

March 29, 2020
Fifth - Sunday
of Lent

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Lent
We prepare

Parish Calendar

As we are all aware, we are in a unique time in which a pandemic that has had deadly effects needs to be halted.

Therefore, the public celebration of Mass will be canceled in all locations, effective on March 17 at noon through Tuesday, March 31.

Our church is open Monday to Sunday, from 7:30am – 4pm for private prayer.

No group prayer meetings, no gatherings etc. in the church and the hall, due to “social distancing” being enforced.

Communal Penance Services are canceled.

Individual Confessions is available by appointment via email, Parish website, Parish Facebook page through messenger, or call the office to schedule.

Father Diego will offer private Masses for the spiritual welfare of the people and specially to offer the Mass “pro populo” (for the people of the parish) every Sunday.

If you want to offer Mass Intentions, you can do so by calling the office, email, parish website and our Facebook page.

www.saintjohnthebaptisthawaii.org

Facebook Page: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Email: sjbkalihi@gmail.com

Phone: 808-845-0984

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today’s readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much. What’s more, these readings give us wonderful guidance on just how to make this grateful response.

In our first reading, from Ezekiel, the prophet speaks God’s own words to us. “I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.” Our God wants only goodness for us. He wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. And He has promised He will do it. But only if we allow Him. He will not force His way into our lives. That would not be loving, and God is Love itself. We must invite Him in. We must make room for Him by making Him THE priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him.

How can we please God by putting Him first? Our second reading, from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, gives us good instruction. “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.” To be “in the flesh” means that we allow our own selves — our whims, our pleasure, our comfort-seeking — to determine our daily decisions. To be “in the flesh” is to spend our time, talent and material gifts primarily on ourselves. When we are in the flesh, we leave no room for the Spirit of God to fill our thoughts, our hearts and our souls.

The disciplines of Lent and the disciplines of a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to “the flesh.” The sacrifices we make in a particular way during this holy season, and every day when we truly embrace a stewardship way of life, are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary — they are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God. In fact, the more we allow God to take over every aspect of our lives, the freer and more joyful we become.

And our loving God is always ready to renew His Spirit within us whenever we find ourselves led astray by the temptation to selfishness. Today’s Gospel passage from John recounts Jesus’ raising of His friend, Lazarus, from the dead. In Jesus’ poignant reaction to the death of Lazarus and the grief of his sisters, we see once again how closely our God identifies with us and all of our sufferings and burdens. His tenderness and compassion teach us that we can safely surrender our lives to Him knowing that He will care for us. His raising of Lazarus from the dead demonstrates His power over all things, even death itself, reminding us that it would be foolish not to surrender to such an awesome God!

As we journey ever closer to the powerful days of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God.

Stewardship Collection

Total Weekly Collection	\$475.00
Other Offerings/Income (Candle, Mass Offerings, Funerals Marriages, Baptisms, Unscheduled Masses & Donations)	\$1, 875.27
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$2, 350.27
Weekly Offering needed for Operations	\$6,743.00*
Amount Over or Short	-\$4, 392.73
*Unplanned expenses in our budget for This Year (Increase)	\$21,898.00
Parish Assessment and Property & Liability Insurance	

During this time of crisis. If you want to support our church through your offerings/envelopes. You can mail out your envelopes to our church office. Thank you!

Rev. Diego Restrepo Serna
Parish Administrator

Peter Soumwei
Deacon

Ricardo Burgos
Deacon

Bertha Guerrero
Secretary & Business Manager

Carol Chong
School Principal

Sr. Esther Pagdato, O.P
Sisters Convent & Superior

Renier Torres
Pastoral Council Chair

Ping Blas
Finance Council Chair

Danielle Burgos
Religious Education Director

Mass Intentions

Repose of the souls:

(+)Paulino & Annabelle Castillo

Healing;

- Max Guerra Reyes

Thanksgiving;

- Leota family

Blessings for;

- Fr. Ioane. Anitele'a

As of now, the Food Pantry will be closed until further notice. In the future, for those who are interested in receiving food bank, you can pick up a form at the office.

No Church Cleaning until further notice. Thank you!

Our Stewardship Prayer

Generous and Loving Creator, you have called us to Malama i ka Makana (Cherish the Gift).

As disciples of your Son, we ask that your Spirit open our minds and hearts to more deeply appreciate your countless blessings. Increase your transforming spirit within us, so as to nurture our call to stewardship as a way of life marked always by faith-filled prayer, service to others and generous giving. With the kokua of St. Marianne and St. Damien, teach us to be good stewards so we may return a hundred-fold the makana entrusted to us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH MINISTRIES

Building & Maintenance
Baptism Preparation
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Marriage Preparation
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors
Altar Server
Altar Cleaners
Ushers/Hospitality
Social/Outreach
Neo-Catechumenal Way
Divine Mercy
Music Ministries
Knights of Columbus
Youth Ministry
Gimong ti Novena
Ethnic Ministries (Hispanic, Samoan, Ilocano, Chuukese)

Bishop Douglas J. Lucio has written a special novena prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. The text of the nine-day prayer is below.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



Other Masses, Adorations & Devotions

First Friday @ 7:45am-9:00am -Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
First Friday @ 6:00pm- Ilocano Mass
First Saturday @ 8:00am- Holy Rosary - Dominican Lay Associates
First Sunday @ 5:00pm- Chuukese Mass
First Sunday @ 10am Samoan Mass