I love;  
with you I  
am well  
pleased."



L u k e 3 : 2 2

#### **WORD OF LIFE BRIEFS...**

"When the family is weakened, it is inevitably children who suffer. If the dignity of women and mothers is not protected, it is the children who are affected most."

~ Pope Benedict XVI, "Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace,"  
Jan. 1, 2009

# Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

## Breaking Open the Word for January 10, 2010: The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

Today's passage from Isaiah was addressed to the exiled Israelites in Babylon (587 BC - 537 BC). This was a terrible time for them, not only because they had lost their kingdom and temple, but because those losses led the people to question their whole understanding of the covenantal relationship they had with God. God had promised that David's kingdom and David's line would be secure forever, but now it seemed that David's kingdom no longer existed. Had the Israelites misunderstood their relationship with God? Were they still God's chosen people? Isaiah responds to those kinds of questions with a definite "Yes!" The nation of Israel is God's servant, and their suffering is not a sign that God has abandoned them. This is because their suffering has a purpose: through their suffering, the Israelites will bring other nations to a knowledge of God. Thus, the Christian communities came to see Isaiah's "suffering servant" songs as a way to come to grips with the mystery of Jesus' own suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus is the Messiah who embodies the "suffering servant" formerly embodied by the nation of Israel, and through Jesus' Gospel, all nations have come to a knowledge of God.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10**

Many scripture scholars agree that Psalm 29 likely originated from a Canaanite text that celebrated Ba'al or some similar storm god, with the Israelites replacing Ba'al with Yahweh. By repetition (eight times in eleven verses), the psalm focuses attention on what matters most: the voice of the Lord and its effects. This psalm highlights the awesome power and majesty of God, whose voice brought all of Creation into existence in the first place; and, the excerpts used for today's psalm response highlight God's goodness to humanity through Noah and the Flood, which was meant to bring His peace into the world.

### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

This passage from Acts is the only reference to Jesus' baptism found outside of the Gospels. Prior to today's reading in Acts, Peter - a Jew - had dreamt about a sheet with different kinds of animals on it coming down from heaven, with a voice saying, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane" (Acts 10:15). He did not understand this dream until he went into the house of Cornelius - a Gentile - where Cornelius explains to Peter that an angel had asked him to call Peter to his house so everyone there could listen to what Peter had to say. Today's reading is the beginning of Peter's address to the people in Cornelius' house. By recalling how Jesus' baptism and anointing "with the Holy Spirit and power" resulted in His "doing good and healing those oppressed by the devil," the author of Acts reminds us that our own baptism and anointing empower us to do good in Jesus' name.

### **Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

Today's reading from Luke's Gospel is a continuation of the Gospel reading we heard on the third Sunday of Advent, so again we hear John the Baptist deny that he is the Messiah. Luke immediately refers to Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit's anointing of Jesus, and the voice coming from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." With those words, Luke is tying the New Testament events of Jesus' life with some Old Testament passages. The words "You are my beloved Son" are an allusion to Psalm 2, which is a messianic psalm (the word "messiah" means "the anointed one"). The people of Israel understood that God would send a messiah who would save them. By alluding to Psalm 2, Luke again teaches what he had already taught through the story of the annunciation to Mary: Jesus is not only God's only begotten Son, but is also the Messiah He sends as His Anointed One. And with the words "with you I am well pleased," Luke alludes to today's first reading from the Book of Isaiah. Through this allusion, Luke makes clear the Christian understanding that Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection was not an end, but the beginning of true life as a gift from God.



### **Readings for the Week**

Monday, January 11	1 Samuel 1:108; Mark 1:14-20
Tuesday, January 12	1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday, January 13	1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39
Thursday, January 14	1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45
Friday, January 15	1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12
Saturday, January 16	1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mark 2:13-17



**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

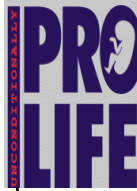
Last Week's Collection .....	\$ 12,075.50
Building Fund .....	\$ 1,313.50
Energy .....	\$ 292.00
<b>Total Collection for 1/2-3//10 .....</b>	<b>\$ 13,681.00</b>
<b>New Year's Day Collection .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,006.00</b>
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i> .....	\$ 80.00

Every year, the Diocese approves a list of second collections and provides envelopes for this purpose. In January, the collection is for: Church in Latin America & Black & Indian Missions . To assist with this, St. Elizabeth's will donate 10% of the 4th Sunday's collection in January.



*No Worship Committee Meeting in January*

Just a follow-up to an email ... a reminder that Worship Committee will NOT meet in January per Fr. Tom's request. Instead, we will meet Feb. 1/Monday in Hall Mtg Rm 8. Come with your decisions made about Stations of the Cross, Ash Wednesday services and Triduum services.



Happy New Year from the Pro-Life Committee! As our country enters the New Year faced with uncertainties, let's look to our Lord Jesus and the beloved Catholic faith He gives for sustenance through any trials and tribulations that come our way. This New Year is a good time to continue evaluating the condition of our souls and consciences. Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer a beautiful opportunity for anyone who struggles with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. So many men and women experience numbness, depression, and destructive behaviors, even years after an abortion, sometimes not knowing the reason why. The Rachel's Vineyard e-mail address is: [rvha-waji@gmail.com](mailto:rvha-waji@gmail.com). Our Church also offers the treasure of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the healing of our spirits and the sacramental forgiveness of sins for anyone who has played a direct or indirect role in an abortion. As we heal from our spiritual and emotional wounds, we can direct greater energy to building up God's Kingdom for His glory!

