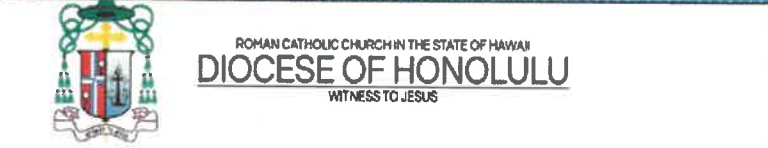


Debt Reduction Fund	
Mortgage payment due March 1st, 2021	\$ 1,753.77
Jan. carry-over & Feb. collections	\$ (296.69)
Balance	\$ 1,457.08
Balloon payment due January 31, 2022:	
Real Property tax assessment	\$ 1,200.00
Collections:	\$ (25.00)
Donation:	\$ (2,725.00)
Fundraising:	\$ (40.00)
Balance	\$ 13,410.00



February 1, 2021
Dear People of God of the Diocese of Honolulu,
Peace be with you!

As we go through the pandemic, we are enjoying the lifting of some restrictions, even as we still need to observe others for the safety and health of our community. I had extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through February 16, 2021. I wanted to reinstate the obligation beginning with Lent, but since we still need to maintain social distancing in our churches, I am hereby extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Mass through noon on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021, which marks the end of Lent. However, this time I am strongly urging that all who take the dispensation engage in some other form of prayer or worship as suggested below. While none of these can be the equivalent of attending Sunday Mass, they will serve to keep us connected to worship, especially during the penitential season of Lent.

- As I said in my last communication regarding the issue of Mass attendance, I urge all who are able to attend Sunday Mass to do so. There is nothing that substitutes completely for our weekly encounter with the risen Lord Jesus in the Eucharist. Nevertheless, if you cannot attend Sunday Mass, you are strongly encouraged to do one or more of the following:
- Participate prayerfully in a live-streamed or televised Sunday Mass AND spend at least 15 minutes in meditation on the Scriptures, preferably those proclaimed at Mass. (These can be found at www.nacch.org/readings)
 - Attend, in person, a weekday Mass AND spend at least 15 minutes on Sunday reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures.
 - Spend at least 30 minutes on Sunday prayerfully reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures.
 - Pray at least two rosaries on Sunday, meditating on the Glorious Mysteries and one other set of Mysteries you choose (i.e. Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous).

Note that anyone who is sick should not attend Mass and is not obliged to do so. The above alternative spiritual exercises are strongly urged for those who are physically able to fulfill them.

As we prepare for Lent, I also urge you to celebrate the sacrament of Penance. Consult with your parish for opportunities for communal Penance services or individual confessions. The gift of the Lord's mercy and healing is readily available to us in this beautiful sacrament. May you have a holy and renewing Lent as you prepare for the great celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of the Lord!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Larry Silva

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Inserted in today's bulletin is LENT: IT'S MEANING. ALSO THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS LENTEN SEASON AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM. Please take some time to read some of the changes that will take place during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FEBRUARY READINGS, MEETINGS & EVENTS	
◇ February 13: Saturday	Vigil Mass Readings: Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1 Mk 1: 40-45 8:30 a.m. ~ Finance Council Meeting 3:30 ~ 4:00 p.m. ~ Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:00 p.m. ~ Vigil Mass @ St. Rita Church 2nd Collection ~ Augustine Educational Foundation
◇ February 14: Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Readings: Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1 Mk 1: 40-45 8:30 a.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church 2nd Collection ~ Augustine Educational Foundation
◇ February 15: Monday	Weekday Readings: Gn 4: 1-15, 25 Mk 8: 11-13 NO MORNING MASS
◇ February 16: Tuesday	Weekday Readings: Gn 6: 5-8, 7: 1-5, 10 Mk 8: 14-21 7:00 a.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church
◇ February 17: Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY Readings: Jl 2: 12-18 2 Cor 5: 20-6: 2 Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18 7:00 a.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church 6:00 p.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church
◇ February 18: Thursday	Thursday after Ash Wednesday Readings: Dt 30: 15-20 Lk 9: 22-25 7:00 a.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church
◇ February 19: Friday	Friday after Ash Wednesday Readings: Is 58: 1-9a Mt 9: 14-15 7:00 a.m. ~ Mass @ St. Rita Church 5:30 p.m. ~ Divine Mercy Prayer 6:00 p.m. ~ Stations of the Cross
◇ February 20: Saturday	Vigil Mass Readings: Gn 9: 8-15 1 Pt 3: 18-22 Mk 1: 12-15 3:30 ~ 4:00 p.m. ~ Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:00 p.m. ~ Vigil Mass @ St. Rita Church 2nd Collection ~ St. Rita's Debt Reduction ~ Our Monthly Payment for our Land
◇ February 21: Sunday	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK BROTHERS & SISTERS

