

St. Elizabeth Church

JANUARY 17, 2010

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Jesus’ mother said to the servant, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ ”

John 2:5



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 18-24, 2010

18th - MONDAY

Marin Luther King Day (Rectory Closed)

7:00 AM MASS - Church

6:00 PM Women’s Hula - Hall

19th - TUESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

2:45 PM Beginning Hula - Hall

6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2

7:00 PM RCIA Core Group - Conference Room 3

20th - WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

8:15 AM Seniors’ Meeting - Conference 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 PM YCL Gathering - Hall

8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

21st -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

22nd – FRIDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

8:15 AM SES MASS - Church

6:00 PM Adoration / Benediction - Church*

23rd – SATURDAY

7:00 AM MASS / Novena / Rosary - Church

8:30 AM CCD Classes (K-6) - Hall Mtg Rooms

10:00 AM Hula - Hall

6:00 PM Mass - Church

7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom

8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

24th – 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 6 p.m. for the remainder of the month. We are hopeful that this time-frame will allow more parishioners an opportunity to attend.

Today’s Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11

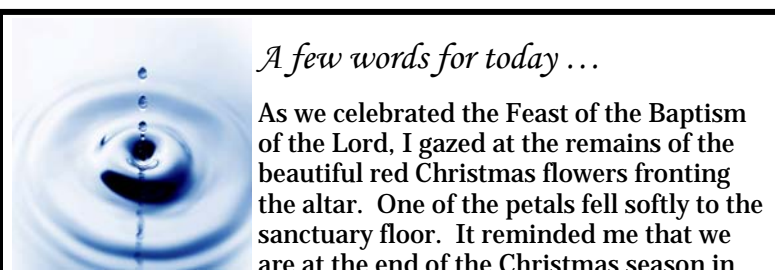
Gospel: John 2:1-11

Next Week’s Readings

1st Rdg: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

2nd Rdg: 1 Cor 12:12-30

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21



A few words for today ...

As we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I gazed at the remains of the beautiful red Christmas flowers fronting the altar. One of the petals fell softly to the sanctuary floor. It reminded me that we are at the end of the Christmas season in the liturgy and it somehow evoked a feeling not of sadness, but of another beginning.

The liturgical season can do that for us. We know that we experience many endings in life and yet have hope for another beginning because, as my Mother always loved to say, “Time marches on.” I suppose I would love to have the Christmas trees and the crèche stay up year round and to always have the lovely Christmas lights surround our church roof. But yet, if we don’t take them away our heart can hardly know to be glad upon its return next Christmas. Sometimes we need to create an emptiness so that joy can fill our heart once again.

Because we can experience the seasons and feasts with certainty each year, we have a sure expectation of what is to come next. After all, we now see Jesus 30 years hence ... he’s already an adult and starting out on the journey to the Cross and Resurrection and our redemption.

Certainly we know what that means. The springtime of the Church – Lent - is at hand. On February 17 we will once again process to church to receive the Ashes of humility and repentance. The drama of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection begins to unfold in our liturgy and in our sacrifices, penances and charitable works.

The solemnity of the seasons and feasts of the Church can teach and inspire us to desire closeness with and love of Christ and the Church. Our gestures of kneeling, prayers, and recitation of the Creed create in us a desire to be loving, humble and good in gratitude to God who loves us with the love of a bridegroom for his bride.

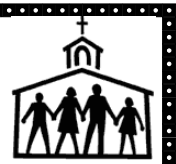
What a shock! That our God can love us so intensely in spite of our weakness and failure. If that isn’t cause for joy and hope in this world, then I don’t know what joy means.

We are one month away from the drum roll of Ash Wednesday. I don’t know about you, but I’m always so happy to be a Catholic during those six weeks prior to Easter. The solemnity, the drama, the special devotions and the opportunity to start again in Hope.



