

# ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION



## MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND BRINGS THE EUCHARIST TO THOSE WAITING FOR JESUS

For decades, our parish has ministered to the sick and homebound by bringing Jesus in the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass. Parishioner Janet Lindsey started volunteering in this capacity in the 1980s when her husband was sick.

“We had Fr. Bob Wynne come to the house,” she says. “Because I lived about five miles away from town, I asked Father one day if he wanted me to take Communion to my husband. It started from there — he trained me to be a Eucharistic Minister, which led me to the Homebound Ministry. I then started taking Communion to individuals living in the area where I lived.”

Prior to the formation of the ministry, priests primarily brought the Eucharist to sick and homebound individuals. Ministry volunteers have since been able to help our priest with this important act of service and compassion.



*Janet Lindsey is thankful for the opportunity to provide the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.*

The ministry, which was officially organized in 2015, is notified of a need to bring the Eucharist when an individual’s family member reaches out.

“I try to find out where the individual lives, and if we have a homebound minister living close in the area,” she says. “Once we visit the individual, we tend to visit regularly until they no longer have that need. If a homebound minister is going on vacation, I would go with the regular minister before they leave for vacation, so that the individual will be comfortable when I go to visit them.”

When an individual has the Eucharist brought to him or her, they are able to receive Jesus and remain a part of the parish community.

“I think it is a wonderful service to provide for the sick and the homebound,” Janet says. “I know there are parishioners out there that cannot drive,

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# THE SPIRITUALITY OF *Stewardship*

## *Following in the Footsteps of the Saints*

The word “stewardship” has long carried with it the association of a financial obligation to the Church. Many believe that stewardship means “giving my time and money to the Church in support of its work, lest it is unable to survive and thrive.”

Indeed, stewardship does often require sacrifice of some kind. But the reality is that stewardship is not simply a guilt-laden obligation, or a “bill.” Nor is stewardship in any way comparable to a tax payment or a charitable networking opportunity at work. Instead, stewardship is a spiritual way of life – an active response to Christ’s invitation to unreservedly “come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

Stewardship is about how we respond to God’s call to discipleship, and there are many different ways we can respond to His call. We can, in turn, live the stewardship way of life simply by making small choices in our daily lives, under normal, everyday circumstances.

Nowhere in Christian history is there a more archetypal example of the variety of ways we can respond to God’s call, than in the lives of the saints. The saints represent a wide cross-section of individuals – old and young, rich and poor – living in different times in human history. Some were called to the religious life, focusing their lives on spirituality and material simplicity through prayer, and helping to form the tenets of faith. Others were individuals focused on charitable outreach, dedicating their whole lives to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Still, others faced great adversity and challenges to their faith, and ultimately suffered death and martyrdom in loyalty to Christ and His Church.

However, the commonality that all of these

individuals share is that they responded to God’s call to discipleship by utilizing the unique talents that God had given them. They did so in ways that were conducive to their individual personalities, and that actively influenced the circumstances presented to them in their respective days and times. Contemplative spirituality, charitable giving, great courage – all of these roads have led to canonization and, ultimately, eternal life with God in His glory. We are all called to do the same.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, “The challenge, then, is to understand our role – our vocation – and to respond generously to this call from God” (43). When thinking about the spirituality of stewardship, take some time to discern your talents, and how you can best respond to God’s call by naturally and effectively using the gifts He has given you. If you are a gregarious person, this might mean reaching out to a co-worker you don’t know very well, thus helping to create a hospitable work environment. If you are an individual who is often “on the go,” perhaps this means praying the Rosary while you are driving from place to place. If you have recently experienced a financial windfall or unexpected increase in income, this might mean sponsoring a little league team in your community by paying for their uniforms.

God has provided many roads to the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the saints, we see examples of the many roads that have been taken. Choosing the one that is best for us means that we can live stewardship as a spiritual practice and a way of life, and that we may answer His call to discipleship.

