

St. Elizabeth Church

MARCH 14, 2010

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today's Readings

1st Rdg: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
 2nd Rdg: 2Corinthians 5:17-21
 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: Isaiah 43:16-21
 2nd Rdg: Phil 3:8-14
 Gospel: John 8:1-11



Upcoming Events

MARCH 15-21, 2010

15th - 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 FCC Novena - Church
 7:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

16th - TUESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
 2:45 PM Beginning Hula - Hall
 4:30 PM CCD Retreat Staff Mtg - Hall Mtg Room 8
 6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2
 6:30 PM Building Committee Mtg - Rectory
 7:00 PM FCC Novena - Church
 7:00 PM RCIA Core Group - Conf Room 3
 7:00 PM Young Adult Ministry - Hall

17th - WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
 8:30 AM Seniors' Knitting - Conf Room 1-2
 3:00 PM Intermediate Hula - Hall
 6:00 PM 8am Choir Practice - Church
 6:30 PM Tai Chi - Hall Meeting Room 8
 7:00 PM YCL Gathering - Hall
 7:00 PM FCC Novena - Conf Room 1-2
 8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

18th - THURSDAY

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


19th - FRIDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
 8:15 AM SES MASS - Church
 6:30 PM Mass / Stations - Church
 7:30 PM FCC Novena - Church (After Mass & Stations)

20th - SATURDAY

7:00 AM MASS / Novena / Rosary - Church
 8:30 AM **NO** CCD Classes
 10:00 AM Wedding - Church
 6:00 PM Mass - Church
 7:00 PM FCC Novena - Church (follows Mass)
 7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom
 8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

Calendar continued on page 5.



A few words for today ...

In her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, St. Therese of Lisieux tells us that "I know that Jesus cannot desire useless sufferings for me and that he would not inspire these feelings [of love] for him unless he wanted to grant them. Oh, how sweet the way of love! How I want to apply myself in doing the will of God always with the greatest self-surrender."

The Elect, preparing for the sacraments of the Easter Vigil, today are confronted with the second story of an encounter with Jesus (John 9:1-41) in the Second Scrutiny for the Elect. Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth. This man obviously wanted to see but doesn't realize that Jesus has a bigger plan - to enable the man also to "see" beyond the visible world - the blind man gradually comes to believe in Jesus and finally, to fall down in adoration and worship to him as the Son of Man (the Messiah).

It seems that the man's blindness was not a useless suffering but resulted in this healing encounter with Jesus - both a physical and a spiritual healing. Like last week's Scrutiny involving the Samaritan Woman, the encounter with Jesus brings light from darkness and faith out of unbelief.

For the Elect, this period of *Purification and Enlightenment*, the Lenten period is one of intense prayer and penitence that they may stand at the font of baptism on the night of the Easter Vigil with a full heart, knowing that they, too, have encountered the living Christ who loves them and calls them to be a new creation in him.

Like the blind man of the Gospel, the Elect know that they have come through some measure of sacrifice and suffering in order to be in the light of faith. They have given up time and other pleasures to faithfully attend the RCIA sessions and share their questions and insights, pray and reflect on scripture and put to heart the teachings of the Church.

Please continue to pray for the Elect and all our candidates as they approach the sacred bath of baptism, the fire of the anointing in confirmation and the holy bread and wine of the eucharist.



MISSION STATEMENT

Thank you for your feedback on the proposed mission statement. 235 of you approved it as presented; 2 disapproved without suggestions and 15 approved with suggestions. The Pastoral Council incorporated most of the suggestions and here is the final version of our mission statement:

We, St. Elizabeth Parish in Aiea, a Roman Catholic faith community in the Diocese of Honolulu, live and proclaim the Gospel through the joyful celebration of the Eucharist in the Spirit of Aloha. We are committed to on-going faith formation, engaging in the ministries of charity, and promoting social justice and respect for life.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

I am happy to announce that we now have a recording secretary: Bernadette Coloma. I appreciate and thank her for joining with the other members of the council to serve our parish.

THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY (March 19)

Though we are in Lent, this Solemnity is celebrated with all the liturgical pomp and ceremony. We will have the regular Mass at 7 am and another one at 6:30 pm. Both will be solemnized. Please try to attend one of the Masses and pray to St. Joseph for all the special graces you are in need of. Being Friday of Lent we shall have the **Stations of the Cross** after the evening Mass (around 7:15 pm probably.)

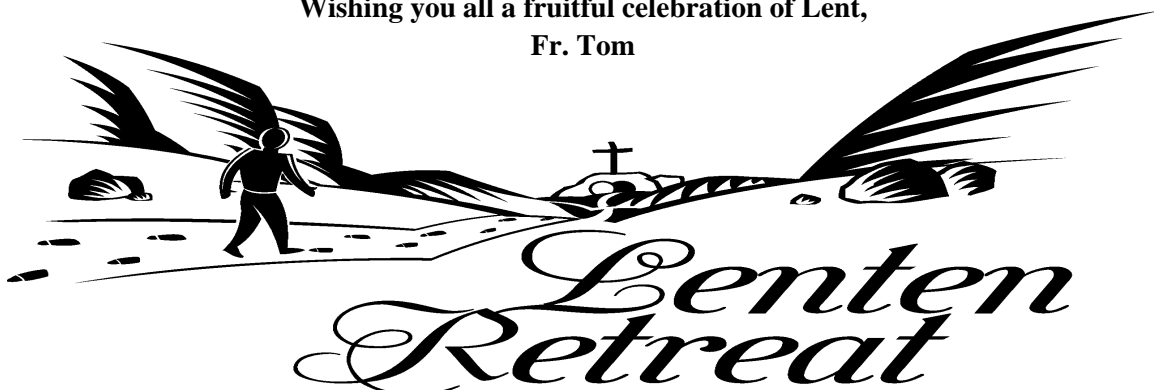
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost." So wrote the philosopher-poet George Herbert, who would have commiserated with me when I lost the tiny screw from my glasses. One never gives a second thought to such little things until they come up missing. The Bible places great stock in little things and little people – a mustard seed, a lost coin, a diminutive tax collector called Zacchaeus, and a brave shepherd boy named David. When it seems we are unappreciated and insignificant, it may help to remember that God's love is constant, undying, everlasting. That truth is reported in one of the littlest but most telling Bible statements of all: God is Love (1John 4:8). **Fred Bauer.**

PARISH RETREAT AND PENANCE SERVICE

Please make yourselves available to attend the Parish Lenten Retreat preached by Fr. Mathew Vellankal of Fremont, CA, March 22 - 24 at 7 pm (Mass at 6:30 pm). The Lenten Penance Service will be on March 25 at 7pm. Several priests will be available for confessions that evening.

Wishing you all a fruitful celebration of Lent,
Fr. Tom



Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

Breaking Open the Word for March 14, 2010: The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

In today's passage from the Book of Joshua, God tells Moses' successor, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." This statement comes while the Israelites are camped at Gilgal after having crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. God had dried up the waters of the Jordan for their crossing, just as He had done with the seawaters while they had escaped from the Egyptians. Thus, the "reproach of Egypt" (i.e. their time of slavery and wandering in the desert), has come to a complete end. Because of their needs in the desert, God fed them with manna, but now that they have entered the land God promised to their ancestors, they can be sustained by the produce of the land.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7

This psalm combines praise and wisdom literature into what is called an "acrostic," which is a writing that has the first letter of sequential lines forming the Hebrew alphabet in sequence. The psalm begins with a reference to King David's presence of insanity before the king of Gath (see 1 Samuel 21:11-16) as a way to defend himself; the author of the psalm seems to have thought that King David's actions showed wisdom in the face of danger. Thus, because David "sought the Lord," who "answered...and delivered [him] from all [his] fears," he "may be radiant with joy, and [his face] may not blush with shame."

