

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION



HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS

Bringing Parish Community Together in Fellowship

The Mass is one of the most important parts of our faith, and every week we come together as a community to worship together at the celebration of the Eucharist. However, a parish community should extend far beyond the short period of time we spend in Mass each week. At both Annunciation Catholic Church in Waimea and Ascension Mission in Puako, the Hospitality Sunday gatherings bring both parishioners and visitors together in fellowship.

“The first Hospitality Sunday began in Waimea on Nov. 30, 2003, with coffee, juice and donuts on the lanai after the 8 a.m. Mass,” says ministry member Mary Erickson. “Soon after, parishioners in Puako joined in by bringing and serving refreshments after their 10 a.m. Mass in a shaded area outside. Hospitality Sunday now continues on the last Sunday of the month in both Waimea and Puako. Its purpose is to give parishioners a chance to mingle, talk story, get to know each other better, and to meet and welcome our visitors.”

Originally, at both churches, parishioners signed up to bring baked goods, fruit or sandwiches



Parishioners in Puako enjoy Hospitality Sunday.

to the Hospitality table each month. In 2008, due to an increased need for a greater amount of refreshments in Waimea, various parish ministries were asked to come together to bring refreshments for the table. Now, each ministry is assigned a

continued on back cover

THIS MONTH, WE REFLECT ON
Mothers AND Stewardship

We celebrate the month of Mary during May, and during this month, we also celebrate Mother's Day. It seems fitting that we honor our mothers during May, since Mary is given to us by God as the example of true Christian motherhood.

Those who are called to be mothers have been blessed by God and called to fulfill a very important responsibility. Mothers are the vehicle through which God brings new life into this world. When we talk about Christian stewardship, we talk about sacrificially returning to God what we have been given. What can more clearly be a demonstration of complete sacrifice than the relationship between mother and child during the nine months of growth in the womb? During these nine months, the child's life depends on the actions of the mother as her energy and nourishment goes directly to the growing baby.

Although this relationship may change to some extent after the child is born, a mother's sacrifice for her child is far from over after the birth. The role of the mother is critical in the child's development

— both spiritually and physically — throughout life. Mothers provide the comfort, nurture and support necessary for their children to become productive citizens and responsible Christians.

The job of a mother is not an easy one. This is a fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew very well. She worried when her young Son appeared to be lost, only to find Him later in His Father's House. She was probably concerned as Jesus began His public ministry — not knowing what difficulties and rejections He would encounter along the way. And Mary must have experienced great anguish as she watched her Son's body being crucified.

May all mothers look to Mary as their model for motherhood and ask her intercession as they strive to fulfill their God-given role in their children's lives. During the month of May, let us all take some time to express our appreciation to our mothers for allowing us to come into this world, for loving us, and for serving as an example of what it means to be a steward for life.



A Letter from Our Pastor

ARE WE TRULY AN EASTER PEOPLE?

Dear Parishioners,

During a visit to Croatia when he was pope, St. John Paul II proclaimed, “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Are we really the Easter people? I think we should be.

Easter began with the Easter Vigil, but it did not end on Easter. That was the beginning, and now we are in the midst of it. This is still the Easter season, and it continues throughout the month of May until Pentecost in June. What does that mean, however, that “we are the Easter people”? Being an Easter person has much to do with how we view our faith and how we live it out. And as stewardship people, we are Easter people.

Jesus is so alive for us on Easter Sunday morning. He needs to be alive for us and in us every day, and certainly in these days that follow Easter so closely. At the time of His Resurrection, His followers did not whisper “He is risen” — they shouted it and rejoiced! That is how we need to approach our faith as well.

In addition, St. John Paul II was telling us all that we are not just an Easter people, but we are also an Alleluia people. We are called to exemplify Alleluia in everything we do. Think about it. Who



is an Alleluia person? Certainly, Alleluia people are those who seem to just brim over with the Good News — they are constantly reflecting the joy of being a Christian and a Catholic. Yes, it is also possible to be an Alleluia person in quiet and reflective ways, but others should be able to see that God is alive in us in everything we do.