James Gonzalez-Wesley	Lito Urayanza
Rosemary Robbins	Connie Munoz
Debbie Faborito	Vivian Lee
Rosamond Prince	Stanley Lee
Rachel Cravalho	Mark Potter
Robert Robello	Susan Redpath



~OFFICE~
655 Haiku Road Phone: 575-2601
Haiku, HI 96708
St. Rita's Website:
<http://stritchahaiku.com/>
Text App to 88202 to download our Parish App
~STAFF~
Pastor
Rev. Chacko Muthoottil
Secretary: Faythe Urayanza
stritchahaiku@gmail.com
Office Hours:
Mon. Wed & Fri 8:00am~1:00pm
Bookkeeper: Esther Yap
eyap@rccchawaii.org
RE Director: Christine Matheis
815-735-0612
cmatheis2014@gmail.com
~MASS SCHEDULE~
~ST. RITA~
Saturday: 5:00 p.m. ~ Vigil
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
WEEKDAY MASSES:
7:00 a.m. ~ Tuesday ~ Friday
~ST. GABRIEL~
1st & 3rd Sundays: 11:00 a.m.
~RECONCILIATION~
ST. RITA~ Saturday: 3:30 ~ 4:00 p.m.
ST. GABRIEL~ Before Sunday Mass
~ANOINTING OF THE SICK~
Please contact the Office
~BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS~
Please contact the Office
~MINISTRIES~
MINISTRY OF SONG: CHOIR
Wayne Freitas
Tuesday ~ 6:00 p.m.
PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND
COMMUNION TO HOSPITAL

ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

655 HAIKU RD., HAIKU, HAWAII 96708

ST. GABRIEL MISSION

WAILUANUI, KEANAE



February 14, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46
1 Cor 10:31-11:1
Mk 1:40-45

Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Today's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprosy and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of incorporating the marginalized man into society. Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority,

some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less?
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- What might be done to reverse this bias?



KCIK 740 AM or online @
RELEVANTRADIO.COM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Grades 1-12 Religious Education HOME STUDY options are available. Monthly meetings that will focus on the current liturgical season will be scheduled. Please contact Christine, 815-735-0612 or cmatheis2014@gmail.com

THRIFT SHOP
Hours of Operation
Donation Drop Off
Sunday: 9:45 am ~ 12:00 noon
Tuesday: 8:00 am ~ 12:00 noon

