

St. Elizabeth Church

MARCH 28, 2010

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Today's Readings

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40
 1st Rdg: Isaiah 50:4-7
 2nd Rdg: Phil 2:6-11
 Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

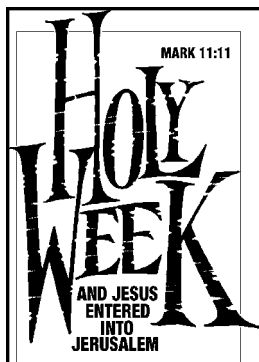
Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: Acts 10:34a, 37-43
 2nd Rdg: Colossians 3:1-4
 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8
 Gospel: John 20:1-9 or
 Lk 24:1-12

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Upcoming Events

MAR 29-APR 4, 2010



29th - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7:00 AM MASS - Church
 7:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

30th - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7:00 AM MASS - Church
 6:00 PM CCD Retreat Team Meeting - Hall #8

6:00 PM FCC Session - Hall

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

31st - WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7:00 AM MASS - Church

6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Church

8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

April 1st - HOLY THURSDAY

NO MORNING MASS

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper - Church

2nd - GOOD FRIDAY

NO MORNING MASS

11:15 AM Seven Last Words of Christ
 (presented by Fr. Tom) - Church

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Church

3:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy &
 Veneration of the Cross - Church

7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy &
 Veneration of the Cross - Church

3rd - HOLY SATURDAY


NO MORNING MASS / NO CONFESSIONS

8:00 PM Vigil Mass - Church

7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom

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

4th - EASTER SUNDAY (Regular Mass Schedule)



A few words for the Journey...

If there are any of you who have ever sailed on a lake, you probably have special insight for today, Palm Sunday. Many times the scriptures tell us about Jesus and the disciples being at sea on Lake Gennesaret. Sometimes they were sailing to get away from pursuing crowds; sometimes to sail to a more remote shore to be at prayer; and at least twice we know that they were in their small boat when storms kicked up on the lake.

The sailors among you might know that when the seas get rough, the way to survive is to tack through the storm, not run away from it. Tacking through the storm, you have a chance to come out safe on the other side.

The drama of Palm Sunday begins to unfold with a Solemn Entrance starting with the reading of the Gospel of Luke's account of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and the seemingly triumphant welcome of the crowds, and a blessing of our palms. Already we know we're "not in Kansas" ... the uniqueness of the Holy Week liturgy draws us in and prepares us for the unfolding of the Triduum days to come – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil Sunday.

But is that it? Exactly what is it that is unfolding? Is it only high drama for our entertainment. Surely not. Swirling around Jesus and the disciples, not only the shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm fronds and olive branches – the disciples know that something is coming for the Master has sent some ahead to prepare an upper room to celebrate the Passover. They themselves must have been taken in by the crowds – at last – the Master is being understood and welcomed! Little do they know ...

And others are watching as well ... those who would do Jesus harm – the religious leaders of the Temple. Their dark hopes form an unseen web of jealousy and plotting. You can imagine them watching from high windows.

And Jesus himself – what is he thinking? The words of the prophet Isaiah must have been close to him – he anticipates his suffering to come and his Passion. Jesus gives us the very perfect model of discipleship. He knows the will of his Father, he knows where the path will lead him and he is willing to follow it.

Like sailors on rough seas, Jesus knows that the only way to come out safe on the other side is to enter the gates, give himself over in love to doing the Father's will because he is loved and has been given a Mission. So, he turns his face forward, not away.

He submits to the trial to come; he goes forward to meet his destiny.



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most important week in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church. We celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ. We recall his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. On Holy Thursday we recall the Last Supper during which he instituted the Eucharist and Priesthood. We also recall the new commandment of love that he taught. On the same night he endured the agony in the garden of Gethsemane and was arrested. On Good Friday he died on the Cross and the early morning of Easter Sunday he rose from the dead. Here we have the full Paschal Mystery – the death and resurrection of Jesus through which we have all been redeemed.