We became Easter people at our Baptisms. We should be Easter people every day and every week and during every season throughout the year. Being an Easter person is acknowledging and embracing our call to discipleship and stewardship.

We should begin and end everything with Alleluia. Alleluia (Hallelujah) means quite simply “Praise to God.” It is not just something we sing, chant or say. It is something we live. By living our lives in praise and service of God we can be and are an Easter people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen

Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

PASTORAL PLAN HELPS US TO GRO

Last July, our parish embarked on a three-year Pastoral Plan that focuses on the four pillars of stewardship, enabling everyone to truly work as the hands and feet of Christ in our parish and community. Developed by the Pastoral Council with input from the parish community, the Pastoral Plan's vision for parishioners is to act as disciples of Jesus, using our time, talent and treasure to serve with justice, love and peace.

"The Pastoral Council worked for two years on



it — it was like giving birth," says Fr. Stephen. "As we are a stewardship parish, we are focusing on the four pillars of hospitality, prayer, formation and service."

By continuing to develop in hospitality, Annunciation and Ascension Mission will be better equipped to share the love of Christ with current parishioners, as well as visitors and newcomers. Action items envisioned in the Pastoral Plan include "welcoming the stranger" by reaching out to island tourists, and training all liturgical ministers to greet anyone who enters the worship space and to offer assistance to anyone who may be in need.

"Hospitality is the foundation of all we do as Catholic Christians," Fr. Stephen says. "It is scriptural — since it is the way of Jesus, it is also to be our way. When we strengthen our hospitality, we let everyone know they are welcomed, wanted and valued."

The next pillar of stewardship, prayer, involves the way we worship as a community and in our everyday lives.

"We have to be people of prayer," Fr. Stephen says. "It centers us on God, who we are and who God is. We are called to worship Him and give thanks."

For this pillar, the Pastoral Plan outlines several ways in which we can further improve the way we worship in Mass, making each liturgy "a true celebration of our relationship with God." This can be done by striving for excellence in each liturgical ministry, constantly honing and improving the quality of our sung prayer — our music — and encouraging the congregation at each Mass to fully and actively participate. The Pastoral Plan also details ways to increase prayer in our daily lives, such as publishing ideas for family prayer in the bulletin, creating new prayer ministries, further developing existing prayer ministries and promoting Eucharistic Adoration.

The logical next step to increasing our prayer life is increasing our knowledge of the faith — and by developing the third pillar, formation, we

OW IN STEWARDSHIP AS A PARISH

are able to not only grow closer to God, but also to bring others closer to Him.

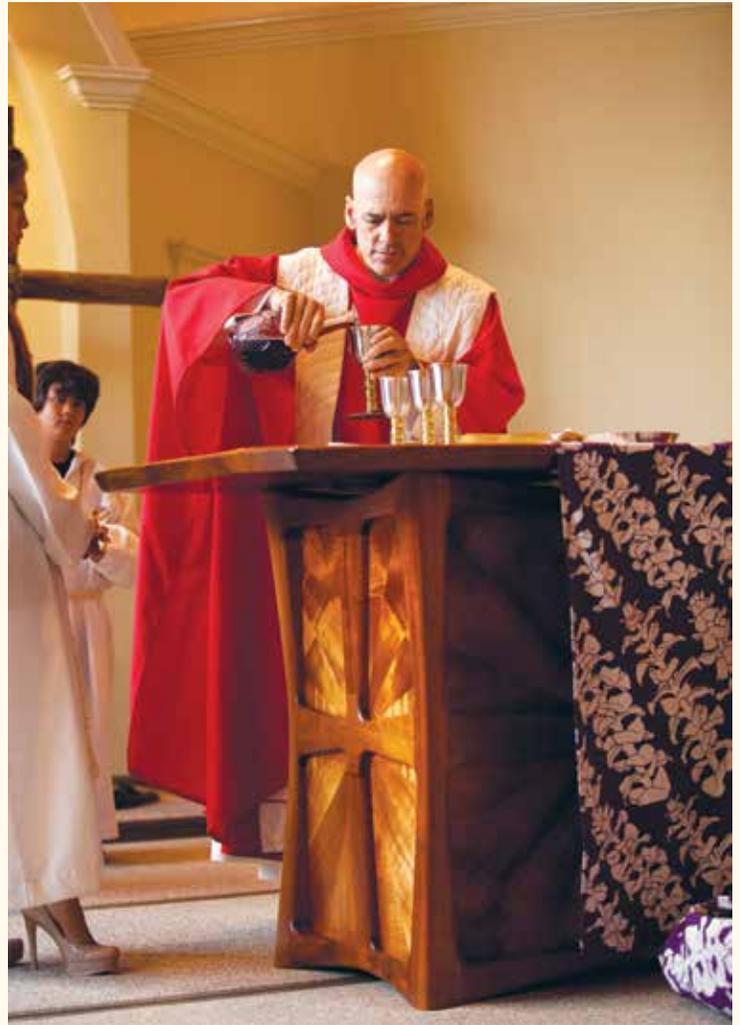
“It is important for us to continue to learn and grow in our faith so we can share it with others,” Fr. Stephen says.

