



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“Reconnecting with God”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Ash Wednesday was the day to start our Lenten Season. Ashes were imprinted on our foreheads with the sign of the cross. It is the mark of our entry into the season and a symbol of Christ’s victory over sin and death. As a symbol of victory, it ushers us into the spirit of conversion to respond to Jesus’ words, “repent and believe in the Gospel.”

During these forty days of Lent, we journey with the Lord and reflect on His words and ways to bring about true conversion. To repent is to realize, first and foremost, that we have failed in many ways as children of God. We start asking ourselves how faithful we have been to His commands. How faithful are we in observing God’s Commandments and adhering to the precepts or teachings of our Catholic Faith? Having an honest realization of our very self, we may have fallen short in being faithful to Him, to our family, and even in living out our Christian ways. If so, we need to repent. Repentance takes a lot of humility and admittance of wrongdoing. If we can do that, it will lead us to a renewal of life to become more like Christ, a faithful Son of the Heavenly Father.

This season is a season of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving or doing Acts of Charity. Through these disciplines of Lent, we focus our hearts and minds on restoring our broken relationship with God because of sin. We intend to make sacrifices for the sake of our brothers and sisters who are poor and needy. Whenever the Lenten Season comes, one of my professors’ words when I was in Theology Formation continues to resound even to this day, ***“we fast so that others may feast.”*** Instead of buying luxurious things and food, we sacrifice our longings and desires and give them to people experiencing poverty who don’t have anything on their plates or clothes to wear or have simple amenities in life.

Let it be that now is the time of fulfillment that we heed Jesus’ invitation to follow Him and live like His disciples today. May we use these Lenten days to renew our lives with God, with one another, and with ourselves. Let us repent from our sinful ways and start believing and living the Gospel of Christ. In doing this, we reconnect our lives with renewed Faith, Hope, and, most of all, Love Him.

May I also invite you to take time to be informed of our Cathedral Basilica Schedule for our liturgical celebrations? You can access all the information through our parish website and other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You can also download the free app called the myParish app on your mobile phone. We will do our part in updating the information as they come along.

Let us journey together these days of Lent towards the great celebration of Easter!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual