

# Dear Padre,

***I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?***

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



ALFONSO / CATHOPIC

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

**Monday**  
**MARCH 16**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 65:17–21  
Jn 4:43–54

**Tuesday**  
**MARCH 17**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Ez 47:1–9, 12  
Jn 5:1–16

**Wednesday**  
**MARCH 18**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 49:8–15  
Jn 5:17–30

**Thursday**  
**MARCH 19**

*St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
2 Sm 7:4–5a,  
12–14a, 16

**Sunday**  
**MARCH 22**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Ez 37:12–14  
Rom 8:8–11

**Friday**  
**MARCH 20**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Wis 2:1a, 12–22  
Jn 7:1–2, 10,  
25–30

**Saturday**  
**MARCH 21**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 11:18–20  
Jn 7:40–53

**Sunday**  
**MARCH 22**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Ez 37:12–14  
Rom 8:8–11

**Sunday**  
**MARCH 22**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Ez 37:12–14  
Rom 8:8–11  
Jn 11:1–45 or  
11:3–7, 17, 20–27,  
33b–45



MARCO IACOBILLO EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.***

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 15, 2026

**Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a / Ephesians 5:8–14 /

John 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B–9

## Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## Reflect

***This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.***



Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea

# St. Theresa Parish

Established January 21, 1941  
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



**Vision / Mission Statement**  
To make St. Theresa Parish  
a dynamic Christian community  
of worship & service



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEK**  
will benefit **Catholic Relief Services.**  
  
Rice Bowls will be collected on Holy Thursday,  
Apr 2, at the 6pm Mass.

Due to the School Carnival, the 5pm Vigil  
Mass on April 18 will be celebrated at Sacred  
Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Waimea.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**


**Sunday Offerings**  
Kekaha \$ 2,311.25  
Waimea 925.00

**Other Donations**

Candles	\$ 46
Cross We Share	85
Donations	1,020
Filipino Catholic Club	100
Flowers	70
Maintenance Fund	50
Mass Intentions	229

*Mahalo for being as generous  
as your means allow.  
✠ God bless you! ✠*

**Parish Directory**

**Clergy** 

Reverend Edwin D. Conselva, MS, Pastor 808-337-1784  
Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018  
Deacon Jim Bostick, retired 808-337-1124

**Parish Office**

Mass Intentions / Hospital or Homebound  
Communion / Weddings / Marriage  
Convalidations / Baptisms / Funerals  
Dee Young, Parish Secretary 808-337-1548  
M-F, 8am-noon sttheresac@yahoo.com

PPC Raynette Newall  
Worship / HI Catholic Herald parish articles  
Chantal Duarte 808-634-0403

Bulletin / Website Betsy Jones 907-347-6618

**Evangelization Commission**  
Director of Religious Education  
Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P. 808-337-1548

OCIA Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018

Youth Coordinators  
Blu & Rena Ulanday 808-635-2701

**Social Services Commission**  
Respect Life call parish office 808-337-1548  
Agency on Elderly Affairs 808-241-4470

**St. Theresa School**  
Wendy Souza, Principal  
808-337-1351 sttheresakauai.com  
Office hours M-F, 7:30am-3pm  
HCH school articles

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
March 15, 2026

**Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.**  
*1 Samuel 16:7*

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction.

But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God.

Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

*~Archdiocese of St. Louis*

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**St. Theresa Church**  
8343 Kaunualii Hwy  
Kekaha HI 96752

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass  
Sun 7:45am Rosary  
8:30am Mass  
Mon-Thu 6:30am Mass  
Fri 8:10am School Mass  
Weekday Masses subject to change.

Wed 6pm Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima & Novena to OLPH

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Confessions 4:30pm Saturday (or call the parish office for an appointment)

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**Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church**  
9496 Kaunualii Hwy  
Waimea HI 96796

Sun 7am Mass

First Saturday Devotion to the BVM 8-9am

**Fridays during Lent** are obligatory days of abstinence from meat (age 14 onwards).  
**Good Friday** is an obligatory day of fasting (age 18 until 59) and abstinence.  
When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.



**2026 LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES**  
6 p.m.

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March 16 (Mon.)	St. Raphael Church	Koloa
March 17 (Tues.)	St. Theresa Church	Kekaha
March 18 (Wed.)	Holy Cross Church	Kalaheo
March 23 (Mon.)	St. Catherine Church	Kapaa
March 24 (Tues.)	Immaculate Conception Church	Lihue



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Mon, Mar 16 from 6 to 8pm **Eternal Rest** session 3 – STC  
**Mar 16 – 20 Spring Break**  
Fri, Mar 20 at 6pm **Stations of the Cross** – STC