



**Diocese of
Honolulu Mission
Statement:**

To give WITNESS TO JESUS! We, who encounter the risen Lord Jesus himself in the Eucharist, are sent out by him, in the power of his Spirit, to give flesh and bone.....

**St. Joseph Church
Mission
Statement:**

St. Joseph Church Parish is a faith community in Makawao, Maui. We are dedicated to the call of God, to support the Diocese of Honolulu in its mission, to celebrate the Eucharist, and to commit and make Jesus present in our lives.

**Stewardship
Mission
Statement:**

Give Witness to Jesus;
Empower Stewardship

**Stewardship
Committee**

- Rev. Michael Tolentino
- Deacon Pat Constantino
- Arsie Anderson
- Helen Souza
- Patricia Balinbin
- Donna Pico
- Christine AhPuck
- John Gorman
- Nanette Salcedo
- David Sereda

St. Joseph Church

Sharing Our Time, Talent and Treasure...

Issue V

December 2020

Words from the Pastor

Rev. Michael L. Tolentino

Faith in a Time of Pandemic

As COVID19 strikes our world, many questions arise, such as “*Is this real? Am I going to die? How can I live my life?*” and many more. COVID19 will always be remembered throughout history. It has made the world stop and everybody is affected with the great spread of the virus, even our life as church is being affected too. We cannot go to mass; we cannot visit our family members and friends. All these things make us scared and fearful.

But the very word of Jesus, “**BE NOT AFRAID**,” will encourage and empower us to continue our life. When I was newly assigned as administrator of St. Joseph, I myself had fears how to begin my pastoral ministry if everything is limited, if not prohibited because of the fear of spreading the virus. “**BE NOT AFRAID**”, these words of Jesus, gives me more enthusiasm to do the mission of Christ. I have a strong faith that God will always be with us. A “new normal” of doing things was introduced, wearing face mask, social distancing, sanitizing, live streaming masses, making reservations and appointments in terms of church services. All these I believe are God’s intervention for us not be afraid and be strong in faith, because to HIM there is nothing impossible.

Faith in a time of pandemic is being challenge; our enthusiasm to serve is being tested. But our faith in God in a time of pandemic is very necessary, it will guide us to be more bold and pious in taking the protocols and safety measure that will help us not to spread and contained with the virus. Our faith in God will make us stronger to fight our fear, because if not then our fear will control us, and it results to nothing but sickness in us.

We need to be always connected to our God. This time of pandemic as a community of Christ, let us help one another, let us always be in touch with one another, it may not be physically but spiritually we can always together. We need not only to be safe but also to be spiritually healthy. We need to be fervent and persevering in our prayer, and praying as a community will help us, just like with our volunteers, by their loving service they makes us safe in coming to church.

Having a healthy relation to God in this time of pandemic is a part of being resilient. As a community of believers, let us be together, fighting for this crisis, by our faith in God, we can beat COVID19. My prayers to all of, especially this coming Christmas, that God will always guide and protect you!

Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year!





New Pastoral Council Members

Reported by: Arsie Anderson



Eileen Corpuz is retired and married to Frederico Corpuz who has two children, son Dale and daughter Schatzi, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She attends the 7 a.m. Sunday mass and serves as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. Both Fred and Eileen are members of the St. Joseph Filipino Catholic Club and have served as secretary for three terms. They are also involved in the Hawaii Catholic Engaged Encounter marriage preparation program for almost 40 years. When asked why do you serve at St. Joseph Church, Eileen shared that parishioners are so welcoming that it fills my spiritual needs as they are the church; and the church itself is beautiful!

Diane Felipe Jacinto is married to Jason Jacinto who has three children: Jonathan (Carolyn), Jacob and Kianaleialoha and two grandchildren: Ku'uleimaikalani & Sebastian. Diane attends the Saturday 5 p.m. mass and serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Youth Ministry Moderator.

Diane is employed at the State of Hawaii, Dept. of Human Services ~ Med-Quest Division as an Eligibility Worker.

Diane says, "To serve is one of the greatest blessings we have. We may serve in many ways but the greatest service we could render is to be a minister of the Mercy of God. Knowing that I have inspired countless souls to grow in their love for God is one of my greatest blessings and privileges in life."



John Metz is married to Josephine who works at Foodland and they have three sons. He currently works at the Four Seasons a Wailea Maui as a Baker. As a parishioner, he attends Sunday 7 a.m. mass and is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Why does John serve at St. Joseph parish? He said, "it's the parish I grew up in and I enjoy the parishioners and watching their children grow up."

Advent Retreat

Reported by: Tracy Jones

The Pastoral Council of St. Joseph Church, in Makawao, Maui, hosted "The Christ Event-A Virtual Advent Retreat" in two parts on December 2nd and 9th, 2020 via the on-line platform GoToMeeting. Father Ken Deasy, of Father Ken's Vineyard, led the attendees in a moving and uplifting examination of "The Christ

Event." Participants across Maui logged in from home, and were joined by family in Washington and New Jersey (46 logins 12/2 and 33 logins 12/9).