*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## PRAY, SMILE AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Dear Parishioners,

We often in the Church speak of “new beginnings.” Those two words can have almost endless meanings to us and to how we live our lives. Now that the fall season is in full swing, even though we tend to think more of spring as being a “new beginning,” now is equally so. Think of all the things in our lives and in those of our families that have begun or begun again in the past several weeks.

Two thoughts come to me as I ponder the significance of this time of year. It seems that there is never a time of year when starting over and renewing are not appropriate. We speak often of prayer — Jesus certainly provides for us both an example and encouragement to have rich prayer lives. Now would be a great time for a personal spiritual renewal, both for us individually and for our families, if appropriate.

There are prayer groups and spiritual studies beginning and ongoing at our parish. You might consider getting involved in one. No matter what you choose to do, it is always a good time to extend and formalize your prayer life. Schedule more time for personal prayer.



Even better, if you have a family, try to formalize the prayer lives of your family as a group. That can enrich your life so much, and often it is something which stays with children forever.

My second thought goes back to the theme often stated by Jesus to “love one another.”

Were you aware that studies done by healthcare groups have shown that people who try to be kind to others have less pain, less depression, and less stress in their

lives? That is exactly what the Lord tells us will happen if we do even small things to demonstrate our love for one another.

That can begin with something as simple as a smile. Smiles certainly make others feel better, and they tend to help us, as well. Another way to show kindness is to get involved in ministries and activities. By committing ourselves to ministry and to being volunteers in a variety of ways, we are actually making the idea of being kind routine and normal. Look for ways you can do things that match and fulfill your talents and interests.

Those two thoughts, although seemingly small, can make a huge difference in our lives, not to mention the lives of those around us. First, pray more on a fixed schedule. Second, smile and be kind. It is amazing how those two aspects of our lives can be fulfilled and fulfilling.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr Stephen*

Reverend Stephen Macedo  
Pastor



Carrie Voss

## GENEROSITY OF ASCENSIO

When Ascension parishioner Carrie Voss learned that she was to be one of the recipients of the 2017 Bishop's Island Treasure Award, she was both incredibly humbled and surprised. Immediately, she thought of the many generous people that make the work she does for our mission parish possible. For Carrie, family life and parish life are not solitary endeavors, and she has it exactly right — living out our faith to the fullest both in our homes and in our place of worship takes the support of an entire village!

Carrie and her husband, Devo, left Ohio for Hawaii 25 years ago. For Devo, it was a return to his place of birth after his father's military service had brought his family to the mainland. When he and Carrie married, they decided to make their new home together in his native Hawaii. The couple have three children — Kaila, 24; Tali, 22;

and Tanu, 14 — and Carrie can't imagine raising a family anywhere else.

"We just feel so close-knit with all of the people here," she says. "We say that it takes a village to raise a child, and we really do live by that here. Everybody knows everybody."

Although the family has been at Ascension for a long time, they began to get even more involved in parish life about five years ago. It started with Carrie volunteering to serve as a Religious Education instructor. This past year, she stepped down as lead second-grade teacher but still helps out with the class, and continues to feel blessed to be a part of the children's preparation for the Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation. She has also enjoyed leading the Sacred Gestures that accompany the *Our Father* during Mass.

***"When I became involved in the ministries, it increased my sense of belonging. I think it's just a way to give back to God for all the things I feel that I've been blessed with in my life — a simple way of showing our appreciation for the things He's given us." — Carrie Voss***



# REFLECTS ON THE MISSION PARISHIONERS



*Carrie Voss with her husband, Devo, their daughter, Kaila (left), and grandson, Makai (front), and their son, Tanu (right)*

Two years ago, Carrie was asked to coordinate the church cleaning team, and she is thankful to be a part of this ministry. One of the things she loves best about it is the people!

