



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

St. Peter's by the Sea:

Restoring a Wahi Pana and Sharing our Living Faith

Hawai'i Nei is blessed to have many historic mission churches across the islands. St. Peter's by the Sea in Kahalu'u Bay, one of St. Michael's 4 mission churches, turns 140 years old in 2020. Our parish plans to restore and beautify the church to use it as an evangelization launching pad to reach out to the local community (and our many visitors) to share the Good News.

"I have always loved the 'little blue church by the sea,' as it is nicknamed," says parishioner Don Nelson. "The church is a special place located next to sacred Hawaiian grounds known as Waiki'u, which means 'pounding waters,' where freshwater pools that were once used by ancient Hawaiians can still be seen.

"Over the years, the church has held Mass and is currently used mostly for weddings," he adds. "My wife, Brenda, and I renewed our wedding vows at St. Peter's in 2010. Our intent with restoring the church and beautifying the grounds is to open the church once again to the public as an outreach ministry."

Originally built across the street from La'aloe Beach in 1880, the church was moved piece-by-piece to its present location in 1912. The current lanai and belfry were added to

In this Issue

- 3 A Steward's Guide to Lenten Commitments
- 4 St. Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group Be Transformed by the Holy Spirit!
- 6 From the Catechism: What is Almsgiving?
- 7 Stepping from Routine Into Vibrant Faith: Meet Judy Glickstein

75-5769 Ali'i Drive,
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
(808) 326-7771
stmichaelparishkona.org

MALAKI/MARCH
2020

continued on page 2

St. Peter's by the Sea:

Restoring a Wahi Pana and Sharing our Living Faith

— continued from front cover —

the church in 1938. St Peter's has weathered hurricanes, two of which floated it off its foundation.

"The last hurricane was Hurricane Iniki on Sept. 11, 1992," Don says. "It is remarkable that the etched glass window facing the ocean, depicting John 21:1-10, was not damaged in any way during the hurricane."

The church is in need of a new roof, treatment for termites, new paint inside and out, repairs on the rock wall and fence, and the beautification of its surrounding grounds. Don began working to clear the overgrowth of the grounds last year, and was surprised at the number of people who approached him to ask about the church.

"Over a period of weeks, I was approached by locals and visitors from around the world who would stop and ask to take photos of the church, and asked about its history," he says. "Some people were just curious about the church, and some were interested in a wedding or vow renewal. To my surprise, many people were Catholic or formerly practicing Catholics who had left the Church, but wanted to talk about their faith and how they might find a path

back to the Church. I found myself evangelizing in the most interesting and fun way that I had never thought possible!"

Once the repairs and renovations are completed, we will launch a ministry that will expand upon that opportunity for evangelization.

"There are currently 19 St. Michael parishioners who have pledged to be active in this ministry," Don says. "We will open the church and grounds in the morning on as many days of the week as we can, and staff it in order to welcome visitors, answer questions and share the Good News of the Gospel.

"As Catholics, we are called to evangelize, but each of us must find a way to do this based on the time, talent, and treasures God has given us individually," he adds. "Because of St. Peter's location on beautiful Kahalu'u Bay, visitors and tour buses slow down or stop when they see the church doors open. They take photos, ask questions, or spend a few moments of quiet time in the church praying. St. Peter's is a beacon that draws and welcomes people from around the world, and is therefore an ideal place to evangelize."

The ministry is currently looking for parishioners willing to volunteer at least four hours on one day each week at St. Peter's by the Sea. If you would like more information, or to get involved, please contact Don Nelson at 808-238-2800.





A Letter From Our Pastor

A Steward's Guide to **Lenten Commitments**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. Keeping it is the difficult part! The Lenten commitments we make ourselves are frequently a lot like New Year's resolutions — they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as Lent continues, our enthusiasm may wane, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way — perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lenten commitment and give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, **don't do it!** Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us,



and we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training, a musician practicing or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline and even frustration will be part of the process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work, discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we must reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently failing in some way, we may need to modify how we approach our commitment. Above all, the key to success is our steady, day-to-day observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving all through the season.

But when we do fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But "coming to his senses," he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. When he arrives home, he is welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Begin our observance again, and keep up our Lenten journey, eventually arriving at the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lio Faletoi

St. Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group

Be Transformed



Since its founding, St. Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group has brought parishioners together in this fervent prayer and worship.

The Charismatic Renewal movement in the United States started in 1967 right after the Second Vatican Council. This movement has been spreading in waves all around the world since then. Our Charismatic Prayer Group is one of these waves.

"The purpose of this prayer group is to have a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus," says group leader Monica Choe. "Charismatic prayer is a way in which we can live and walk with the Holy Spirit and be instruments for evangelization."

