

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION



A MELODIOUS FORM OF STEWARDSHIP:

Jordan Barcenilla Shares Musical Talents with Parish

With his father playing both the ukulele and the piano and his mother playing the flute, music has always been part of young parishioner Jordan Barcenilla's life. Perhaps this is why he has had such an early aptitude for it, playing the piano since age 7 and the violin since he was 9.

"I guess you could say that it's in my blood," Jordan says. "Music just relaxes me."

Jordan explains that, for him, music is much more than a mere hobby or extracurricular activity — it's also a highly spiritual experience, making him feel much closer to God. That's why he enjoys playing the violin at weekend liturgies so much, using his God-given talents for the sacrifice of the Mass.

"I really love playing the violin," Jordan says. "And playing for Mass just makes me feel much closer to God. It makes me feel more connected to the Mass."

The 12-year-old began playing the violin at Mass a few years ago, when the Barcenilla family was attending another Catholic Church. So when the family moved here to Annunciation Parish, it just "seemed natural" for Jordan to continue serving in this way.

"They asked me if I could play here and I was more than happy to," Jordan says. "So, now I play

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Parishioner Jordan Barcenilla, using his musical talents for the sacrifice of the Mass.



THE CHALLENGE OF *Discipleship*

God calls us to give Him everything – our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. This is the challenge of discipleship – a lifelong process of more fully placing our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The reason that God can ask such complete service from us is that He made us. Everything we have belongs to Him! This includes our intelligence, our physical ability, our artistic talent, our family, our finances, our government – anything we may typically think of as “ours.”

It takes courage to recognize that we are not the masters of our possessions and ourselves. Furthermore, as Christians, we believe that because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to give Him thanks. We express our thanks by using our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. This is the basis for our understanding of stewardship.

We refer to “time,” “talent,” and “treasure” in order to differentiate between the various parts of our life that belong to God. “Time” is the duration of life that God has given us. “Talent” includes the special gifts or strengths God has nurtured in us. “Treasure” is what we have earned through our time and talent.

Even though we identify these three aspects of stewardship, they are still part of the same Gospel-based concept. And even when we focus separately

on these parts, it should not signal that one is more important than the other. Instead, focusing on each aspect one at a time helps us to better concentrate on that area in our lives.

Stewardship is, after all, an attitude. If our goal is to become better stewards, we must have a reason in our minds to do so. Here are the basics of a stewardship attitude:

“God made everything!”

A wholehearted trust that God made all things is essential to understanding stewardship. Recognizing God as the Creator is one of the most basic, profound beliefs of Christianity.

“I am truly blessed!”

It takes humility in order to truly acknowledge God’s goodness. Every great triumph and every little pleasure is a blessing from above, and every strong character trait we possess is a gift from God.

“I believe I am to use God’s gifts for His glory!”

What better way to thank God for His goodness than by using our personal gifts to glorify Him? We are not the owners of our time, talent or treasure. But we are caretakers given the responsibility of spreading God’s kingdom on earth.

A Letter from Our Pastor

STEWARDSHIP: *A Positive Way to Live*

Dear Parishioners,

There is something about the month of August that is glorious. Summer is still in full force — and, yet, we can also see the end of this wonderful season drawing closer, with back-to-school and a return to the busyness of life just around the corner.

We are at that point in the year when things are coming to an end and things are beginning all at once. However, isn't that the way it always is? The Russian playwright and short-story writer Anton Chekhov once said, "People don't notice whether it is winter or summer when they are happy." There is certainly truth to that statement. You might say it is a stewardship statement.

I am sure you are wondering how to make the connection between Chekhov's quote and stewardship, but the connection is found quite simply in the word "happy." I once heard someone say in a presentation about stewardship that people who live stewardship as a way of life are almost always happy. There is a reason for that.

Stewardship is a positive way to live. It means feeling grateful and centering your thoughts on gratitude. In other words, your focus is on the good things in life, not the bad. That does not mean you have perfect health or that all is ideal in your family, that you always sleep well at night, or that you enjoy everything that happens to you or



around you.

However, it does mean that when the good happens, you thank God. You recognize that good and are filled with feelings of joy and gratitude. You and I know people like that, don't we? We know people who always seem filled with joy, regardless of what may be happening to them or around them personally. To me, these kinds of people are stewardship people — the kind of people we all need to strive to be.

No doubt, you have heard that living a life of stewardship means living with an "attitude of gratitude." That is not easy, for you or for me. Let us vow to try to be like that nonetheless. As we watch our summer season dwindle away and the busier time of year begins again, let us concentrate on how God has blessed us. If we do that, I truly believe that we can be those people Chekhov described. If we are happy, it will not matter what time of year it is.

I am grateful for you, your support, your prayers, and — most of all — your presence in my life. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Stephen

Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

HUNGER FREE KEIKI

Nourishing Local Children in Need

It's an old T-Shirt, a discarded item that might be torn into rags or thrown away. For the Hunger Free Keiki Ministry, however, that T-Shirt can be repurposed into a tote to carry food to a young member of our community in need.

"Hunger can be especially devastating to children because of its potential for long-term consequences," says Allison Aganus, ministry coordinator. "Our area public schools provide breakfast and lunch during the week for keiki, but what do they do for meals on the weekend?"

In the United States today, nearly 13 million children face hunger, and the mission of the Hunger Free Keiki Ministry is to provide food on weekends and school breaks for homeless, displaced or chronically hungry local school children.

"Studies have found that food insecurity has been associated with health problems for children that may hinder their ability to function normally and participate fully in school and other activities," Allison says.

The ministry spans from Pa'auilo to Waikoloa, and ministry members work together with the public school administration, area case workers and the parish to identify children in need.

"They then reach out to the families and inform them of this ministry, as parents or caregivers are required to sign a participation form," Allison says. "The children's identities remain anonymous to the parish."

After sewing T-shirts into small tote bags, members gather on Thursday evening to pack the bags with snacks and drinks. The totes are delivered to the schools on Fridays during the school year and distributed to the children.

"It is an opportunity for all ages to work together and feel good about providing this service for keiki in



Hunger Free Keiki information at Annunciation's Ministry Fair

the community in need," Allison says. "It teaches our youth appreciation for what they have and compassion for those less fortunate."

The ministry was started by Jane Aganus, Allison's mother, and Lisa Winborne as a ministry for the youth of the parish. Allison became interested in it because she was looking for a way to be more involved while balancing her professional life and family schedule.

"This ministry has helped me to take time out of my busy week to give back to those less fortunate," Allison says. "I

appreciate the blessings God has bestowed on me, and I am empowered to do something meaningful for others and grow my faith daily."

The Hunger Free Keiki Ministry has just completed its third school year. In the first year, they served keiki at Waimea Elementary, and in the second they expanded to include Waimea Middle School, Waikoloa, Honoka'a and Kohala.

"In this our third year, we have added Pa'auilo Elementary and Intermediate, and the Kohala parish now services their own school," Allison says. "It would be nice to grow this ministry to service keiki in need of nourishment not only during the school year, but [also] during the summer breaks."

There are many opportunities for faith community members to share their time, talent, and treasure with this vital ministry. Gently used large or extra-large T-shirts are needed, as are monetary donations for the purchasing of snacks and drinks. Volunteers are also needed to sew, pack and distribute totes.

"We are given the opportunity to sustain a valuable program for our parish and community," Allison says. "For those parishioners wanting to get involved, this is a good starting point, especially for children."

If you would like more information about Hunger Free Keiki, please contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP *at Our June Picnic!*

We thank all who attended our Parish Picnic in June, as well as those who gave of their time and talents to make the event possible!



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT PICNIC IN SEPTEMBER!

You are invited to our next Parish Picnic event on Sept. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Spencer Beach Park. This wonderful opportunity for food, fellowship and plenty of fun is not to be missed!