“We have a great group of ladies,” she says. “It has turned into more than just cleaning — it’s friends and fellowship, and often we go out for coffee or breakfast after. We clean as a group every other Saturday morning, and every Sunday after Mass we have two people that come in as well.”

In addition to the great fellowship Carrie has experienced on the cleaning ministry, she also finds many spiritual rewards in this work.

“It’s God’s house, and cleaning it never seems like it’s a burden at all,” she says. “It’s a pleasure. Caring for God’s house makes you feel good, and you’re doing it with people who feel the same way. Afterward, we join hands and say a prayer. We do have a husband who comes sometimes, but a lot of times it’s just ladies, and we call upon the Blessed Mother to give us her graces.”

Carrie’s husband, Devo, also stays active in parish life. He and Carrie are both Eucharistic

Ministers, and he serves as a Lector. Serving together has been a blessing for the couple’s marriage and has kept the faith at the center of their family life.

“I could not ask for more, it’s amazing,” Carrie says. “And I think it’s good for the kids to see us both serving, too. When my husband lectures, I know that deep down, our son is proud of him. I hope that all of our children will grasp that God really does provide. As a mother, that is what you want for your children — that faith that God will provide for all your needs.”

In passing the faith down to her own children, Carrie is striving to do what her grandmother, Barbara, did for her.

“My grandmother had a big part in shaping my faith,” she says. “She was just full of grace and very motherly. I was with her when she passed away last year, and I felt that when she took her final breath, she died in a state of grace. It was amazing. I want to live like her — she was just such a great role model and a woman full of faith in everything she did.”

Carrie and Devo are both thankful that they found our Ascension Mission as newlyweds. As they’ve established their life together here over the years, they have felt incredibly blessed by this welcoming parish and generous and loving faith family.

“When I became involved in the ministries, it increased my sense of belonging,” Carrie says. “I think it’s just a way to give back to God for all the things I feel that I’ve been blessed with in my life — a simple way of showing our appreciation for the things He’s given us.

“I could never take this all on by myself,” she continues. “There are times I have to work [on church cleaning days], and I feel so blessed that I can send a text message, and everyone responds that they’ll be there and not to worry. I feel like we are all leaders, and as I said, it really takes a village to do it all.”

## OFFERING OUR LOVE AND ADORATION TO JESUS

**E**ucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Churches that have this adoration display the Eucharist in a special holder called a monstrance, and people come to pray and worship Jesus.

Christ's great love for us was shown when He was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. He loves us without limit, and offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Can we not give Jesus a few minutes of love and adoration in return?

### **What is the importance of Eucharistic Adoration?**

Eucharistic Adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.

### **What are the fruits of Eucharistic Adoration?**

People who observe Eucharistic Adoration experience a deeper devotion to Jesus, and this manifests itself in countless ways. The primary fruits are repentance and conversion, which lead to increased charity — that is, the love of Christ alive in His people. The adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist also leads to greater reverence at Mass, a deeper desire for personal holiness, and a stronger sense of union with the parish and the whole Church. Ever since the early centuries of Christianity, the Church has linked Eucharistic Devotion to service to the poor. The practice has, more recently, led to an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

### **What is proper etiquette during Eucharistic Adoration?**

When we are not taking part in vocal prayers and hymns with other adorers, we should be praying silently. Whenever we pass before the place where the Sacred Host is reserved, we should genuflect.

We should observe the modest dress and decorum that are appropriate to very solemn occasions. We should avoid any actions that might disturb or distract others, or otherwise draw attention to ourselves rather than Jesus.

### **How should we pray during Eucharistic Adoration?**

There are many ways to pray. We may meditate in silence by gazing on the Sacred Host. We may silently speak to Jesus from our mind and heart. We may also rely on devotions and prayers from Catholic tradition, such as the reading of Scripture, recitation of the Rosary, or the litanies. When two or more are gathered before the Sacrament, they may pray or sing hymns together.