Pastor's Corner

Fr. Thomas Purayidathil



When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers, To make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)

After the Christmas season, we begin a time in the Church's Calendar known as **Ordinary Time** – a time to accomplish the work of Christmas. Most of the Seasons of the Church Year are organized around the two major festivals that mark sacred time, Christmas and Easter. The Christmas Season encompasses the time of preparation during Advent and the celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas and Epiphany in early January. The Easter Season encompasses the time of preparation during the 40 weekdays of Lent and Holy Week, and is linked with Pentecost Sunday 50 days later. While there are other individual holy days within the church year, these seasons mark the movement of sacred time within the church calendar.

The rest of the year following Epiphany and Pentecost is known as **Ordinary Time**. Rather than meaning "common" or "mundane," this term comes from the word "ordinal," which simply means **ordered time**. Ordinary time does not need to be "ordinary," and is not meant to mean that somehow we get a break from the Liturgical Year. The opposite is true: Ordinary Time celebrates "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." Many important liturgical celebrations fall during Ordinary Time, including, Trinity, Corpus Christi, All Saints, the Assumption of Mary, and Christ the King. In addition, the Church continues to celebrate Saints days and other events such as The Octave of Christian Unity. The 33 or 34 Sundays of Ordinary Time are used to focus on various aspects of the Faith, especially the mission of the church in the world. **If the faithful are to mature in the spiritual life and increase in faith, they must descend the great mountain peaks of Easter and Christmas in order to "pasture" in the vast verdant meadows of *tempus per annum*, or Ordinary Time.**

The sanctuary color for Ordinary Time is dark green, although other shades of green are commonly used. Green has traditionally been associated with new life and growth. Even in Hebrew in the Old Testament, the same word for the color "green" also means "young." In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection.

Most of us have our life is structured by calendars and task lists. They tell us where to go, when to be there, and what to do. For the most part things run fairly smoothly. We keep our appointments. We show up on time. Tasks are completed and crossed off the list. Our schedules may be organized but what about our lives? What about that scattered, chaotic, restless feeling that comes from way down deep inside of us? It seems that no matter how well we stick to our schedule or how many tasks we accomplish the feeling that there is or should be something more is still around. And then it strikes us – our tools of organization often serve only to document how disordered our lives have become! St. Augustine said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. "Resting in God" is probably one way express Ordinary Time. During this time God is calling us to rest in God's presence, to experience his love, and live our Christian faith in ordinary everyday life. It is a reminder of and a time to acknowledge and experience God's presence and God's faithfulness in the mundane day-to-day stuff of our lives.

Resting in God does not mean that we simply sit around and do nothing. And it does not necessarily mean that we have to give up our daily schedule and tasks – though some changes might be in order. Everything we do – work, study, play – can be considered as prayer in the sense that what we do and who we are connects us to the reality of God. Laundry, working, car-pooling, family obligations, cooking, shopping, paying the bills, home repairs, going to the doctor, running errands, school and studying, vacation... the list goes on and on. Our calendar says look at all we have to do. The Church offers us the Season of Ordinary Time and says look at all the opportunities you have to practice resting in God.

With blessings & prayers,
 Fr. Paulson Mundanimani

Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

Breaking Open the Word for January 17, 2010: The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Today's passage from Isaiah is from a time after the Babylonian exile, when the people of Israel are rebuilding their land and temple. Their exile ended when God sent Cyrus, a Persian, who conquered the Babylonians and allowed the Israelites to return home. Isaiah is reminding the Israelites that they have been vindicated for putting their hope in God during their exile and for believing that they remained in a covenant relationship with Him. Isaiah uses marriage as a metaphor for that covenantal relationship between God and His chosen people to express God's on-going protection of and happiness with Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

Psalm 96 is a liturgical hymn that relies heavily on other psalm passages and Second Isaiah (author of Isaiah chapters 40-55) to create a song of praise. Since Second Isaiah did not exist until the Israelites' return from their Babylonian exile, this psalm likely became part of Jewish worship during the fifth or fourth century BC and was probably meant to be used in the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