A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR PRAYER

The Presentation of the Gifts

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,



holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Saturday, 5:00pm Mass - Waimea	\$83,550.78
Sunday, 8:00am Mass - Waimea	\$92,745.80
Sunday, 10:00am Mass - Puako	\$113,679.84
Online Sunday Giving	\$54,754.00
Special Offerings (Maintenance offerings)	\$21,066.40
Holy Days	\$37,656.06
Special Gifts & Bequests	\$189,300.33
Food Pantry Donations & Grants	\$51,916.70
Online Food Pantry Donations	\$7,216.00
Interest Income	\$21,859.43
Candle Offerings	\$9,291.93
Online Evangelization Donations	\$7,878.20
Other Income	\$12,475.95
TOTAL INCOME	\$703,391.42
Second Collections - Money dispersed	\$42,088.93
Expenses	
Priest Expenses (Salary, medical, retirement, rectory food, meals out)	\$47,021.74
Lay Expenses (Wages, medical, EE taxes & insurance)	\$87,665.88
Office Expenses	\$7,799.41
Insurance (Property & Liability)	\$16,965.00
Automobile Expenses	\$7,144.08
Puako Lease	\$13,146.74
Waimea repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$43,668.95
Puako repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$18,241.53
Waimea Utilities (all buildings)	\$14,529.20
Puako Utilities	\$5,738.31
Diocese Assessment	\$52,980.00
Stewardship Expenses	\$37,514.73
Liturgy Expense (incl.candle exp. of \$8,030.51)	\$39,171.93
Equipment & Furniture	\$3,140.12
Appreciation Expenses	\$5,583.46
Other Expenses (Travel & lodging, professional services, website, audits, etc.)	\$59,673.13
Faith Formation (WILAC, Retreat, Convocation, LA Congress, Stewardship Conference, Parish Retreat, Youth Days, RE textbooks)	\$29,519.10
Evangelization (Christmas & Easter books, Newsletter printing & mailing expenses)	\$11,405.85
Community Outreach (incl.pers.care kits)	\$1,173.97
Food Pantry Expense	\$52,674.51
Hunger Free Keiki	\$2,828.73
Parish Tithing (support to other Parishes/relig.org., etc)	\$22,700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$580,286.37
Net Income (Income minus Expenses)	\$123,105.05
(Note: \$106,900 transferred to Repair & Maintenance Savings)	

Saving Balances as of June 30, 2018

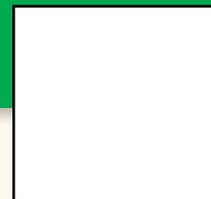
General Savings Balance: \$200,970.14

Repairs & Maintenance Balance: 674,403.44

Building Fund Balance: 0.00

Purchase of Puako Parish Hall / House in June 2018: \$1,049,314.19

(From Building Fund and General Savings Accounts)



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
PO Box 301 Kamuela, HI 96743

Jordan Barcenilla Shares Musical Talents with Parish

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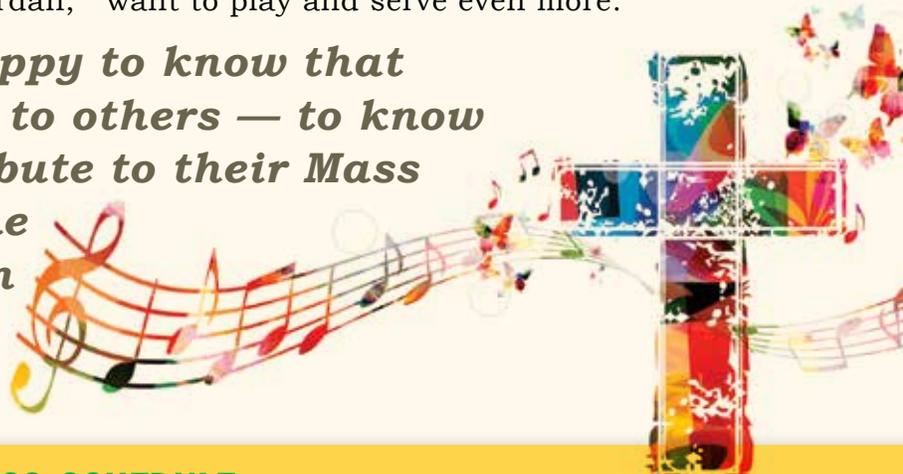
either every Sunday or Saturday, depending on what Mass we make. I really enjoy it and I like that it allows me to use my musical talents for God.”

Over the years, Jordan has been approached by several parishioners, sharing how much they enjoy his playing. They feel uplifted by his music, and are encouraged to see a young person so uniquely living out stewardship. And for Jordan,

that’s just the icing on the cake — knowing that his contribution is helping not only him, but also others in their faith journey.

“It makes me feel really happy to know that my playing means so much to others — to know that my music helps contribute to their Mass experience,” Jordan says. “It just makes me want to play and serve even more.”

“It makes me feel really happy to know that my playing means so much to others — to know that my music helps contribute to their Mass experience. It just makes me want to play and serve even more.” — Jordan Barcenilla



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. (Waimea) | **Sunday:** 8 a.m. (Waimea) & 10 a.m. (Puako) | **Confession:** Saturday 4 p.m. (Waimea)