Faith formation is meant to be a lifelong process, and the Pastoral Plan outlines many ways in which parishioners of all ages can learn more and deepen their faith. This includes distributing Dynamic Catholic books to families at Easter and Christmas, continuing to develop a comprehensive youth ministry and an active young adult ministry, offering catechesis to parents of children in faith formation programs, and providing continuing education for catechists

“Once we are formed and prayerful, the final pillar is service,” Fr. Stephen says. “We are called to go out and be Christ’s Risen presence in the world.”

The pillar of service is the next natural progression as we grow in stewardship, and the Pastoral Plan hopes to achieve this by helping parishioners to “recognize and accept the responsibility as members of a mission-driven community of disciples of Jesus of Nazareth.” We are called to bring Christ’s message to the world by the way we live our lives, and offering our time, talent and treasure in service of others is the best way to truly live our faith. The Pastoral Plan details goals such as expanding social justice programs related to human trafficking and homelessness; serving the homebound and elderly; and supporting charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Relay for Life, the domestic abuse shelter and Hope Services.

Over the next two years, we hope to see all



these things come to pass — and parishioners can help make this happen! By living out the pillars of stewardship in our daily lives, we can strengthen our parish, strengthen our Church, and truly serve as disciples of Christ.

If you would like more information about getting involved at the parish and living out the pillars of stewardship, please contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION: *May 31*

At first glance, the Visitation seems a simple enough event — Mary went to Judah, where she visited her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth.

And, yet, the reality behind the events that took place on this fateful day is so profound that we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation every year on May 31.

Imagine being 12 years old again. For most of us, that brings back memories of playing in the park, riding our bikes, watching TV, playing baseball, and so forth. Now, imagine that at the young age of 12, you find out that you are expecting a child — and, even more daunting, that this child is the Lord.

As unimaginable as that situation is for all of us, it is the reality that 12-year-old Mary knew. What a weight to bear!

Yet, it is clear that God knows what He is doing, because Mary's reaction to this reality was much different than most of ours would be. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," she responded to the angel. "Be it done unto me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38).

Then, she set out to the town of Judah to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, whom she just learned was also expecting a child.

Instead of keeping to herself and processing the fact that she was pregnant with her Lord and Savior, Mary immediately set out to bring Christ to others. She was indeed the first steward of the Church — offering her whole life to the Lord as His "handmaid," and revealing Christ to others through her service.

As soon as Mary entered the house and greeted Elizabeth, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb, rejoicing at the presence of the Lord within Mary. "And Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'" (Lk. 1:41-43). Mary radiated with the presence of Christ. Elizabeth had not been told that Mary was pregnant with the Savior, and yet, no sooner did Mary enter her home, Elizabeth knew.