### **What is the best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration?**

The best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration is by doing it! Make frequent visits to Jesus at the tabernacle. Invite your spouse, your children, your neighbors and co-workers to join you. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. To visit the Blessed Sacrament is ... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord" (1418).



## CEMETERY MAINTENANCE MINISTRY

### *Offers Respect and Love Through Good Works*

For the members of our Cemetery Maintenance Ministry, caring for our parish cemetery on Church Row is a twofold effort — it demonstrates respect and love for our deceased loved ones, and it also provides a place for us to peacefully reflect on the eternal life awaiting us.

Angela Bugado and Christine Arafiles coordinate the work of the three maintenance teams. There are seven members on each team who rotate their assignments over two-week periods. As it works out, each team works about once a month.

“My son, Hunter, usually runs the lawn mower, along with the Arafiles family’s sons, Chavis and Cade. The two husbands on our team, Paul Bugado and Lyle Arafiles, do the weed removal and trim the brush and trees,” Angela says. “Christine and I pick up all the dead flowers and clean and weed on each grave site. It is a small cemetery, but there are more than 100 graves.”

The teams usually work on weekends. However, if it is raining on a scheduled day, the team makes the effort to take care of the work during the next week. The members bring their own tools and trash bags to dispose of the clippings so nothing is left behind.



*There are 123 graves in the Waimea Catholic Cemetery, the formal name for the cemetery where our parish’s deceased are buried.*

Angela and Christine began work in the ministry when Larry Denis asked them if they could organize work teams and make any necessary calls. The parishioner who had been handling the scheduling had moved away.

“What got us involved was we wanted to give back as a family,” Angela says. “The Cemetery Maintenance Ministry is one way my family spends quality time together. It teaches you to give back.”

Taking care of our loved ones’ graves proves to be quite meaningful for the work teams.

“Taking care of them shows love and respect for those who have passed, and their families

— especially for the *kupuna* who can’t do the cleanup for their family members,” Angela says. “They can come and pray in a nice cemetery that is maintained with pride and respect. It’s a reflection of God’s presence in our lives. By participating in this ministry — we’re taught that this isn’t the end, but the beginning of eternal life — by going to the cemetery and putting in the time to clean, it comforts you.”

New members are always welcome to join the ministry.

“If you want to give back to the church or want to do something outdoors, look into joining the Cemetery Maintenance Ministry,” Angela says.

*Anyone who is interested in this ministry may sign on during the Stewardship Renewal, or may contact Angela Bugado at 808-883-0347 or paulb257@hotmail.com.*



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## *Ministry to the Sick* continued from front cover

with no one to take them to church, and there are those who are strictly homebound that are wanting to receive Communion and could not if this service was not available. I have received a lot of positive feedback from those I have served. The feedback I get a lot is, 'I was waiting for you to come.' In reality, they were waiting to receive Jesus!"

The ministry is not just a spiritual benefit for the sick and homebound. Stewardship is a positive way of life, and ministry volunteers are able to grow closer to God through this act of service.

"For me, it is a personal satisfaction that I can be a disciple of the Lord and take Jesus to them," Janet says. "I see the smiles on their faces, and when they tell me they were waiting for Jesus to come, I feel so blessed that I am able to provide this service.

"It makes me more determined to spend more time with the Lord," she adds. "I am thankful not only when I go to church, but thankful every day, and not once a day but many times throughout the day. Every day is a blessed day! Hallelujah!"

*"I think it is a wonderful service to provide for the sick and the homebound. I know there are parishioners out there that cannot drive, with no one to take them to church, and there are those who are strictly homebound that are wanting to receive Communion and could not if this service was not available. I have received a lot of positive feedback from those I have served. The feedback I get a lot is, 'I was waiting or you to come.' In reality, they were waiting to receive Jesus!" — JANET LINDSEY*

*If you would like more information about the Ministry to the Sick and Homebound, or to get involved, please contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.*

## MASS SCHEDULE

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