



St Benedict Parish St. John the Baptist Church



February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7; PS 51:3-6,12-13,17; ROM 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; MT 4:1-11 S

GOOD NEWS

ANN M. GARRIDO

The prophets before Jesus had long spoken of God’s dreams for our world. In seasons of darkness and despair, they would offer snapshots of hope for what it would be like in the “kingdom of God.” Those who were blind would see. Those unable to walk would dance. Those imprisoned would be free. And those who had died would be raised to life again. In today’s gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets’ hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” In other words, Martha believes in the coming “kingdom of God.” But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: “I am the resurrection and the life.” That is, “I am the kingdom of God.” Origen of Alexandria—a third-century theologian— spoke of Jesus as the *autobasileia*. The term comes from two Greek words: *auto*, meaning “self,” and *basileia*, meaning “kingdom.” It was his way of expressing that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that the prophets had preached. He was all of God’s dreams for us manifest, not as had been anticipated in a future time, but in a living person. We still wait for God’s dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is “the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.” ● Printed with permission by Liguori Press.

Reflect: What grace do I pray for this Lent-for myself and for someone who is struggling?

***ST. BENEDICT “The Painted Church” 84-5140 Painted Church Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704 Phone 808-328-2227
Fax: 808-328-8482**

Mass times: ST. BENEDICT Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m.

***ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 81-6410A Hawaii Belt Rd. Kealakekua
Saturday 6:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

Confession: Sat. 9-11

St. Benedict Church

email: st.benedict@rcchawaii.org

NEW ON LINE GIVING HUB



<https://www.osvhub.com/thepaintedchurchhawaii/giving/funds>

OR [Thepaintedchurchhawaii.org](https://www.thepaintedchurchhawaii.org) to find the **new QR code** to click or use your camera and touch the address on the phone screen to go to the site for Online Giving. **February 28, 2026 will end our Pay-Pal payment method.**

Please call **816-520-1350** with questions. You can check it out by scanning with your phone camera, touch the website address

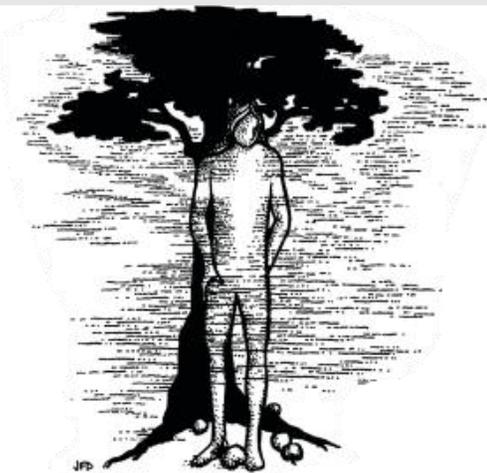
Accepting Limitations

As we move into this Lenten season of penitence, the readings for this first Sunday revolve around Matthew 4:1-11 • The temptation of Jesus Q the themes of temptation and sin. The first reading recounts the story of the “Fall” of the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden. The second reading reflects back on that story. The Gospel reading, on the other hand, gives a glimpse of how we might be tempted yet remain faithful to God as Jesus was. It is as if Jesus’ obedience brings the first story full circle, giving us hope that we aren’t all doomed to give in to temptations to do what is wrong. Between the first reading from Genesis when Adam and Eve eat the fruit they aren’t supposed to eat, and the Gospel reading of Jesus resisting extreme temptations in his hunger and exhaustion, we are given two examples of how to deal with our own temptations. Adam and Eve were seemingly set up for an easy, blissful life with all they needed and more at their disposal. Yet the slightest suggestion from the serpent that they shouldn’t be limited in what they had or in their power and knowledge was all it took for them to decide they knew better than God. How often we give in so easily when presented with options for more things even though we already have enough! On the other hand, Jesus was in extreme physical need when he resisted the devil’s temptations to feed himself and claim power. He had more reasons to give in, and most of us would be understanding if he did. But rather than grasp at physical comfort, reassurance, and strength, he chose to remain vulnerable and humble, even frail. When God became human in Jesus, he chose to be fully human and endure human limitations, from his 40 days in the desert all the way through to his agonizing death. What is the lesson here then? Perhaps it is about not grasping for more things, more power, or more security, but trusting we will be cared for, even in our vulnerabilities and need. Jesus accepted and lived with his human limitations. Certainly, it’s uncomfortable and oftentimes outright painful to have physical, emotional, and intellectual limits as we live out our lives in imperfect bodies in an imperfect world. God isn’t a masochist who wants us to be in pain and need, any more than God wanted that for Jesus, but Jesus shows us there is dignity in being limited, and there is strength in needing God.

Questions of the Week

1. In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to being tempted into choosing something that is not good for you? **2.** How might you call upon the support of God and others to resist temptations this Lent?

