

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION



THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI: *An Invitation to Adore*

On June 23, the Feast of Corpus Christi, we will all have the beautiful opportunity to pay homage to Our Lord in the Most Blessed Eucharist, our infinitely merciful, eternal friend.

“The Feast of Corpus Christi is so important because being Catholic is all about honoring the Holy Eucharist,” says Fr. Stephen Macedo. “As Catholics, we are privileged to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, even daily. The Feast of Corpus Christi gives us a chance to celebrate this great gift.”

After rejoicing in Christ’s presence during the Sacrifice of the Mass, a brief outdoor procession will take place, in which the Eucharist will be carried reverently in a monstrance, followed by Benediction. On the Friday prior to the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 21st, a 24-hour period of adoration will be offered, and all will be invited to adore Christ with all of their hearts, as one community of love.

Our parish offers Eucharistic Adoration for a 24-hour period three other times throughout the year. It is also offered every Friday after the 7 a.m. Mass until noon, and on First Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m.

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“Today the Church shows the world the *Corpus Christi* – the Body of Christ. And she invites us to adore him: *Venite adoremus* — Come let us adore Him. The attention of believers is focused on the Sacrament in which Christ has left Himself: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is the reason for considering it as the holiest reality: ‘the Blessed Sacrament,’ a living memorial of the redeeming Sacrifice.”
— Pope St. John Paul II, June 2001

THE POWER OF PRAYER:

Becoming More Generous with Our Stewardship of Time

A professor stood in front of a class, and in his hand was a big glass jar. He put six big rocks in the jar, with the rocks up to the edge. He then asked his students, “Is the jar full?” And they replied, “Yes.”

The professor told the students, “No, it’s not.” Then, he pulled out gravel and put it in the jar. He then asked, “Now is it full?” The students once again replied, “Yes.” The professor responded, “No, it’s not.” He reached down and pulled out sand, which he poured into the jar with the same responses. Then, he reached down again for a pitcher of water, and poured water in, all the way to the brim. Then he asked, “Now is it full?” And the students replied, “Yes.”

The professor then asked, “Okay, what lesson do you learn from this?” The students responded, “No matter how many things you’ve got in the jar, there’s always room to put a little more in.” The professor told them, “No, that’s not the lesson. The lesson is, if I didn’t put the big rocks in first, they would have never fit!”

Most Catholics can appreciate this story — in particular, how it can apply to our own prayer lives. Essentially, every person has to decide what the “big rocks” are in his or her life. And, for us Catholics, prayer should be one of those big rocks in the jar.

As Catholics, we *know* that prayer is important, and we know that we can and should always pray more. Yet, connecting with God in this way often slips through the cracks of our busy lives.

The stewardship spirituality is about trying to become ever more generous with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. And there is a reason why “Time” is first in line. Time in a stewardship context refers to the time we spend with God in prayer. We need to take time to talk to God and take time to be quiet and seek to listen as He expresses His love for us and wants us to know His inspiration in our life.

There are many different forms of prayer — from weekly prayer, such as the Mass, to daily personal prayer. A daily Rosary is one of the most universal spiritual practices that can enrich the lives of Catholics around the world. Even if the decades

are spread out throughout the day, or even if you pray just one decade a day, you will find yourself growing closer and closer to the Lord each time.



Morning and night prayer are also important disciplines to maintain. Set aside a comfortable place in your home where you can find silence. Maybe focus on a spiritual image and take time to center yourself with Scripture or some other kind of spiritual reading.

For many, spending large portions of the day in silent prayer may not always be possible. But make it a priority to find those moments of quiet throughout the day, and to find ways to incorporate prayer in the midst of your busy schedule. When you get into a vehicle, pray — before a meal, after a meal, if you’re faced with a tough decision, just pray!

Ultimately, the bottom line is this — just as in any human relationship, communication is a central aspect of a vibrant relationship with God. Prayer is fostering this communion of love with God. He loved us into existence and He wants us to enter into a loving conversation with Him. We need to talk to Him. And we have to listen to Him. He will take care of everything if you just trust Him. He’s knocking at the door and waiting for us to open it in prayer.

A Letter from Our Pastor

SURROUNDED BY *Saints and Good Stewards*

Dear Parishioners,

It's hard to believe that we've arrived in the month of June, soon approaching the halfway point of 2019. This year is certainly flying by!

