

St. Elizabeth Church

JANUARY 24, 2010

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:21

1

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 25-31, 2010

25th - MONDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

6:00 PM CCD 1st Comm Parents' Mtg - Hall

7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2

26th - 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 Baptismal Class - 4th Grade Classroom

27th - WEDNESDAY *I.H.S. Today*

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 Knights of Columbus - Hall Mtg Room 8

7:00 PM YCL Gathering - Hall

8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

28th - 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

29th - FRIDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

8:15 AM SES MASS - Church

6:00 PM Adoration / Benediction - Church*

30th - 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 AI-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

31st - 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 timeframe will allow more parishioners an opportunity to attend.

Today'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

Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

2nd Rdg: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or

13:4-13 / Gospel: Luke 4:21-30



A few words for today ...

After my mother died, I was going through her things as we all do when a loved one has passed. I came to her steamer trunk and remembered how I used to love going through her things when I was very little. I noticed that the entire bottom of the trunk was covered with old black and white photos of people I didn't recognize.

No descriptions on the back either, except one – "To my beautiful sister" and written in Spanish because my mother was born in Mexico. I realized I must be looking at my family members – unknown to me because my mother had been given up for adoption in Los Angeles. I had never known anyone from her side of the family. I wondered who they were and had any survived the wars so prevalent at that time in Mexico.

How precious some words can be. Words on a card, in a letter. If only the Word of God affected us that way as with the people of God in Nehemiah's time. That his precious words would fill us with wonder and awe; with love for our brothers and sisters; words that would rouse us to tears and action; mercy and reconciliation.

They are supposed to. Today's gospel gives us the model.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Baptism and Confirmation anoint and fill us with the fiery grace of the Holy Spirit to prostrate ourselves in spiritual humility, forget ourselves and think of others.

We can be proud and grateful that our Church is fully on the ground in Haiti. Catholic Relief Services together with Caritas International and many other relief agencies are bringing food, medicine, supplies and emergency rations to the desperate people of Haiti. Many prayers are ascending to the heavens to provide spiritual comfort and support.

The Mission of the Church depends on our response to the many needs and concerns of our time. It is a Mission of love – food to the hungry, a drink for the thirsty, clothing for the naked, comfort to the sick and in prison. Not all of us can be on the front lines providing direct assistance, but all can provide assistance monetarily and through prayer.

To consume the Body and Blood of Christ must result in concrete actions borne of love and faith. It is the Christian's responsibility to transform hearts and minds to effect peace and reconciliation. The changing of one's heart and mind begins with our own.



Pastor's Corner

Fr. Thomas Purayidathil



This is my last weekend at St. Elizabeth's, and I will be returning to the mainland on Friday, January 29th, a day after Fr. Tom returns from his vacation. Please do pray for my parish family at Walnut Creek, California. At the outset let me tell you how grateful I am to God for the manifold blessings I received in obvious and subtle ways during the one month I have been with you. One of the highlights of my stay was a pilgrimage I made to Kalaupapa, to see firsthand the places that Saint Damien lived and worked. I am thankful to Frs. Tom, Jon, the staff and the Parish Community for the warm and vibrant faith life and hospitality. During my short stay here you all have touched me by your faith life and I have grown. **Thank you.**

Let me share with you one man's interview with God and wish you the very best during this New year and assure you of my continued prayers.

I dreamed that I had an interview with God.

"So you would like to interview me?" God asked.

"If you have the time," I answered.

"My time is eternity. What questions do you have to ask me?" God asked.

"What surprises you most about humankind?" I asked.

God answered....

- " – that they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up,
and then they long to be children again.
- that they lose their health to make money...
and then lose their money to restore their health.
- that by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present
and so they live in neither the present nor the future.
- that they live as if they will never die
and die as if they had never lived".

God's hands took mine and we were silent for a while...

And then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons to teach children?"

God replied with a smile....

- "- to learn they cannot make any one love them.
What they can do is let themselves be loved.
- to learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives,
but who they have in their lives.
- to learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most,
but the one who needs the least.
- to learn that there are persons who love them dearly,
but simply do not know how to express or show their feeling.
- to learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others,
but they must also forgive themselves.
- to learn that it is not good to compare themselves with others.
- to learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.
- to learn that two people can look at the same thing & see it very differently.
- And to learn that I am here – always".

**Blessings & Prayers,
Fr. Paulson Mundanmani**

Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

Breaking Open the Word for January 24, 2010: The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

The Book of Nehemiah is set during the time after the Israelites had been freed from their Babylonian exile by the Persians. Many of the Jews had returned to Israel, only to find that they had to do the hard work of reconstruction. After some of this information had gotten back to the Israelites who remained in Babylon, two Jewish leaders returned to Israel to help with the rebuilding: Ezra, a priest, and Nehemiah, the cup-bearer of the Persian king. Today's passage from Nehemiah describes how Ezra reestablished the religious worship in the rebuilt city and Temple of Jerusalem. Ezra not only read the Scriptures to the people, but he also explained it to them, and the people expressed their agreement with their own "Amen." Thus, Ezra prefigures Jesus' own reading and explanation of Scriptures in the synagogue, with the people's amazement at His authoritative teachings implying their "amen" and agreement with Him.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15