Word of the Week • Copyright © Ann Naffziger. Published by the Pastoral



Dear Padre,

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me. It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, "requirement" does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A "requirement" might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not. The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR/DearPadre.org

FOR STRENGTH,
PEACE AND HEALING,
MERCIFUL GOD,
HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

- *Linda Alcain
- *Terrance Terada
- *Hano Grace
- *Craig Camello
- *Pam Shultise
- *Merla Kline
- *Paul Ruskey
- *Carla Vonderahe
- *Mahina Kaupiko
- *John Sanchis
- *Kamala Galletes
- *Hank Silva
- *Miriam Janczak
- *Joevelyn Delas Reyes
- *Gwen Menchaca
- *Deb Reed
- *Gloria Grapa
- *William Anderson
- *Elizabeth Aw
- *Johnny Koene
- * Friends

MONDAY February 23
Lenten Weekday Lv 19:1–
2, 11–18 Mt 25:31–46

TUESDAY February 24
Lenten Weekday Is 55:10–
11 Mt 6:7–15

WEDNESDAY February 25
Lenten Weekday Jon 3:1–
10 Lk 11:29–32

THURSDAY February 26
Lenten Weekday Est C:12,
14–16, 23–25 Mt 7:7–12

FRIDAY February 27
Lenten Weekday Ez
18:21–28 Mt 5:20–26

SATURDAY February 28
Lenten Weekday Dt
26:16–19 Mt 5:43–48

SUNDAY March 1 Second
Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:1–4a 2 Tm 1:8b–10
Mt 17:1–9

IMPORTANT: Volunteer Chaplains Needed !

St. Benedict’s, St. John the Baptist and St. Michael’s have all participated in taking communion to Catholic patients at Kona Community Hospital for many years! The hospital calls it their Hospital Chaplain Program. We are currently in need of several volunteers to visit our Catholic patients and offer them communion and/or prayer once or twice a month. The nice part of this ministry is that you pick the date(s) you are available and go anytime during visiting hours. To volunteer, your parish must qualify you as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion. Kona Hospital would ask that you complete their volunteer paperwork and orientation. Volunteers go at times that are convenient for them, and the visits to the hospital generally require an hour or less of your time. If you are able to volunteer, **please call Frances Vasquez at 505-328-1727. Thank you!**

Mass intentions

**FEBRUARY 21-FEBRUARY 22,
2026**

SATURDAY

4:00 PM Missa Pro Populo
6:00 PM +Concepcion Ruiz
Coronado

SUNDAY

8:00 Valdivinos Family, Thanks-
giving for Blessings received

10:00 +Bill Monahan

**WEEKDAYS February 24-27,
Tues. Remigio Belleza, Healing**

**Wed. Emma Arands Special
Intention**

**Thurs. Health & recovery of John
G. Powers**

Friday +Marilyn McClory

**Stewardship of Treasure
Mahalo for your generosity!**

Feb 14-15, 2026

Collection	\$ 2503.00
Augustine Ed.	53.00
Maintenance	380.00
Food Pantry	166.00
Total	\$ 3159.00

Attendance

Feb.14-15, 2026

St. Benedict	78	5
St. John	108	19
TOTAL	186	24

**Website for QR Code for
On-Line Giving**

thepaintedchurchhawaii.org

WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work! MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Treasure Hunt



[Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 2:7-9 and 3:1-7, & Romans 5:12-19]

1. **Why** did the devil **assume** that Jesus was vulnerable to temptation?
2. **What** was Jesus' response to the devil's **first temptation**?
3. To **what temptation** was Jesus' response: "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test"?
4. In the **third temptation**, the devil was **not** able to get Jesus to _____ before him.
5. What happened **after** the devil departed?
6. In today's *First Reading*, what **argument** did the serpent's make to persuade Eve to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
7. In the *Second Reading*, St. Paul tells the Romans that sin and death came to the world as a result of the actions of one man. Who was that man?

Answers to Last Week's Treasure Hunt

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

-1- abolish, fulfill; -2- righteousness; -3- "... I say to you"; -4- yes, yes, no, no; -5- fire and water, life and death, good and evil"; -6- that they are passing away.

† **Stations of the Cross - St. Benedict Every Friday of Lent, This Friday at 12 Noon.** Stations of the Cross **Outside, Good Friday 3 PM** or if it rains, inside the church. Any groups or families are welcome to come any day between **6AM & 6PM** when the **St. Benedict gate will be open.** **Penance Svc. March 23, 6 PM St. John**

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us into 40 days of renewal and refocusing. Lent is not only about giving something up, but about making room for God. For Christian stewards, this season invites us to reflect on how we are using the time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, Adam and Eve turn their attention away from God and allow doubt to take root. Trust is replaced by self-reliance, and the harmony of the Garden is broken. These same temptations remain familiar when our days become crowded with distractions that pull us away from God.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different path. In the desert, He gives time to prayer and fasting, remains grounded in Scripture, and places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful.

Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

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"The woman answered the serpent: 'God said, You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'"

Sheepish Question:

But seriously, about temptation: How am I like Adam or Eve?