On **Palm Sunday** the people of Jerusalem turned out in large numbers and sang him “Hosanna” but some of the same people shouted “Crucify Him ... We have no king but Caesar.” It is easy to be part of a crowd but one thing about crowds is that in them no one has any personal responsibility. Are we part of the crowd that does not show up at the cross, that finds excuses for doing the popular things but not the hard things? The message of Jesus is that if we are going to follow Him we have to be stronger than the crowd. We must think with the mind of Christ, not the crowd’s all the way to the cross.” (Rev. Edward F. Steiner). Even the close disciples of Jesus left him when he was arrested and Peter denied him three times. Only Mary and some women followed him to the cross, to the very end. We need to be like Mary the mother of Jesus and the other holy women sticking with Christ up to the very end. May our hearts fill with gratitude as we recall and celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. ‘Greater love than this no man has, to lay down his life for his friends’. Jesus laid down his life for us and loves us with an everlasting love. May we be encouraged and energized to live and die for Christ, our Savior. May the celebration of this Holy Week be a turning point in our relationship with Jesus!


MAHALO TO FR. MATHEW VELLANKAL

Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Mathew for preaching the parish retreat this year. Thanks to all who turned up for the talks and contributed to the organization of the retreat. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Cindy and the 8 am choir for being there every evening. I am sure all of you profited spiritually by the experience.

NIGHT VIGIL ON HOLY THURSDAY

You are all invited to spend some time adoring the Blessed Sacrament after the evening mass of Holy Thursday (8 pm to midnight). It is fitting that we spend time keeping watch with Christ on the night he instituted the Eucharist and asked the disciples “Could you not watch one hour with me?”

With blessings and prayers,
Fr. Tom



PALM SUNDAY – All the regular masses will be preceded by the blessing of the palms.

HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7 pm. After the mass there will be adoration until midnight. You are encouraged to spend some time adoring the Eucharist on the day of its institution. “Could you not watch one hour with me?”

GOOD FRIDAY

- 11:15 am - Conference on the Last Seven Words of Jesus
- 12 Noon - Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
- 7:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL - Vigil Mass at 8 pm on Holy Saturday

EASTER SUNDAY - Masses at the regular times.

Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

Breaking Open the Word for March 28, 2010: Palm Sunday, Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Chapters 40 to 55 of the Book of Isaiah were written during the Babylonian exile. The author of these chapters, whom scholars refer to as “Second Isaiah,” was a prophet of hope who helped the Israelites find meaning in their sufferings. Today’s passage is part of one of the four “suffering servant” songs written by Second Isaiah, and scholars understand the “suffering servant” to be a symbol for the nation of Israel. However, this particular song could also have been about the prophet himself. Prophets are often persecuted because they call others to faithfulness and conversion, yet the prophet is never considered to be disgraced, because the prophet is doing God’s will. Because the Israelites expected the Messiah to be a powerful king or warrior and did not expect the Messiah to suffer in any way, it was only after Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection that the early Church saw these suffering servant songs of Isaiah as a way to find meaning in Jesus’ suffering. Thus, while people who have no faith see Jesus’ suffering and death as a sign of weakness and shame, people with faith instead see Jesus’ suffering and death as a sign of humility, strength, and love, which are upheld by God the Father through Jesus’ resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Psalm 22 speaks of a life that is full of adversity. The psalmist asks: Why do I feel abandoned by God? Why do my enemies surround and threaten me? Why do I become weak in the face of my opposition? But instead of trying to actually answer those questions, the psalmist’s response is to resolve to continue living in faith, praising God and making His name known. No matter what troubles the psalmist experiences or faces, he knows that God will save him, and thus he can resolve to proclaim God’s glory before all people in spite of any trouble or grief.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

In this passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, the community is encouraged to live selfless lives patterned after Jesus’ own life. By humbling Himself, Jesus took on “the form of a slave,” and became “obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” During Jesus’ time, being put to death on a cross was not only meant to kill the person, but also meant to shame the person; dying on a cross was considered a very humiliating way to die. Yet Paul reminds the Philippians that Jesus’ shameful death did not end *merely* in death, because “God greatly exalted [Jesus]” by resurrecting Him from the dead. Thus, the faithful can know that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Paul reminds the Philippians that, by patterning their own lives after Jesus and enduring in faith even through persecution and shame, the faithful will come to share in Jesus’ own resurrection and glory.

Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

In his version of Jesus’ suffering and death on a cross, Luke is writing for a Gentile audience and trying to teach them that the covenantal love of Jesus is now open to all people, and not only the Jews. Thus, Luke does not describe the failure of the apostles as strongly as the other Gospels do, trying to make clear that the apostles’ failures are only temporary. Now, earlier in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus had sent the apostles out “without a money bag or a sack or sandals.” But using irony, Luke describes Jesus telling the apostles during the Last Supper to do the opposite: “...one who has a money bag should take it, and likewise a sack, and one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one.” The apostles misunderstand Jesus’ irony and say, “Lord, look, there are two swords here.” Jesus voices His exasperation with their misunderstanding by saying, “It is enough!” Now although Jesus does suffer in Luke’s passion story, he also paints Jesus as a healer, and not a victim. For example, Jesus heals the ear of a man coming to arrest Him; ironically, Jesus is also the reason why Herod and Pilate – formerly enemies – later become friends; in responding to the women of Jerusalem as He is led to His death, Jesus addresses *their* suffering, not His own; and, as He hangs on the cross, Jesus begs, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” and even comforts one of the criminals with Him. In his portrayal of Jesus, Luke tries to make clear that all people, even Gentiles, are offered God’s forgiveness and healing love, and are invited into His Kingdom.

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 29

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 30

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, March 31

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday, April 1

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Friday, April 2

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 3

Genesis 1:1-2:2 ; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Luke 24:1-12





WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Week's Collection	\$ 12,581.00
Building Fund	\$ 55.00
Energy	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 686.00
Total Collection for March 20-21, 2010	\$ 13,342.00
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	\$ 335.00
<i>Catholic Herald</i>	\$ 20.00

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.



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

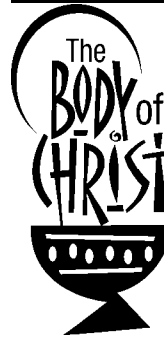
Thanks to our RCIA Sponsors and Candidates for taking the lead for our Stations of the Cross walk last Friday, March 26. Join us on Good Friday for our final Stations of the Cross at **12 Noon**.

If possible, come by 11:00am to hear Fr. Tom's meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Stations of the Cross will follow immediately after.

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.



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.



KEEP WATCH: ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Holy Thursday (April 1, 2010), St. Elizabeth's Church will initiate our first "Keep Watch" of the Blessed Sacrament during the night, just as the disciples stayed with the Lord during His agony on the Mount of Olives before the betrayal by Judas.

The Adoration Ministry is asking for VOLUNTEERS to spend at least *one* hour of quiet time praying and "keeping watch" of the Blessed Sacrament. "Keeping watch" would promptly begin after the 7 pm mass, and continue every hour thereafter (i.e., 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm). For those who are interested, please take a moment to put your name on the sign-up sheet at the front of the church. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Mac or Cindy Pataray at 728-9095.



It's ALOHA SUNDAY . . . Please join us for light refreshments and fellowship in the hall.
Hosting:

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (April 11)

The Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy are sponsoring the annual Divine Mercy Crusade in the Diocese of Honolulu to be held from April 7 – 12, 2010 in connection with the Divine Mercy Sunday. Fr. Tom Sullivan, a member of the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy based in Kentucky will give reflections and celebrate Holy Masses during the crusade. For information and schedule of the Divine Mercy Crusade venues, please visit www.divinemercyhawaii.org or call 808-389-5764.



RCIA - the Journey of a lifetime

Our Holiest Week

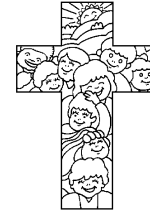
Palm Sunday starts the week we call Holy. What does it all mean? From two millennia away, we know the ending or do we? Maybe it doesn't have an end ... maybe it takes our life and our service for the Kingdom in order to complete the story. Listen for the drum roll on Palm Sunday and for the drama of perfect discipleship based on love to unfold. Don't miss it – Holy Thursday – Good Friday – Easter Vigil Sunday ... not a minute ... don't miss it.