St. Rita	INCOME 2/7/2021	St. Gabriel
\$ 1,309.00	Collection	\$ 244.00
\$ 25.00	Debt Reduction/Land	~~~
\$ 45.00	Candles	~~~
\$ 615.45	Thrift Shop	~~~
\$ 225.00	Annual Balloon Payment	~~~
\$ 538.00	Shepherd's Care	\$ 16.00
\$ 50.00	Mass Intentions	\$ 105.00
~~~	Augustine Education Foundation	\$ 20.00
\$ 65.00	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 70.00
\$ 2,872.45	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 455.00

**Ash Wednesday  
Mass  
February 17th  
7:00 a.m.  
&  
6:00 p.m.**

**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**



Divine Mercy Prayer will be at 5:30 pm on Fridays now, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm. We will also be having morning Mass on Mondays starting February 22nd during this Lenten Season.

**A Valentine From God**

For God so loved the world,  
That He gave  
his only  
Begotten  
Son  
That whosoever  
Believeth  
in Him  
Should  
not perish,  
But have  
everlasting life.

Happy Valentines Day!

### PRO LIFE CORNER

"I do not believe the promises of the Declaration of Independence are just for the strong, the independent, the healthy. They are for everyone-including unborn children."  
~ George W. Bush

*My life is in your hands.* Do you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available.

Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number: 888-456-HOPE (4673)  
www.hopeafterabortion.com

**We are having a Pastele Fund-raiser, Saturday, February 27th from 9 am - 12 noon. Drive thru and pick up. 5 Pastele's for \$25.00 Envelopes are available after Mass. We need t-leaves for wrapping, if you have any please see Agnes or Esther after Mass. Mahalo!!**

Today we are faced with many challenges...Loneliness, isolation, anxiety, fear of the pandemic, relationship problems, depression, financial difficulties, doubts about our faith...or maybe you would like to deepen your faith with adult teachings of the church. Fr. Mike Tolentino and the Neocatechumenal Way invite you to a faith formation beginning January 25th, 2021 on Mondays and Thursdays in the St. Joseph gym starting at 7:00 p.m. for eight weeks. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME COME AND LISTEN**

**"BE NOT AFRAID I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS"**

### February Mass Intentions

Chauncey Kimokeo  
+ Fr. Pius  
+ Alvin S. Estrella  
+ Abel & Irene Gouveia  
+ Nathan Perreira  
+ Solomon Kaauamo

Next Sundays Readings:  
*****  
February 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GN 9: 8-15  
PS 25: 4-9  
1 PT 3: 18-22  
MK 1: 12-15

*Lent  
A Time to Renew*

This weeks 2nd Collection will be for the "Augustine Educational Foundation." Thank You!

Next weeks 2nd Collection will be for our monthly payment for our land, "St. Rita's Debt Reduction." Thank You!



**February 13th & 14th**

We kindly ask for you to support the Augustine Educational Foundation's ~ 2nd Collection **Make a Student Smile - Give the Gift of Catholic Education Campaign.** Your gift enables Catholic Education to be affordable for families in Hawaii. Every dollar raised in St. Rita Church, Haiku will go to the families within our parish and vicarite community. Mahalo for your continued support! Donate online, It's Safe & Secure.  
www.AugustineFoundation.org/Donate

**Strengthen Faith, Support Catholic Education, Make a Student Smile. We Have Received Great News!**

Your gift will be **MATCHED** by a generous donor, dollar for dollar from what we collect for our Second Collection ~ Augustine Educational Foundation.

Encourage a student by donating to the 2021 Second Collection, February 13th and 14th. Your generous donations support a quality Catholic education and promotes a successful learning environment. Every school is dedicated to the student experience with a balanced curriculum that integrates faith and culture with life values.

P.S. Mahalo for your support. Your donation of any amount helps us fund scholarships for students in Hawaii Catholic Schools.

*Are you interested in getting your Sacraments?  
A meeting is scheduled after Mass on Sunday, February 28th in the Church. Come and meet Christine!! All Adults who are interested need to be there.*

## Dear Padre,

At Mass on holy days of obligation, there's a fair crowd. But on Ash Wednesday, not a holy day, the place is packed. Your explanation?

Indeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well, but it's "standing room only" on Ash Wednesday. Although not a day of obligation, perhaps it's considered a "holy" day by most Catholics.

There's something elemental about the smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. No matter our walk of life or social status, we want that sooty cross. It's a badge of identification, graphically reminding Catholics that it's "spiritual gut-check" time. It jogs us from our routines, spurring us to the important reality of being who we are supposed to be—fully and totally Christian. It's as if we are saying, "I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I have faults and sins, but I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live, and I'm going to try again."

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—a people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our baptismal commitment to be his people. As we celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

**A WORD FROM Pope Francis**

Contrary to the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited a leper from drawing near, Jesus extends his hand and even touches him... Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because he is in them. Touching the poor can cleanse us from hypocrisy.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 22, 2016

**In the Spirit of Sharing with our Community**

St. Rita Catholic Church  
655 Haiku Rd. Haiku  
808-575-2601

**Our Thrift Shop Will! Also Be Open**

**Sunday, February 21st, 2021**  
*Next Sunday* 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

**OUR FREE CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY IN OUR HALL!**

**BYOB** Bring your own Bag!!

**FREE:** CLOTHING BOOKS SHOES TOYS KITCHEN WARE BEDDING

The Covid-19 protocols will be enforced. You need to wear a face mask OR face shield and observe the 6 feet distancing rules. There will be a limited amount of people in the Hall at one time! Come and Join Us!!