Fr. Joe Badding shares his experience by answering our questions:

What are these prayer meetings all about? Why the "Charismatic Renewal?"

Personally, I have been involved in the Charismatic Renewal for almost 50 years. It has brought a new dimension of prayer to my life. I can only invite you to experience it for yourself.

Is it part of the Catholic Church?

Here is what Pope John Paul II said in an audience, Dec. 11, 1979: "I am convinced that this movement is a sign of His [Holy Spirit's] action. The world is much in need of this action of the Holy Spirit, and it needs many instruments for this action. Now I see this movement, this activity everywhere."

Pope Francis in Rome at a Charismatic Renewal conference on June 1, 2014 said, "Thank you. I feel at home with you."

Fr. Joe explains, "Praying out loud, praying in words of your own, is not something that I have grown up with or have been taught in the seminary. For me, it was a release to be able to do this in a gathering of others who allow the Spirit of God to flow freely from within."

This year, the group hosted its 10th bi-annual Life in the Spirit seminar, which covers topics on God's love, new life from Christ's salvation, receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, growth, and transformation.

Our Charismatic Prayer Group was formed in October 2013, after six original members had experienced the Life in the Spirit seminar, being supported by the Hawai'i Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service, or HCCRS. Today, the group has about 20 parishioners who gather to pray every Tuesday evening from 6:45-8:15 p.m.

"During our meeting, we have praise and worship followed by a teaching from Fr. Joe Badding, Fr. Mark Goring, or various other Catholic resources," says Dr. John Choe. "Afterwards, we share testimonies and pray. We encourage and

continued on page 5



d by the Holy Spirit!

support each other to grow and to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

"Many testimonies of healing are shared in the prayer group," he adds. "We pray for each other's needs, especially for our parishioners — the parish office gives us prayer requests from parishioners, and each month there are over 100 prayer requests. We pray for them every week. Many of these prayers have been answered through physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. Some who had been away from the Church for a long time, were able to return after attending a Healing Mass and Life in the Spirit seminar."

"Although we have already received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized and confirmed, we may forget to invite the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives," Monica says. "Through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we experience the presence of God in our hearts, bringing us closer to Jesus. We want to know more about Him and love Him more, and we want to make Him known to others. According to 1 Corinthians 2:12, we need to seek the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit to build up our faith and our community. We become renewed in faith, hope, and love when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Many of us have given testimonies of being able to live with the Holy Spirit after being baptized in the Spirit after attending the Life in the Spirit seminar."

This prayer group also hosts a Healing Mass every two months — the next one will be held on March 17.

"We live in a worldly culture with much brokenness and deep wounds," John says. "We desperately need God's compassionate touch of love for our healing. Evangelization is not just a mere communication

of the Gospel, but it is also sharing the message on the Divine Light and Divine Power manifested by God's healing touch. We desire for everyone to participate in this precious Anointing of the Sick, as the Healing Mass invites us to experience God's love through emotional, spiritual and physical healing."

Personally, John and Monica have grown tremendously in faith and fellowship through their ministry involvement.

"We moved to Kona in 2007 and attended daily Mass regularly, but we didn't know people, or their names, because we did not belong to any ministries," Monica says. "After we joined the Charismatic Prayer Group in 2013, we have been able to pay attention to our brothers and sisters around us and grow deep relationships with them. Through our weekly meetings, we share our difficulties, and we pray for one another and for the community as well."

All are invited to participate and fill your life with the power of the Holy Spirit!



Through the Charismatic Prayer Group, members have been able grow in their relationship with the Lord alongside their fellow parishioners.

*If you would like more information about the Charismatic Prayer Group,
please contact John and Monica Choe at 720-341-3752.*

FROM THE CATECHISM

What is Almsgiving?

"Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2462).

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, it is not uncommon to hear about fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Most of us are familiar with at least two of the three penitential practices — prayer and fasting. We engage in prayer each day, while fasting becomes a regular part of our Lenten routines.

But what is almsgiving?

It is simply giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. This can be through donations of canned goods to our local food pantry, spare change to people facing homelessness, or even through person-to-person contact.

This Lent, if your family has not regularly engaged in almsgiving, consider making a change. Search for opportunities to serve the poor and vulnerable, making

their lives easier — even if in a small way. Think of someone in your own family or a friend who could use a bit of a hand and reach out to them in love. Be mindful of treating everyone you help with dignity and respect.

Things to do with your family:

Place a coffee can in a prominent place in your home, and commit to filling it with loose change throughout the week. Then, donate the money to a local charity. Consider giving up a meal and use the money to help someone in need.

