

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Established July 5, 1840

Missions: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's-by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
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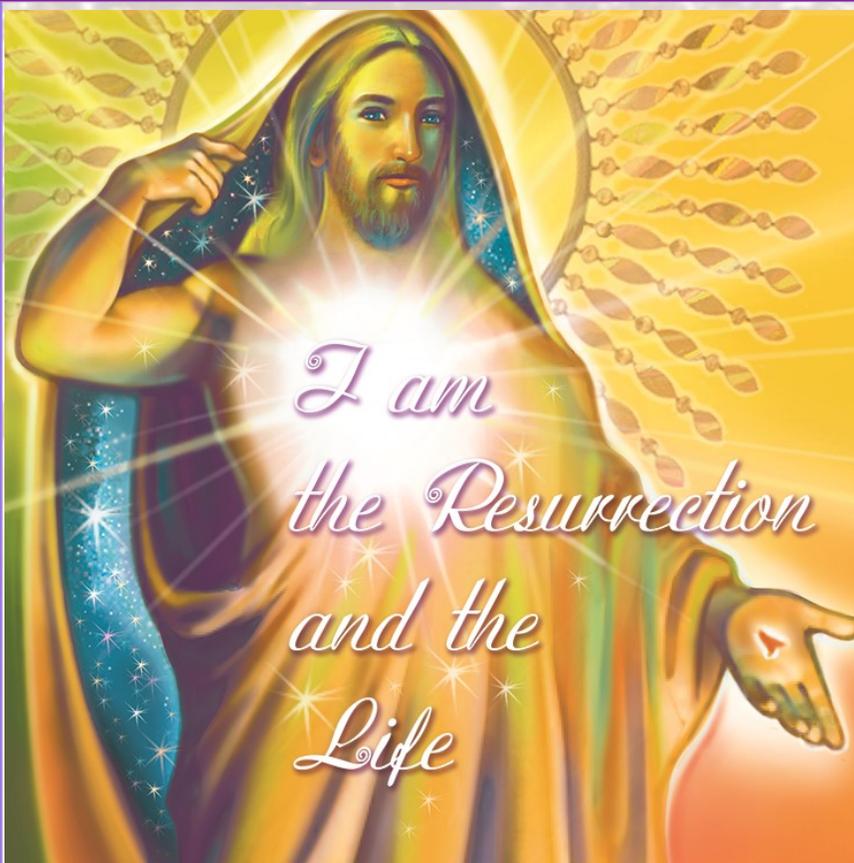
Office Hours: Monday 10am—5pm ~ Tue/Thurs 8:30am—2:30pm ~ Wed/Fri 8:30am—5pm

Website: stmichaelparishkona.org

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading I – **Ezekiel 37:12-14** | Psalm – **130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8**
Reading II – **Romans 8:8-11** | Gospel – **John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**



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dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although He was their close friend, He chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested.

This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in Baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

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Give Glory to God

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have

"...Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father."

Next Week's Readings

Processional Gospel – **Matthew 21:1-11** | Reading I – **Isaiah 50:4-7** | Psalm – **22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24**
Reading II – **Philippians 2:6-11** | Passion of the Lord – **Matthew 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54**

Life of Stewardship

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today's

Readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much.

In our First Reading, the Prophet Ezekiel speaks God's own words to us. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised and I will do it, says the Lord." Our



God wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. And He has promised He will do it. But only if we make room for Him by making Him THE priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him.

How can we do this? Our Second Reading from Romans tells us. "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit if only the Spirit of God dwells in you."

The disciplines of Lent and a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to "the flesh." The sacrifices we make as Christian stewards are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary. They are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God.

As we journey closer to the Passion of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life, inviting the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God. —Stewardship Reflections by The Catholic Steward and Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Mass Mail-Out to Parishioners

If you are a registered parishioner with St. Michael's, then you will soon receive mail with the following items: 1) a letter from Fr. Lio; 2) An Act of Spiritual Communion prayer (back side of letter); and 3) a Memo from Bishop Larry Silva. Please take the time to read all information *carefully*. These important updates will let you know how our parish and the Diocese of Honolulu is handling liturgical matters.

All Masses are CANCELLED

All daily and weekend Masses are *cancelled* and the Church is CLOSED until authorities give the "All Clear" to return to work. (Note that the priests are celebrating Mass privately and honoring the Mass intentions of the day.) The Statewide shutdown is currently in place through to April 30th. Please visit our parish website for further updates at: stmichaelparishkona.org.

Contacting the Office Staff

The parish office is closed but staffed remotely while the State of Hawaii is shutdown. If you call the office number, your call

will be forwarded to: (808) 657-5077. The office will be open on **Monday—Wednesday—Friday from 8:30am-12:30pm.**

What is Cancelled in the Parish?

This is a reminder of what has been cancelled in an effort to halt the spread of the coronavirus:

- Saturday Confessions / Stations of the Cross / Lenten Penance Services / Adoration / and no Faith Formation classes will be held through to April 30th.
- Visits to the hospital, the homebound, and the Life Care Center are all suspended.
- Due to the shutdown of airline flights, funerals and weddings have been postponed or cancelled.