Just last month, we celebrated the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. This month, I would like to turn our attention to the idea of stewardship, although that concept is important every month and every day throughout the year.

We do not have to look far to find good stewards. They are all around us. They may be sitting near us at Mass. They may be part of our own families and households. Pay attention at our liturgies as they are always there, serving in a variety of ways. I suppose the big question is, "Do people look at us and see a good steward?" We are talking about more than our parish and the Church here. There are people in our communities and neighborhoods who show us what it means to be a good steward, and they do not have to be Catholic.

In June, we celebrate Father's Day. St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may seem to be overlooked, but we do need to look at him always and especially on Father's Day. He humbly accepted his role much in the same way that our Blessed Mother did. He does not have much to say in the Bible, indicative of his humility and understanding. Yet he, like Mary, was obedient. He was selfless. He was a worker, and in his own



quiet way he was a leader — an example to all of us.

St. Joseph is, as you know, the patron saint of fathers, workers, and the universal Church. If we could all emulate Joseph in some small part each day, we would be closer to being the disciples Christ has called us to be.

Sometimes, we Catholics are criticized for using statues, and some may be under the misguided impression that we worship statues. Our country and our lives are filled with statues — for instance, look at Washington, D.C. and its various monuments. Think of Mount Rushmore. People go to see these statues

and stand in front of them, sometimes bowing their heads in prayer, or looking at the statue or piece of marble in awe. Does this mean these people are worshipping these statues? Absolutely not.

Let us be proud of our Catholic heritage and let us not be afraid to honor and respect our saints and the saints in our midst, the good stewards all around us. In fact, we must each try to be more like them.

God bless you in all you do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen

Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

FINDING “HOME”: *The New Parishio*

One of the most important aspects of stewardship is the Pillar of Hospitality. Just as we’re told in Scripture — “For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me” in Matthew 25:35 — we must always strive to welcome those entering our faith community. And as we share our faith with new parishioners and visitors, they become our family.

“They were welcomed into our home, they were fed — it didn’t matter who you were, what you did, once you came to our home, you were our family,” says Ascension parishioner Darlene Walencewicz. “That’s how Hawaiians are. We want everyone to feel welcome. We try to extend that to everyone.”

With this sentiment, Darlene became involved as one of the coordinators of the New Parishioners Welcome Committee Ministry. The purpose of the ministry is to help those who are new to the parish feel connected, as part of our community.

When the parish office learns that we have new parishioners, the ministry leaders are notified. They reach out to the new parishioners to welcome them, find out more about them like where they’re

from, how long they have been in town, and what Church and Mass they usually attend. Then, in Waimea Liz Chock tries to meet with them either at Mass or at a Hospitality Sunday. In Puako, we have a whole team of members who do the same.

Newcomers are given a packet which includes a welcome letter from our Pastor, Fr. Stephen, as well as a current bulletin and monthly newsletter, a stewardship catalog listing all of our ministries, and a commitment card to encourage them to get involved.

It’s always nice to see these new parishioners become active once they are welcomed. We have new sacristans, lectors, Hunger Free Keiki packers, Food Pantry volunteers, Prayer Warriors and many other new ministers as a result.

The ministry also hosts a hospitality Sunday once a month, at both Annunciation and Ascension. “We invite new parishioners, current parishioners and visitors to partake in our hospitality after the Masses,” Darlene says.

For Darlene, helping to make the parish a



The New Parishioners Welcome Committee Ministry helps to ensure that visitors and new parishioners alike feel the welcome of being “home” in the parish. (From left) Linda and Frank van Werkhoven, Darlene Walencewicz, Liz Chock, Pete Walencewicz. (Not pictured — Karen Bail and Janice Berenick.)

ners Welcome Committee Ministry

welcoming place is personal, as it was part of her experience of coming back to the faith.

“I was a fallen-away Catholic, and when I retired and moved home to the Big Island, this little neighbor lady came to visit me,” Darlene says. “She told me that she went to church in Puako but she didn’t have a ride home and she said to me, very directly, in this first conversation, ‘I have a way there, but I don’t have a way home. So on Sunday, you can take me home.’ I stood there and I was just like, ‘I haven’t been to church in years.’ But that was God’s intervention. I couldn’t disappoint this little lady — and wouldn’t you know, that Sunday I was there and when I walked in that door of the church, it was like, ‘I’m home.’”