The next time you shop for groceries, buy a few extra canned goods and donate them to our food pantry for local families in need. Research a charity that works with the poor, and make a commitment to regularly give to that organization.

Resolve to never judge those who are less fortunate, and teach your children the same.

This Lent, if your family has not regularly engaged in almsgiving, consider making a change. Search for opportunities to serve the poor and vulnerable, making their lives easier — even if in a small way.



Stepping from Routine Into Vibrant Faith: Meet Judy Glickstein

"Routine." It's a word that conjures different emotions for different people. Some are drawn to the steady rhythm and repetition of routine. Others feel repelled by what feels like a word emphasizing the mundane or monotonous, lacking passion or fervor.

For many of those who have been Catholic their whole lives, "routine" can come to symbolize their faith in both ways — referring both to the steady rituals that mark our liturgical year, as well as the temptation to simply go through the motions of those prayers and practices that become so familiar.

Born and raised Catholic in New Jersey, parishioner Judy Glickstein learned her faith primarily by the example of her parents. In college, she fell away from practicing Catholicism, but in adulthood was drawn back to the Church through praying the Rosary and the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother. However, not long after being drawn back to the faith, she fell into the routine of being Catholic, not necessarily engaging herself fully — or, as she describes it, becoming a "ho-hum Catholic."

However, after moving to O`ahu in the late 1970s, she began to grow closer to God, one step at a time. Five years ago, she moved to Hawai'i Island and joined St. Michael the Archangel.

Today, Judy's faith is anything but "ho-hum" or routine. She's discovered a deeper love of the Church, both through study and through service. From singing in the choir, serving as a lector, and working with our Youth Ministry program, to participating in Bible studies and serving The Friendly Place lunches, Judy has found that the more she opens herself to God, the more she receives. For Judy, service is all rooted in a desire to share her faith and invite others to experience what she's discovered.

"I have been called back in such a powerful way and it's changed my life so much," Judy says. "Evangelization is really the core of everything."



Judy Glickstein loves serving at our parish and learning about her faith. (From left) Judy's husband, Howard; Judy; her son, Adam with grandson, Luke, and his wife, Jasmine, with grandson Leon standing in front; Judy's sister, Paulette Adams.

Coming to understand her faith has also been pivotal in bringing Judy's relationship with God to life.

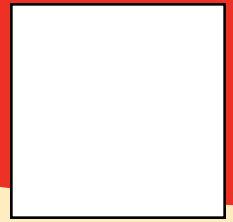
"Study is so key — knowledge of God is so key," says Judy, who participates in two Scripture study groups at the parish. "What blows my mind is the depths and the extent to which you can know the Church and know God — it's endless. I have this giant yearning for sitting down at His feet and getting more."

Through various challenges, Judy has realized the importance of trusting God's plan for her. In difficult times, she turns to prayer — especially the Rosary — and the sacraments for the grace she needs.

"My anxiety and fear are a measure of my trust in God," Judy says. "When I'm feeling anxious and fearful, I know I've let go of trust."

"Nobody escapes suffering," she adds. "Once you understand that life is difficult, what else do you have? It's like when Jesus said to the disciples, 'Are you going to leave me?' And Peter said, 'Where else would we go?' Where do I have to go in times of trouble, who will be

continued on back cover



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

75-5769 Alii Drive
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



Meet Judy Glickstein *continued from page 7*

the one, who will rescue me from myself? It's always God. If you're in a place that's dark or troubled, open yourself up — and if you're open, it'll keep expanding and you'll find that place, where, like St. Teresa of Avila says, 'Let nothing disturb you. God never changes.'"

Judy encourages her fellow parishioners to consider how God may be calling them to go deeper in their understanding of the faith or serve the parish and community. She reminds that sometimes, it's just about taking that first step.

"The more you step in, the more God gives grace to you, and your life becomes richer in every way," Judy says. "It wasn't an overnight thing for me, it was a process. The more I served, the more I received, and the more I understand and know God, the more I can love God.

"Focus on what your gifts are," she adds. "Everybody has gifts. Discern your gifts and then use them to serve in the Church and to serve the people around you. We're all called to be holy and our job is to help others become holy; to assist each other."

"The more you step in, the more God gives grace to you and your life becomes richer in every way. It wasn't an overnight thing for me, it was a process. The more I served, the more I received, and the more I understand and know God, the more I can love God." — Judy Glickstein

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m. (Hawaiian/English), 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 12:00 noon and 6 p.m. (Spanish)
Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 12 p.m. • Confessions: Saturday 9-9:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Mission: Sunday 8 a.m. • Holy Rosary Mission: Sunday 10 a.m.