RCIA REMINDER: All Candidates, Sponsor/Godparents and CORE Team members – our rehearsal for the Vigil is Tuesday, March 30 at 7pm in the church.

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 School News:
During the week of March 15-19, 2010 SES 5th Graders participated in Star

Base Atlantis. This U.S. Navy community outreach program offers real world learning experiences in science, math, and technology engineering. In addition, our students engage in activities that develop their self-esteem, positive goal choices and teamwork.



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please remember in your prayers our brothers & sisters who have been deployed to the Middle East.



Spc Nick Abelardo
Army National Guard

TSgt Frank Keoni Abreu
US Air Force

Ethan Mae Aganon, E2
US Army

Spc Romar Agmata
US Army

Joseph K. Ahsing
Hawaii National Guard

PO1 Marc John Alejo
US Navy Reserve

SSgt. Roke Almeida
US Army

Lt. Col. John E. Amadeo, Jr.
US Army

Sgt. Efren Antonio
Hawaii National Guard

Richard Atmospera
US Army

PFC Rene Baliscao
US Army

Capt Brad Bellis
US Navy

CSMJ James Bickie
US Air Force

SSgt Tevet Bruhn, Jr.
US Air Force

MSgt John Buendia
US Air Force

Sgt Clyde Bueno
Hawaii National Guard

Sgt. Robert Calimlim
US Army

MRC Antonio Castro
US Navy

BGen Joseph J. Chaves
Hawaii National Guard

1Lt Joseph Chaves, Jr.
US Army

Capt Frank Cho
US Army

Sgt Prescott Dela Cruz
US Army

Lorenzo Depaynos, Jr.
US Military Service

SSgt Samuel DeMent
US Army Special Forces

SSgt Darrell DeMotta
US Air Force

Lt. Col. David Doherty
US Army

Howard Egger
Civilian

Sgt. Bernard Espinosa
US Air Force

Sgt Edwin Espinosa
US Air Force

Pelias Espinosa, Jr.
Hawaii National Guard

James Fea'tiame
US Military

CW3 Tomas Flores
US Army

PO1 Arnel Gacad
US Navy

Capt Ron Geronimo
US Army

LCrp Jose Giron
US Marine Corp

Sgt Levingston D. Hodges III
USMC, 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines

Sgt Shawn-Patrick Keola Kalani
Hawaii National Guard

CWO Andrew Keahiolalo
US Army

PO2 Kristopher Keahiolalo
US Navy

Pete Leao
US Military

Tofi & Frank Lopez
US Military

Spc Liza Lehua Lino
US Army

Brian Marcos, E7
US Air Force

Ryan Mina
Hawaii National Guard

SFC Sampson T. O'Toole
US Army Engineers

Bienvenido Jason Pascua III
US Army Reserve

PV2 David Luis R. Quiambao
US Army

PV2 Richie Steven S. Quiambao
US Army

Tsgt. Kristie Revera
US Air Force

Msgt. Gary Rucks
US Air Force

Sgt Philip Santiago
US Army

Lt JG David Silva
US Navy

LTC John A. Smyrski
US Army

Eric Soares
Civilian

Sgt Lance Taufa'asau
Hawaii National Guard

Cdr. Jana Vavasseur
US Navy

Sgt Leonard H. Ventura
National Guard Reserve

Sgt Shane K. Wada
US Army

Jerome LeHiwa Wills
US Army

Sgt Clifton Young
US Army



A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
St. Elizabeth Health Ministry

Olive Oil: What are the health benefits?

Olive oil contains monounsaturated fat, a healthier type of fat that can lower your risk of heart disease by reducing the total and low-density lipoprotein (LDL, or "bad") cholesterol levels in your blood.

In contrast, saturated and trans fats — such as butter, animal fats, tropical oils and partially hydrogenated oils — increase your risk of heart disease by increasing your total and LDL cholesterol levels. All types of olive oil contain monounsaturated fat, but "extra-virgin" or "virgin" olive oils are the least processed forms, so they're the most heart healthy. Those types contain the highest levels of polyphenols, a powerful antioxidant that also can promote heart health.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health>

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 ongoing faith formation, engaging in the ministries of charity, and promoting social justice and respect for life.
