



God of mercy, You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives, embrace the Good News and draw closer to You.

During this season of Lent, help us use this time to fast and pray, be more generous and show others how to live in Christ.

Let us see each day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and gain a deeper appreciation of Your active presence in our hearts and our community of faith.

Give us the grace to see Your face in others, especially the poor and those who suffer.

And through your Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of Your love so that we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout the world.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

*Amen*



### Stations-of-the Cross

Every Friday at 6:00PM During Lent  
Weather permitting, on the lawn  
fronting the New Church.



### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Rizal Pedro Acosta, MS –  
Pastor  
Office Secretary – Rose Dela Cruz

Parish Accounting Manager:  
Michele Lum

Volunteer Accountant:  
Mercedes Casticimo (as needed)

Volunteer Bookkeeper:  
Marina Pascua

Volunteer - PDS  
Laure Dietterle  
Laurel Busse

Religious Education Director:  
Allison Carveiro

Food Pantry:  
Benymar Tapucol

Filipino Catholic Club:  
Lydia Rebugio

Pastoral Council:  
Paul Roberts - Chairperson

Finance Council:  
Jacquelyn Contrades

**Baptism:** Submit application form and required papers to the Parish Office. Baptism class will be scheduled upon receipt of completed applications. Baptism are usually held on Sunday after the 9:30AM Mass.

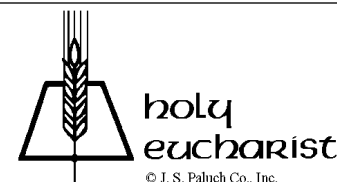
**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** Contact the Office for more information.

**Marriage:** Contact the Parish Office for more information at least six months before wedding.

**RCIA:** Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Contact the Parish Office for scheduling the visit.

**Funerals:** Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

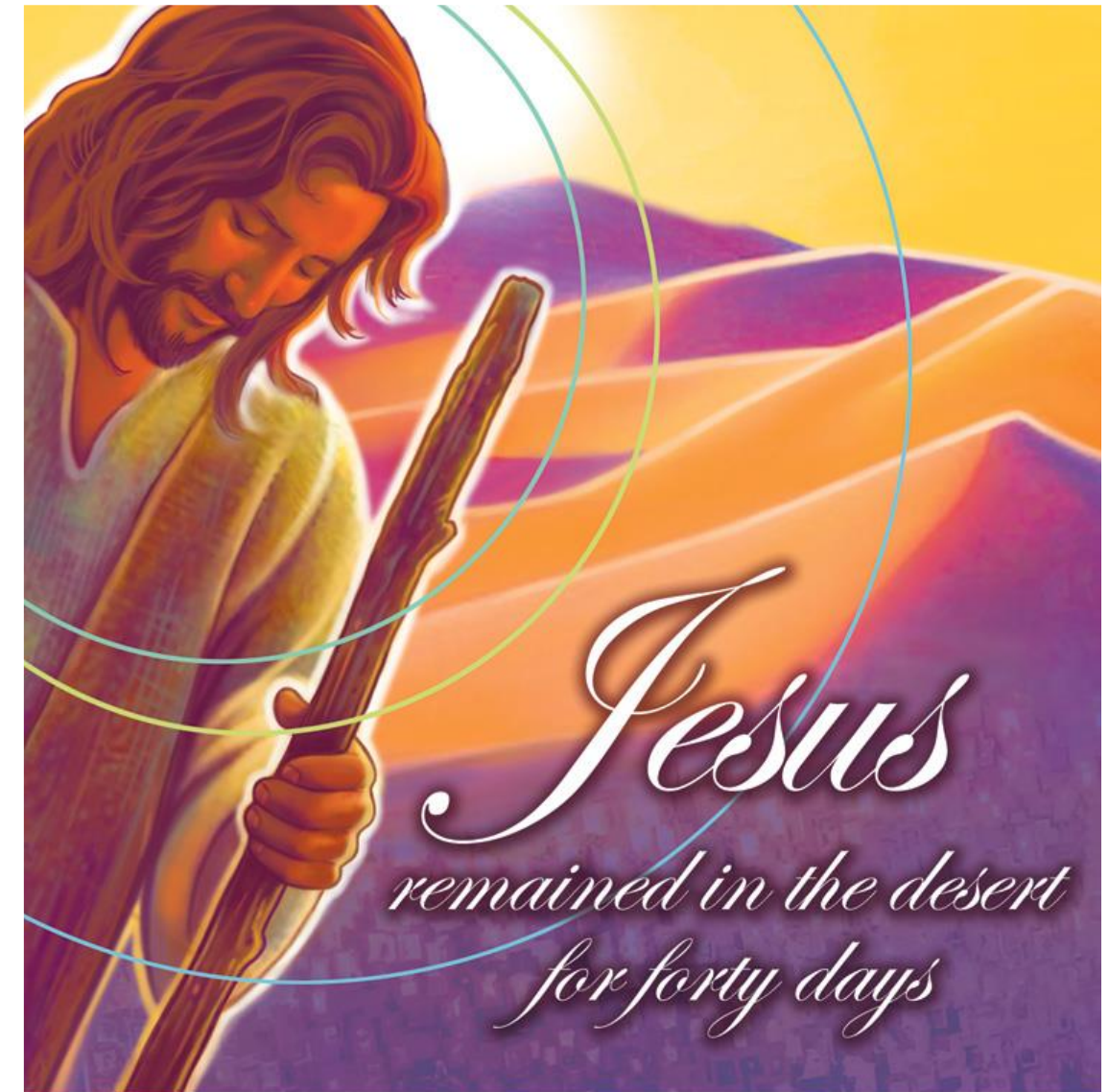


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### ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH

Oldest Catholic Church on Kauai – est. 1841  
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Rectory: (808) 320-8758  
Website: [St-Raphael-kauai.org](http://St-Raphael-kauai.org)  
Email: [straphael@rcchawaii.org](mailto:straphael@rcchawaii.org)



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*First Sunday of Lent*

*February 18, 2024*

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**Monday – Friday:** 7:00 AM (Old Church) **Wednesday:** 7:00 AM (Old Church) followed by Novena

**Saturday:** 5:00 PM (New Church) **Sunday:** 7:00 AM (New Church) 9:30 AM (New Church)

**Reconciliation:** 30 Minutes before Mass on the weekends in the Parish Office

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Call the Parish Office at (808) 742-1955 to schedule an appointment

### Diocese of Honolulu 2024 Lenten Regulations

#### FASTING

\*In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both **Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024)** and **Good Friday (March 29, 2024)**.

\*To **fast** means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on days of fasting.

#### ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT

\*Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

\*To **abstain** means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork, or poultry at least, although eggs and milk products are acceptable. The consumption of fish and shellfish is permitted, though the penitential character of the abstinence should be kept in mind.

#### LENTEN PRACTICES

The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.



## February Birthdays

Russell Garcia 18  
Giselle Gregorius 18  
Nestor Melchor 21  
Aurora Cozby 22  
Chaz Corona 24  
Cynthia Garcia 24  
Kaizen Littman 24  
Gabriel Brillantes 24



*May God richly bless you and grant the wishes of your heart!*

### PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

*If there is one word that stands out in today's readings, it is "covenant." God's faithfulness and goodness serve as examples to us of how to live. Genesis tells the story of Noah and of God's covenant not only with all people, but with all of nature. Never will the cleansing waters of the flood bring their destructive power to all the earth again. The sign, the reminder to both God and nature, is the rainbow in the heavens.*

*The psalm reminds us of this compassion of God, and begs God to remember us, not because of our goodness, but because of God's goodness and fidelity to the promise. God shows us how to be good, not by decree, but by example.*

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### A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. Stewards are called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?



St. Raphael's Church Online giving is tested and secured and a convenient way to give your weekly offerings or donations anytime from the comfort of your own home, or from any place with internet access. For more information, please visit our website at: [st-raphael-kauai.org](http://st-raphael-kauai.org)



### Stewards of Treasure Weekly Collections , February 11, 2024

<b>Collection</b>	\$ 5,248.50
<b>Votive Candles</b>	\$ 309.00
<b>Mass Intentions</b>	\$ 155.00
<b>Gift Shop</b>	\$ 125.00
<b>Food Pantry</b>	\$ 150.00
<b>Filipino Catholic Club Membership Dues</b>	\$ 24.00
<b>Laulima Campaign</b>	\$ 500.00
<b>Second Collection for Augustine Educational Foundation</b>	\$ 838.00
<b>Online Church Offering</b>	\$ 347.70
<b>Online Other Donations</b>	\$ 103.00

*MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT*



**\*The Chrism Mass will be held on March 5 at 6 PM in the New Church hosted by St. Raphael. Presider is the Most Reverend Bishop Larry Silva.**

**\*The Finance Council will be having a meeting on Sunday, February 25 after the 9:30 AM mass in the Parish Office.**

**\*St. Raphael Filipino Catholic Club will meet on Sunday, February 25 at 10:45 AM in the Parish Hall.**

**\*March schedule for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is available for pickup on the bulletin board outside the New Church.**

**\*Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day Holiday.**

**\*Our Gift Shop is open after mass on weekends. Weekday schedule is 8 am to 2 pm. Thank you.**

#### PRAYER FOR THE SICK

May you be wrapped up in God's love, found deep in His everlasting wings, carried, and kept safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breathe across your being now. Amen



**MAHALO for celebrating with us this weekend. You may be visiting, new to our community, or live on this beautiful Island. We hope you enjoyed your time at St. Raphael Church and considered St. Raphael Church your "home" away from home.**

### TODAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah, giving a rainbow as its sign.

#### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

A prayer praising God for his covenant.

#### Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

In our baptism, we are saved through Christ's death and Resurrection.

#### Gospel Reading

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

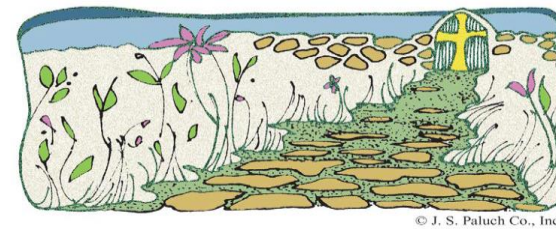
In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

### Lenten Prayer

***Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you sent your only Son to give your people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Deliver us from the darkness that blinds us; free us from the sins that bind us; fill us with the joy of your forgiveness through the Death and Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.***



**Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths.**

— Psalm 25:4