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

In this passage from his second letter to the Corinthian community, St. Paul was assuring them that God does not count their sins against them, but instead calls all people to reconciliation with not only Himself, but also with each other. This was written in light of the fact that Paul himself needing to reconcile with those members of the Corinthian community "who boast of external appearance rather than of the heart" (2 Cor 5:12). Paul reminds the Corinthians that all the baptized have been made new in Christ and are thus called to continue Jesus' mission of reconciliation to the whole world. The Pharisees and scribes did not understand this because they did not want forgiveness for those who they thought were sinners.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Not knowing who Jesus' audience is for a parable makes the parable difficult to understand or interpret fully, because often the lesson is drawn through comparison of the story with the audience. Today's parable of the prodigal son at first seems to be addressed to the "tax collectors and sinners [who] were all drawing near to listen to Jesus," but Jesus actually addresses the parable to "the Pharisees and scribes [who] began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" However, left out of today's passage are two other stories that Jesus tells prior to the parable of the prodigal son, and both stories are meant to teach the Pharisees & scribes that God loves even sinful people. Those two stories of the lost sheep and the lost coin both describe how there is great rejoicing when something that was lost is again found. While both stories make clear that Jesus was sent to seek out sinners, only the parable of the prodigal son informs the Pharisees and scribes – and all the self-righteous and judgmental – that they must look closely at their own hearts and lives because they, too, are sinners in need of conversion. Jesus' portrayal of the obedient son is meant to reach the hearts of the Pharisees and scribes, people who had devoted themselves to studying, knowing, and living out the Mosaic Laws. However, Jesus' portrayal of the loving father in the parable also makes clear that, even though both sons are sinful due to having failed to love others as they should have, they are nevertheless still loved by God the Father, who rejoices when sinners return to Him, and who pleads with the righteous and judgmental to join in the rejoicing of their returned brothers and sisters. Notice two things: 1) the father in the parable goes out of the house to meet both sons on the road; and, 2) the parable ends before we find out if the father was able to persuade the obedient son to join the party or not. In the end, the message to all who are judgmental and self-righteous is that, by not loving fellow sinners, they are excluding themselves from God's Kingdom, which Jesus invites all sinners to enter into through repentance, conversion, and reconciliation with both God and each other.

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 15

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 16

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-6

Wednesday, March 17

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 18

Exodus 32:32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday, March 19

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday, March 20

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53





WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Week's Collection	\$ 13,575.50
Building Fund	\$ 1,336.00
Energy	\$ 550.00
Total Collection for March 6-7, 2010	\$ 15,461.50
<i>Catholic Herald</i>	\$ 72.00
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	\$ 98.00

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.



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

*Laetare Sunday –
Catholic Social Teaching*

The Wearing of the Pink

As we approach the midway point of Lent, the Sunday readings remind us of the joy of the Father's love for us with a love that never tires of welcoming us home. And visually, the somber color of violet may give way to pink or rose colored vestments (that is, if you can get the priest and deacons to wear it!).

Iwīe Tamashiro – Social Ministry Advocate

Our guest speaker this morning comes to share a wealth of experience and knowledge about the Church's history of advocacy for the poor and less fortunate and our own Diocese's efforts in working to alleviate the problem of homelessness in Hawaii.

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



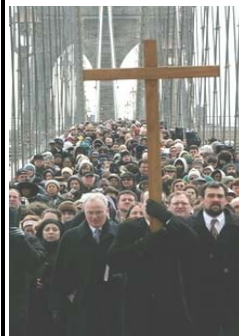
ALOHA SUNDAY IS March 28th

Join us in the hall for light refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts are:

- 6am: Select Members
- 8am: Health Ministry & Hospital Ministry
- 10am: Lectors



Deacon Kin will be leading the next CD discussion entitled "Truth" by Fr. Larry Richards, on Saturday, April 10th at 11 am in Conference Room 1-2. It will be sure to challenge your faith and make for an interesting discussion. Pick up your CD at the kiosk in the back of the church. Remember, the CDs are not free - they are purchased by the Knights and any return on them is placed in a fund for vocations. Please be as generous as you can, at least the full suggested amount.