For Israel, the first five books of what Christians refer to as the Old Testament is called the "Law," or "Torah," and the four verses of today's responsorial Psalm refer to that "Law/Torah" of God. The Law had greater meaning for the Israelites than mere commandments or rules to follow; the Law was meant to foster a way of life that would bring people closer to God. Verse 8 praises the Law as perfect, verse 9 as worthy of trust, and verse 10 as pure. Then, verse 15 makes the leap that God's perfect, trustworthy, and true Laws are meant to govern people's words and intentions, so that their thoughts, actions, and lives would be acceptable to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27

This passage from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is a continuation of last Sunday's reading. Paul continues to stress the unity of Christ's "body," the Church. For Paul, the unity between the individual Church members is not merely an abstract concept, but is a reality that must be lived out in daily life. He stresses that there is only one Christ, who established only one Church. Thus, the members of Christ's Church are responsible for each other, each contributing to either the well-being or detriment of the others. Paul reminds us that we each have a part to play in making God's Kingdom real and present in the world.

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

Today's passage starts with the very first verses from Luke's Gospel, where the author explains that he is neither the first person to write about the events of Jesus' life, nor an actual eyewitness to the events he is recording. Jesus actually existed in historical time, and there were many eyewitnesses who orally passed on what they had seen Jesus do and say. But Luke explains that he has edited what he has heard from such eyewitnesses, not so much to leave a historical account of Jesus' life, but to establish and build up faith and understanding in his audience of who Jesus is. After the introductory statements, today's passage jumps to Luke's first description of Jesus' public ministry after His baptism, where the Spirit had descended upon Jesus. The passages that Jesus reads from Isaiah are Isaiah 61:1-2 (where Isaiah describes his own call by God), and Isaiah 58:6 (where Isaiah describes what God considers to be a true fasting). The "year acceptable to the Lord" that Jesus proclaims is what is known as a "jubilee" year, which is held every fifty years. During the jubilee year, the people of Israel would free slaves, forgive debts, redistribute property, let agricultural land lie fallow, and hold a great feast. By applying Isaiah's words to Himself, Jesus is claiming that the covenantal promises that God had made with the Israelites are now being fulfilled through His ministry. Jesus is the historical, physical embodiment of the Covenant between God and Israel, and through Jesus, the Covenant is made anew with all peoples who have faith.



Readings for the Week

Monday, January 25

Tuesday, January 26

Wednesday, January 27

Thursday, January 28

Friday, January 29

Saturday, January 30

Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18

2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35

2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20

2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25

2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34

2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Week's Collection	\$ 11,472.00
Building Fund	\$ 292.00
Energy	\$ 139.00
Initial	\$ 127.00
Total Collection for 1/6-17//10	\$ 12,030.00
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	\$ 581.00
<i>Haiti Relief Fund</i>	\$ 5,692.00

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.

Worship Committee Meeting ~ Advance Notice



Just a follow-up to an email ... a reminder that Worship Committee will meet in February on Feb. 1/Monday in Hall Mtg Rm 8. Come with your decisions made about Stations of the Cross, Ash Wednesday services and Triduum services.

**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, January 27, 2010 in Conference Rms. 1 & 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Fr. Jon will be administering a New Year's Blessing to all who are present.

Williette Wong will be sharing her love of orchids and how to care for them. Come and learn how to nurture your orchid plants so they will bloom for you. After this session, you may want to take up growing orchids as a hobby. Having beautiful plants around improves our well-being.

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



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE NEWLY ELECTED
OFFICERS OF THE**

SAMOAN COMMUNITY...

**Mino Petelo, President
Melania Leao, Vice President
Pina Ma'afala, Secretary/Treasurer**

**We wish you well
in your new positions!**

Holy Spirit Gathering

Speaker: Fr. Ronald Guzman, ms

St. Joseph Church

Waipahu

Friday, January 29, 2010

Praise & Worship begins at 7pm

Enjoy the Joy!!



Questions: Call
Fr. Andrade at
455-3224.



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.



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, January 27** 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 5-5:30pm and
- ❖ at the men's facility from 6-6:45pm.
- ❖ 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.*

CCD News

Just a reminder to our parents with children preparing for First Holy Communion...our second meeting is set for Monday, January 25th at 6 pm in the hall. Your attendance is required. Mahalo!



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

Jan. 24-The Anointing of the Sick

The Sacraments are each one centered on Christ, for the living. Today we hope to clear up some misconceptions about this Sacrament. So many flock to healing services but forget about the Sacrament of Anointing itself. Christ yearns to comfort and heal the elderly, those about to undergo surgery, the seriously ill, the addicted, the frail and those emotionally impaired. Christ wants to be with you in your hour of need and always.



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

St. Elizabeth Church

Partners with Common Grace!

Matching the kindness of a local church with the needs of a kid in a public school....we need teens and adults to spend an hour each week as a mentor with a child at Webling Elementary School. Interested? Or perhaps you have questions...please contact Wally Blaisdell at 488-6901; leave a message for a prompt response. Mahalo for your interest!



Tai Chi is held on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8pm, generally in Hall Meeting Room 8 (check the weekly calendar). 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.



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!

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.

SAINT FRANCIS SCHOOL, a Catholic School for young women and men is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. **Admissions Open House** will be held on *Sunday, January 31, 2010, from 1pm to 3pm*. An informational session will begin promptly at 1pm.

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.