In this passage, Paul is teaching that there is one Spirit who gives people different kinds of spiritual gifts for the benefit of the whole community. The Spirit gives these gifts - or charisms - not just to the leadership of the community, but "to each individual" and "distributing them individually to each person as he wishes." Ecstatic and charismatic activity was common in the early Christian Church, but the Corinthian community seems to have put a misguided focus on particular charisms, especially the gift of tongues, and this had a detrimental effect on liturgy. Paul sought to reestablish proper balance and understanding regarding the Holy Spirit's distribution of spiritual gifts among the Corinthian community.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

John's community had been expecting Jesus to make His return during their lifetime. Thus, by around 90AD, when it is believed John's Gospel was written, the community members were starting to ask the question, "Where is Jesus?" In his Gospel, John is trying to help his community - and us - to understand that the risen Christ is always present through the Church and its sacraments. To do this, John uses allegories, which have two levels of meaning - a literal level, and a hidden level. This hidden, second level is the real intention of the allegory. The story of the wedding feast at Cana is an allegory, and John's hint at this is his use of the word "sign" (something that points to something else). Allegorically, the wedding stands for God's relationship with His people. Jesus' use of the word "woman" to address his mother is an allusion to the woman in Genesis - Eve - who is the mother of all the living; thus, Jesus' mother (who is never named in the story itself) stands for the Church, the spiritual "mother" of all. Jesus' use of the words "my hour has not yet come" alludes to His return in glory; this is a direct response to the question John's community has of "Where is Jesus?" The six empty jars used for ritual Jewish cleansing represent the belief that the old way of relating to God - the Mosaic Law - is no longer effective. The water that is used to fill the jars represents Christian baptism, and the wine that the water is turned into represents the Eucharist. Thus, this story of Jesus' presence at the wedding feast is John's way of telling his audience that Jesus is always present through His Church and its sacraments.



Readings for the Week

Monday, January 18	1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22
Tuesday, January 19	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28
Wednesday, January 20	1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6
Thursday, January 21	1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12
Friday, January 22	1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19
Saturday, January 23	2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Week's Collection	\$ 13,018.00
Building Fund	\$ 422.00
Energy	\$ 643.00
Total Collection for 1/9-11//10	\$ 14,083.00

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.



Young Christian Life
is having a

CAR WASH

Saturday, January 23, 2010
from 10 am – 2 pm
@ St. Elizabeth Church

Please bring in
canned goods
to get your car washed!

Mahalo!

Questions - call Davis & Carolyn @ 486.5116



RCIA CORE TEAM MTG - Jan 19- 7pm



Our regular monthly meeting is
"ON" in the assigned Meeting Room
– check the Bulletin Weekly Calendar. You should already have received an email of the Agenda.

In God our hearts find joy.



The Lighthouse kiosk will be temporarily unavailable for the next few weeks beginning January 17th. Look for an all new selection in time for Lent.

RCIA - the Journey of a lifetime

Jan. 17 – The Communion Rite

The first time one receives the Eucharist can be a mix of deep prayer and fear. Having come to an awareness of the power of the Sacrament, wanting to have the proper reverence and to remember the response and gesture it can be a daunting experience. Practice can help. Actually seeing the sacred vessels and feeling their weight can help, too.



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



A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
from St. Elizabeth Health Ministry

THREE REASONS THAT YOU NEED EXERCISE

Exercise helps you lose weight

Exercise helps you lose weight while building muscle.

Exercise helps keep illness at bay

Exercising regularly also boosts your immune system to keep you healthy. Energized routines such as a cardio workout also benefit your heart.

Exercise helps you look good

Exercise makes you sweat and a good work out opens the pores. It does wonders for your skin and so helps you actually look good.

<http://healthybodyinfo.com>



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

Protect Conscience

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate on the final bill are expected in January.

Act today! Thank You!

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

SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, January 24, 2010, 1pm at Mamiya Theater. Come meet our students, faculty and administrators and climb aboard one of our "San Francisco Style Trolleys" for a campus tour. For more information contact the Admissions Office at 739-4832.

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; 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.

FREE MINISTRY For nationwide Mass times & locations, call: 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or check on-line at 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.