No doubt, Mary is the steward of all stewards. So selflessly had she given herself to the Lord that she became His mother, and, in that way, her very being radiates Christ. It is for that reason that we venerate the Blessed Mother. Everything about who she is as a person, so closely united is she to the Lord and His will, brings us to her Son. And in her words that followed Elizabeth's joyful greeting, we see exactly that. Christ is glorified through her.

In response to Elizabeth's veneration of Mary, Mary exclaims, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name" (Lk. 1:46-49).

This month, as we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation, may we all venerate the Blessed Mother for her selflessness, and ask her to bring us closer to her Son.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	January 1, 2019 - March 31, 2019
Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass - Waimea	\$23,861.39
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Mass - Waimea	\$24,853.22
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass - Puako	\$38,335.76
Online Giving	\$13,970.00
Special Offerings (maintenance offerings)	\$925.00
Holy Days (late Christmas and Ash Wed.)	\$2,331.00
Special Gifts & Bequests	\$9,676.51
Food Pantry & Hunger Free Keiki Donations & Grants	\$49,781.45
Online Food Pantry & Hunger Free Keiki	\$2,010.00
Interest Income	\$2,787.49
Candle Offerings	\$2,127.52
Online Evangelization Donations	\$1,559.80
Other Income	\$5,194.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$177,413.14
Second Collections - Money disbursed	\$21,802.00
Expenses	
Priest Expenses (salary, medical, retirement)	\$15,219.15
Lay Expenses (employees wages, taxes, medical & insurance)	\$19,029.03
Office Expenses (parish & R.E. office supplies)	\$2,416.26
Insurance (property & liability)	\$0.00
Puako Lease	\$3,368.46
Waimea repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$19,072.62
Puako repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$2,482.34
Waimea Utilities & Communications (all buildings)	\$3,376.30
Puako Utilities & Communications	\$1,679.09
Diocese Assessment	\$12,627.00
Stewardship Expenses	\$9,000.00
Liturgy Expense (incl. candle exp. of \$1,845.47)	\$55,946.42
Appreciation Expenses	\$1,463.80
Other Expenses (Travel, Cmte. Food, Hskpg. Supp., Prof. Svcs., etc.)	\$16,695.64
Faith Formation (WILAC, Retreat, Convocation, LA Congress, Stewardship Conference, Parish Retreat, Youth Days, RE textbks.)	\$1,659.57
Evangelization (Catholic Bks/News, Newsletter printing & mailing)	\$3,478.29
Community Outreach (incl. pers. care kits)	\$119.35
Food Pantry Expense	\$14,926.51
Hunger Free Keiki	\$2,248.84
Parish Tithing (support to other parishes/relig.org., etc)	\$6,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$191,308.67
Net Income (Income minus Expenses)	-\$13,895.53



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
PO Box 301 Kamuela, HI 96743

Hospitality Sundays continued from front cover

different month of the year for Hospitality Sundays in Waimea.

“Members of the assigned ministry in Waimea are also requested to help arrange the refreshments and stay after to help clean up,” Mary says. “In addition, many parishioners in Waimea are on hand every month to set up and clean up, along with help from the ushers. Most of the Puako parishioners continue to pitch in, bring refreshments and help set up and clean up after Mass in Puako each month.

“There is always plenty of food, and parishioners and visitors help themselves to coffee, juice, water, and a buffet of baked goods and other foods,” she adds. “There are some benches available, but most mingle outside the church for a while, on the

lanai in Waimea and near the gazebo in Puako. Any leftover food is either taken by those who stay to clean up, or, in Waimea, brought to the food pantry.”

By providing this fellowship opportunity, the parish is not only able to create community among its parishioners, but also to extend a welcoming hand to all visitors. In this way, we are able to show the true spirit of the Church to anyone who is passing through.

“Hospitality Sunday is an extension of the welcoming of parishioners and visitors by ushers and greeters when they enter our churches for Mass,” Mary says. “We are a welcoming Church and take that ministry outside, and into our families and community.”

If you would like more information about Hospitality Sundays, or to help out, 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)