“That’s how I got involved and I want others to feel that this is home, too,” she adds. “I want people to feel that no matter what their story is, they can come home and feel comfortable and know there’s no judgment here, we just want to embrace you like Christ did for us.”

“That’s the wonderful thing about being Catholic,” she adds. “No matter where you go, once you walk into God’s house, you always feel at home.”

Darlene encourages other parishioners to consider becoming involved with the ministry. The more the merrier! Also, if you know of anyone who is new to the parish, please let the parish office know so that we can offer them a warm welcome.

If you would like more information or to become involved serving with the New Parishioners Welcome Committee Ministry, please contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.

The Feast of Corpus Christi *continued from front cover*

This spiritually nourishing devotion fosters a profound love for Our Lord and helps the adorer deepen their friendship with Him.

“Adoration is such an important devotion in today’s world because we live in such a loud society filled with distractions, where people are overly attached to noise and technology,” Fr. Stephen says. “We all need to ‘shut everything down’ and take some silent time with God. Adoration gives us the perfect way to do that.”

The Feast of Corpus Christi is significant to Fr. Stephen, and each year he is grateful to celebrate it with our parish family.

“This feast has always been special to me because I was ordained on the vigil of Corpus Christi,” Fr. Stephen says. “When I celebrate Mass on this day, it is so meaningful. I appreciate the opportunity to spend time with my parishioners, because most of them I only get to see on Sundays in church.”

More volunteers are needed to sign up for a holy hour of adoration. Christ is waiting, with divine humility as a “prisoner of love,” in the Eucharist.

“If more people are willing to come to adoration, this tradition can really grow at our parish,” Fr. Stephen says.

To sign up for a time slot during the 24 hour Adoration happening from 7:30 a.m. on Friday the 21st - 7:30 a.m. on Saturday the 22nd, visit the Kiosk or contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.

WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE HOLY FATHER?

There's an App for That!

“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square — nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church — led by our Holy Fathers, from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis — strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which features quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.



Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Throughout America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the unchurched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources our parish and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!

MEET OUR PARISH USHERS

A Love for Serving Fellow Parishioners

For Martin Evangelista, an usher at Ascension Mission in Puako, serving our faith community in this way is a form of stewardship rooted in love.

“I love greeting everyone as they come in,” Martin says. “I love seeing new faces and saying, ‘Aloha.’”

When Martin’s son, Andre, wanted to get involved as a Mass server a few years ago, Martin took the opportunity to find a ministry of his own — serving as an usher stood out to him. In addition, Martin serves as a Eucharistic Minister a few times a month, but commits to ushering each Sunday. For over six years, he has greeted parishioners and visitors to the church, assisted

with the offertory and helped seat people.

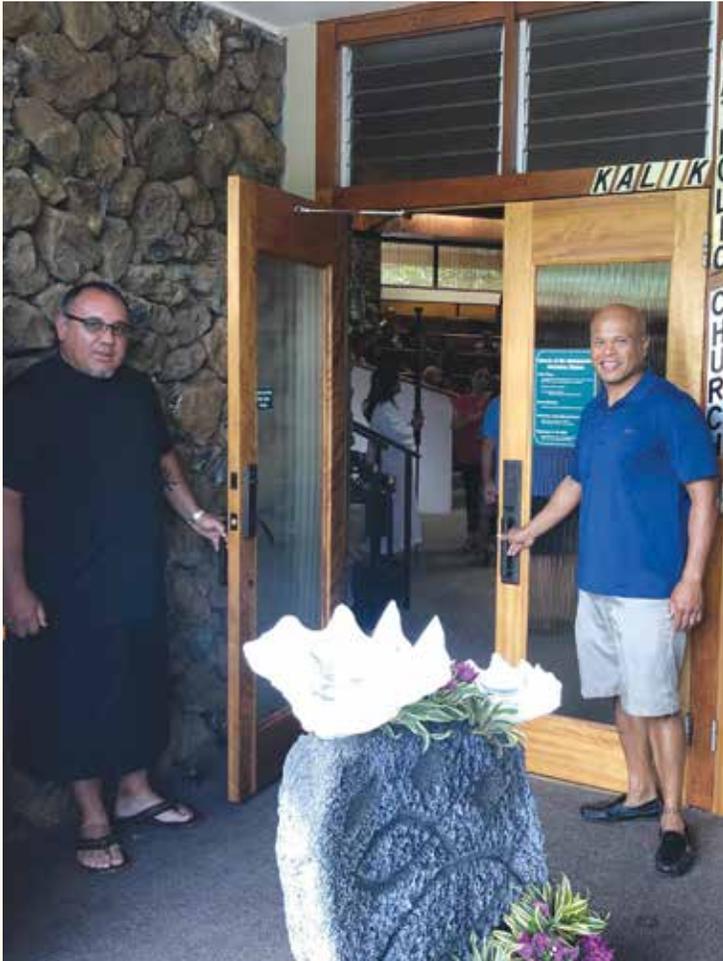
Martin sees a lot of familiar faces — particularly when resort visitors attend our parish each year. Although he doesn’t remember their names, he’s always excited to see them again.