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

Thanks to St. Elizabeth School for taking the lead for our Stations of the Cross walk last Friday, March 12. Join us in continuing our sacred walk next Friday, March 19 hosted by the Filipino Catholic Club. 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.

For Good Friday Stations: Thank you to everyone who contacted us to read for the Noon Good Friday Stations – we have all the readers we need. Readers: if you haven't already done so, please pick up your reading assignment from the RCIA cubbyhole in the cabinet outside the Rectory. And be in the church on Good Friday by 11:00 am to be ready to begin the Stations directly after Fr. Tom's meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Mahalo.



RCIA CORE TEAM MTG - March 16- 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 St. Elizabeth Council of the Knights of Columbus will be conducting a membership drive after each mass the week-end of March 20th & 21st. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's organization for men 18 years or older and provide members the opportunity to do charitable work in support of the church and the community and enjoy camaraderie with your Catholic brothers. Talk to a member after any

mass next weekend and apply. Call Gary Stark at 927-8262 with any questions.



A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

St. Elizabeth Health Ministry

E. Coli

How can I tell if food is contaminated?

You can't tell whether a food is contaminated with E. coli by the way it looks, smells or tastes. Although most types of E. coli bacteria are harmless, a few nasty strains can cause serious food-borne illness. To protect yourself from E. coli and other food-borne illnesses, follow basic food safety guidelines:

- Rinse raw produce thoroughly; scrub those with a firm surface.
- Wash your hands, utensils and kitchen surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after preparing or eating food.
- Keep raw foods, especially meats, separate from ready-to-eat foods.
- Cook your food thoroughly.
- Refrigerate or freeze perishable foods promptly.
- Avoid unpasteurized juices, ciders and dairy products.
- Don't drink untreated water from lakes or streams.

Holy Spirit Gathering

Guest Speaker: Deacon Billy Whitfield
Theme: Journeying with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31)

St. Ann Parish Center
Kaneohe

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Praise & Worship begins at 7PM

Hawaii
Catholic
Charismatic
Renewal
Service



Any Questions call: Flo Andrade, 455-3224,
Hawaii Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services,
or visit our website: <http://www.hccrs.net/>

CCD News

Updates on classes and activities continue:



- Spring/Easter break begins for our students on Saturday, March 20th....we resume classes on Saturday, April 10.
- First Reconciliation for our First Communicants is Saturday, April 24th at 8:30 a.m. Please be sure to have your student here 10 minutes earlier.
- Peace & Forgiveness for our First Communicants is also scheduled for March 24th from 10 am-2 pm in the church hall.
- Our CCD Phase I Lenten Service Project to help the Next Step Shelter in Kaka'ako is well underway. A Hawaiian food menu has been planned & your help is needed with donations of the following food items:

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.*

Monetary donations are also welcomed (Note: checks should be made payable to St. Elizabeth Church). With your help, we know this will be a successful project.

Please contact CCD Coordinator Manette Kokubun, 487-7994, with any questions, concerns or donations. Mahalo.

Calendar continued from page 1 . . .

21st – SUNDAY

(Regular Mass Schedule)

9:30 AM RCIA - Conference Room 1-2
4:30 PM **NO** CCD Classes

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 available in all grade levels on a first come first served basis. Tuition assistance for registered St. Elizabeth parishioners is also available. Contact the school office for either application at 488-5322.

From February 25-April 5, 2010 Honolulu will unite with other communities across North America for the largest, longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history the: **40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN.** For more information on how to speak for those who can't defend themselves, visit www.40DaysForLife.com/Honolulu.

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.