*R.C.I.A. - the Journey of a lifetime*

*Jan. 10 - Eucharist*

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the final Sacrament that completes one's initiation into the Catholic Church and it should be the final sacrament (called Viaticum) before we leave earth's journey for eternal life. And more than that – it is the nourishment and strength we need for the earthly journey – receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus. Our journey is an interior one, growing in faith and love of God through his Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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**

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT** - please complete and drop in the collection basket to receive your 2009 Statement of Contributions for tax purposes (Statements will be available beginning February 1st.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mahalo for your support!



## Happy New Year from Ma'ili Land (by Kelly Ann Hall, Ma'ili Land Coordinator)

Happy 2010! Thank you for your never ending generosity and kindness. Our Parish continues to give even though we've all been touched by the tough economy. I visited Ma'ili Land before the Christmas holiday to deliver gift cards and donated clothing and will return in March to deliver the proceeds of the Caring Coins collected from the children of St. Elizabeth School.

Please know the folks at Ma'ili Land look forward to the items that we deliver each year and your donations are greatly appreciated.

May the Lord bless all of you in the New Year with love, health and happiness!



Tai Chi begins again this coming **Wednesday, January 13th, from 6:30pm to 8pm in Conference Room 1-2.** Your instructor, Lorraine Takamori, has many years of experience and welcomes all who are looking to gain better balance and circulation, centering, and a stronger heart.

Tai Chi is moving meditation; Kung Fu, a Martial Art; Psycho/Physical; Mind, Body & Breath....for more information, please call Lorraine at 497-3540.

## Luminary Memorials for March for Life (From Hawaii Right to Life)

In Hawaii, thousands of children have lost their lives to abortion, their voices silenced without the chance to be heard. **The March for Life on January 22, 2010 will feature luminaries to serve as a silent witness in remembrance of their lives.** (Luminaries are small paper bags with lights inside.)

Our goal is to place 1,000 luminaries that will light up the Hawaii State Capitol grounds. Immediately following the march, a brief memorial ceremony will also be conducted at the Capitol Rotunda. **For a suggested donation of just \$5 each, you can order luminaries to commemorate lives ended by abortion and support our local pro-life pregnancy resource centers so that other lives may be saved.** With your support, we can be a light for the world and show our respect for those who have been lost to abortion in Hawaii. Order luminaries in advance by sending the order form to one of the participating charities.

Be sure to join us for the March, which takes place at the Hawaii State Capitol from 3:30-6:30pm. For March information, contact us at 585.8205. *Questions about your luminary order? Call Ruth Prinzivalli at 942.0328. Note: volunteers are needed to prepare luminaries in advance, then place and remove them the day of the March. If you can help, please call Ruth.*

## Luminary Order Form

I would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ luminaries to honor a baby lost to abortion in Hawaii. *If you would like to give a name to a baby or babies, please enter the name(s) here \_\_\_\_\_ to be placed on the bag(s).*  
 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Suggested donation is \$5 for each luminary ordered, additional gifts would be gratefully received.*

Mail this form with payment to one of the following organizations: The Pearson Foundation of HI, Inc., Attn: Ruth Prinzivalli, 1451 S King St, #204, Honolulu, HI 96814 Aloha Pregnancy Care & Counseling Centers, Attn: Alana Ammons, 45-1151 Kamehameha Hwy, Ste G, Kaneohe, HI 96744; A Place for Women, Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor, Attn: Sue Skinner, 94-1044 Waipio Uka St, Waipahu, HI 96797

*Life*

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

**St. John the Baptist in Kalihi** will begin a **CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM** that will meet for 15 evening sessions beginning Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM and continuing every Tuesday until April 20. Sessions will last for about an hour and fifteen minutes. A certificate will be given for those who complete the program. The topics are:

January 12 - Introduction	March 9 - St. Dominic and the Dominicans
January 19 - Jewish Experience of God	March 16 - English Mystics
January 26 - Prayer of Jesus	March 23 - Thomas a Kempis and Meister Eckhart
February 2 - Desert Fathers	March 30 - St. Theresa of Avila
February 9 - St. Augustine	April 6 - St. John of the Cross
Feb 16 - St. Benedict - the Father of Western Monasticism	April 13 - St. Ignatius of Loyola (Jesuit Spirituality)
Feb 28 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux & the Divine Comedy	April 20 - Contemporary Spirituality
March 2 - St. Francis of Assisi & the Franciscans	

There is such a rich trove of deep spirituality in our tradition that can help us all to enlighten ourselves and light the way for those around us. Come Join Us. For more information call the parish office at 845-0984.

**MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT**, January 23 & 24, 2010, location: Chaminade University of Honolulu, - "The family that prays together stays together." Parents and children of all ages will re-connect through prayer, conversation, engaging skits, and lively activities. For more information contact Bro. Dennis Schmitz, S.M. at (808) 735 - 4801 or download a registration brochure at [www.marianisthawaii.org](http://www.marianisthawaii.org); Registration deadline: January 15, 2010, Cost: \$65 for a family of 4 or less (includes program and five meals), Each additional child: \$10

**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).