“They walk in and say, ‘I remember you,’” he says. “It’s a lot of fun.”

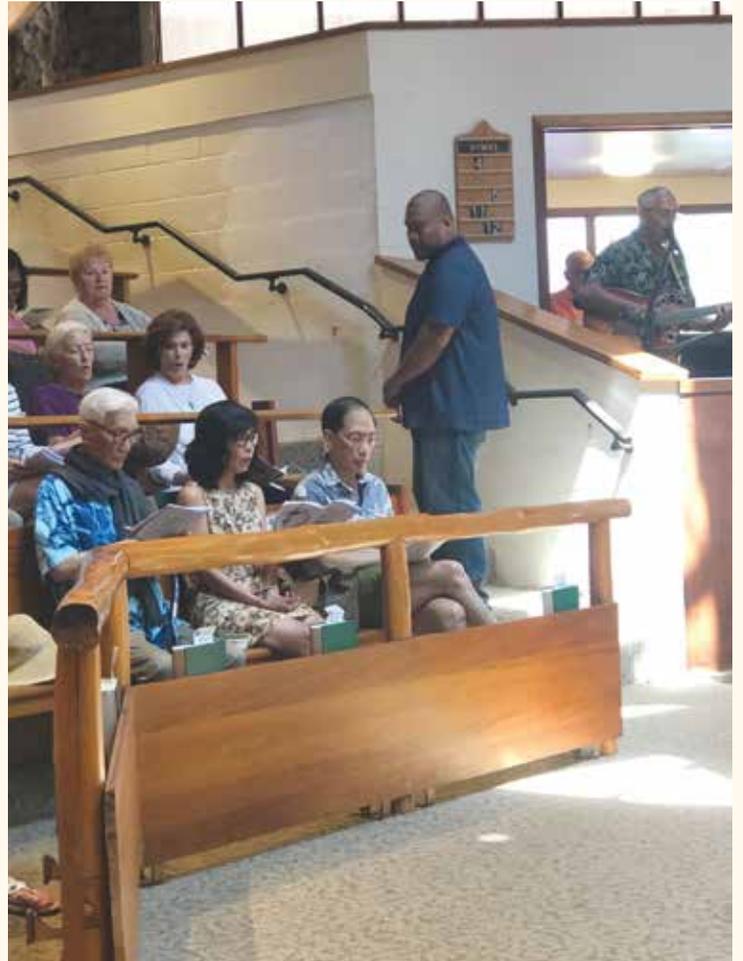
Martin is also happy to help latecomers find seats when the church is full. As he notes, sometimes they have to “put people wherever we can put them.” He also enjoys finding kids who can help with the collection.

“I like to get them involved and give them a feeling of what it’s like to be an usher,” he says.

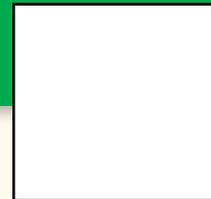
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Ascension Mission ushers Devo Voss and Martin Evangelista welcome parishioners and visitors.



An attendee at Ascension Mission helps with the collection.



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
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For Martin, his wife, Blanca, and Andre, serving at Ascension Mission is a family affair. Blanca also serves as the parish photographer.

“This has brought my family together more closely,” Martin says. “I now look forward to going to church and I really enjoy serving.”

Martin is living out the words of 1 Peter 4:10, which exemplify the stewardship way of life: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Each week, Martin uses the gift of hospitality — a pillar of stewardship — to serve his fellow parishioners at Ascension.

“By just serving, I feel I can show people they can also serve the Church,” he says. “I try to be an example.”



Jesse Stacy welcomes parishioners and visitors to Ascension Mission.

Anyone who is interested in serving our fellow parishioners and parish as an usher may speak with Martin Evangelista at Mass or 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)