Food Pantry Remains Open

Our Food Pantry will remain open to distribute canned and dry foods, plus produce from the Sharing Garden, on **the 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month from 9-9:45am.** It is located in the parking lot of Immaculate Conception Mission, directly across from Holualoa School. If you're in need of food, call the office for more information.

Receive Updates With Flocknote

To stay connected with each other, join our interactive parish info system and stay informed! You will receive alerts regarding what is happening at Church due to the coronavirus crisis. You'll also have access to the entire Bishop Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" programming, giving you FREE access to everything produced by WOF and much more.

Just text the word **SMACCKK** to phone # **84576** to join, or sign up online at smack.flocknote.com.

Celebration of Mass via the Media

* Livestreamed Masses in the Diocese of Honolulu (go to catholicahawaii.org):

1. Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace - Sundays at 9am with Bishop Larry Silva presiding

2. Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace - Monday to Saturday at 8am

* Mass with Bishop Robert Barron daily at 8:15am ET - go to wordonfire.org/daily-mass/

* **EWTN.com** - Mass online [check the website for time]

* EWTN Mass on TV at Spectrum Channel 1408 [check the TV Guide for time]

* USCCB directs people to go to:

1. **watchthemass.com** from the Catholic TV Network - Masses daily; go to the website to check the time

2. Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses - go to "**Pope Francis-Holy Mass**"

3. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - go to nationalshrine.org/mass/ and click on the red box "Watch Mass Online"

Music and Prayer Resources From OCP

Oregon Catholic Press, from whom we purchase our Breaking Bread hymnbooks and our bilingual missals, are extending their support to all parishes during this difficult time. Here are some resources they are offering for prayer and worship at home and to aid in staying connected as a community during this critical time.

Free Prayer and Music Resources: to bring calm and peace to families through worship, prayer, and reflection at home—<https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/resources-from-home>.

Free Facebook Live Streaming Prayer and Music Experiences Provided by OCP Artists: *Steve Angrisano* is offering Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily at 3pm ET. Go to <https://Facebook.com/steveangrisanomusic/>

Pedro Rubalcava is offering Bilingual Night Prayer at 8pm PT/ 11pm ET; Spanish language Rosary is on Saturday morning: <https://www.facebook.com/prubalcava>

Ivan Diaz is offering “Oremos y Cantemos” at https://www.facebook.com/cantemosyoremos/?_tn_=%2CdkC-R&eid=ARBDGSOZT2imZQUVAuLE1VKqyDLKN3-KRWic73LRpOt3M9o5nOrzs5dTIhEEXPNdeiRWtt8yTzkVEu1pe&hc_ref=ARQYPeAnQqSTC4PmxzVHgOAL0iB_xbgidAFxOTHq5ny3LTy1ISJYxyW221qU53POXQ8

Free Livestreaming Access: For a limited time OCP is granting permission for livestreaming of their copyrighted materials until *April 15, 2020*. For details see: <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/resources-from-home>.

Spiritual Communion

What is spiritual communion? St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace Him” at a time or in circumstances when we cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. With the absence of public Masses in the Diocese of Honolulu, the opportunity for receiving spiritual communion is particularly appropriate.

Spiritual communion needs no special instruction; it only requires the same disposition as the actual reception of the sacrament and a turning to Jesus with the heart. No particular prayer or formulary is required; however, to help focus a proper intention, recitation of a prayer is suggested. One of the most popular is that composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire You with all my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already in my heart and unite myself to You completely.
Please do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.*

A Message From a Catechist

This article was to have appeared in last week’s bulletin:

For the past couple of weeks, the 4th Graders have been learning about the importance of the Seven Sacraments. They started to learn which Sacraments they have already received, which is Baptism, along with learning the two new Sacraments they will receive next year: First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Along with the two new Sacraments, they learned about Reconciliation. They did a mock Confession session with Mrs. Joanne Agdeppa and Miss Casey. They learned about what to do and say during their time of reconciliation. Mrs. Joanne Agdeppa also explained more about the other Sacraments.

We hope the children have a fun, safe Spring Break and are ready to learn about Jesus’ second coming!

—*Mina Agdeppa, Catechist*

NO CLASS TODAY DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

A Faith Response to the Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone: Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (*Exodus 16*). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately.

The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable: Scripture and the Social Teachings of the Church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to

those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus' embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early Church's adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first.

In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. ... Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is cancelled for their children. The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice: This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves).

Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are cancelled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly. But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord's Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed *everything* in self-giving love for us, and He invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something.

Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections. Death rates in the city were about one-third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved.

We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it's unclear what's in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move *beyond* them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need.

Loving Our Neighbor: Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, He is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities.

Stewardship of Treasure	
March 21st—22nd, 2020	
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$1,243.00
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR OPERATIONS	\$17,991.30
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	-\$16,748.30
PARISH CENTER FUND	\$2,510.00
DEBT REDUCTION	\$3,340.00
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,396.20
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	-\$2,056.20
TOTAL:	\$7,093.00

Our call to community is not only in the context of our Church, but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues: Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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Life

A well-spent life is the only passport to heaven.

—Pope Leo XIII

Prayer

The more you devote yourself in prayer the more you will do well in your work.

—St. John Baptist de la Salle

With God

With God, go over the sea. Without God, don't even go over the threshold.

—Russian proverb