In Part I: "From Now to the Better" Fr. Ken welcomed Danielle Rose Hesley, of Danielle Rose Ministries. Danielle, a Catholic wife-homeschooling-mother-of-four, began the session by sharing her gift of music in two original songs. "Give and Take" about surrendering all to the will of God and letting Him lead your life. "The Gift in Mary's Trials", a special and personal song was shared as an invitation to us all to be like Mary. Danielle sang of Our Holy Mother, who in her trials and sufferings, drew near to God and wholly in self-surrender, truly allowed Him to transform her life. In an unexpected conversation, Danielle shared with Father Ken and the group, her journey in healing from the stillbirth her fourth child Mary Serafina. Danielle related in her deepest heartbreak, God drew out a new love, a new beauty and a new healing in a way she has not experienced before, which gifts remind us each that we are all able to find our place with God and receive His grace and healing in Jesus. We have Christ in our lives. He is where we find ourselves in our lives, right now -God is in the mess and ready to share us His unending mercy and abundant graces. Dig into your belief of His ever presence and willingness to transform you!

In Part 2: "Get Real!" Fr. Ken led us to be empowered in the present and to address whatever darkness or distractions we allow to keep us from being fully in the Light of Jesus Christ. "Is it all about: Recognizing and Responding to the Really Real"-he said, meaning our lives are to be lived, not for the love of self and stuff, but for the love and caring of others. Really! That is what Jesus himself taught and modeled for us. Fr. Ken asked us each to make a list of what is *in the way* of our Advent, our Christmas, and our everyday relationship with Jesus Christ. He tasked us to reflect on our lives and examine how we handle the stress of the pandemic and the permanence of love in our marriages and in our family? Are we living His love? His truth? Use the list as a tool to awake and be grateful! We can only allow the "Reign of God-the Sacred-to take a priority over the ridiculous, *unless we live it ourselves!*" Amen

New Stewardship Committee Members

“Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. As Catholics, realizing all that we have is a gift from God, we are encouraged to reflect on our blessings, enhance them and share them with others. By giving of ourselves and helping those around us, we are practicing Christian stewardship. In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops brought attention to this principal when they published *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* (Summary of U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter). Looking beyond financial contributions alone, this document encourages Catholics to live their lives as disciples of Jesus and to share their gifts of time, talent and treasure – more out of gratitude than obligation.” (Source: Diocese of Honolulu on Stewardship) The Stewardship Committee at St. Joseph Church, Makawao, was formed in November 2014 with Fr. Eric Castro and four members. Currently we have 10 members who serve on this Committee. Recently, the committee welcomed three new members: John Gorman, David Sereda and Nanette Salcedo.

By: Arsie Anderson

Reported by: Arsie Anderson



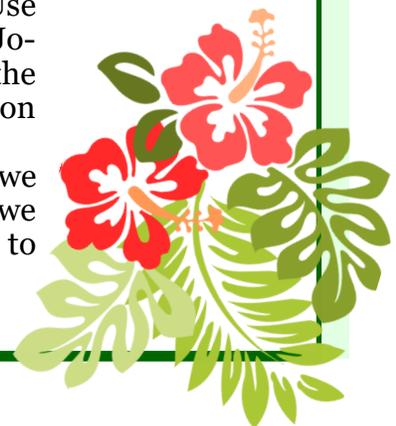
John Gorman was born in Glenboig Scotland at Our Lady and St. Joseph’s Parish. I was a seminarian for 6 years and am now employed at Maui Ocean Center as the acting Curator. I am married to Erica Gorman (my better ¾’s) who is SJC Lector/Coordinator and am father to 3 children, Jonathan, Matt and the youngest Palma who is an altar server at St. Joseph Church. I am a Lector at the Sunday 9am mass. I serve at St. Joseph’s because I want to make a difference in parishioners’ lives. The parish too is a comfortable fit for me; not too formal, devout and able to joke around.

Nanette G. Salcedo ~ A Maui girl raised in Lahaina with strong family ties to Maria Lanakila Church, my husband John and I chose to make Pukalani our home and became parishioners of St. Joseph Church in 1997. Our children Tristan and Alysha-Lei attended St. Joseph’s School and St. Anthony Schools and both are currently altar servers. I was actively involved with the SJS PTG and School Board from 2007 – 2010 and continue to serve on the ELC School Board and a Eucharistic Minister since 2014. With a background in hotel management (accounting and human resources) and as the Operations Manager of Island Sotheby’s International Realty, I hope to contribute to the mission of the Stewardship Committee. I am humbled to have this opportunity to serve St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.



David Sereda is married and has a son. He is employed by Hart and Partners Landscape Architects and Land Use Planners for 19 years. David currently serves at St. Joseph Church as a Lector, Baptism Instructor and is the Director of the Young Adult Ministry. He also serves on the Building and Master Planning Committee.

David says he serves at St. Joseph Church because “we are all called to contribute to our faith, whatever way we can, small or large... and it’s also a good way to get to know fellow parishioners”.



First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Reported by: Sheri Harris and Lennel Joy Alvarez



Amadee Conly-Kapoi, Oinis Conley



Angelo Alvarez & Armhun Alayrez



Kaicalani Andaya & Lanakila Day

St. Joseph Parish children and adults celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. There were 23 candidates from grade school through adults. The sacraments were first celebrated in June and then staggered each month until November. The only challenge we faced was doing distance learning with each family. Some had no problem while others had trouble opening videos or did not understand how to submit what was requested. Despite the challenges and after completion of assignments, everyone were excited and ready to receive their sacraments. Three SJC Youths were asked what does it mean to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion? They responded:

Lilinoe Conley-Kapoi: “When I got confirmed, I felt like I had finally advanced in the church. I became closer to God over my preparation of getting confirmed and still after I got confirmed. When I received Holy Communion, I was so excited to finally physically receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Now that I am fully initiated into the Church, I plan to keep participating in youth ministry, and in the future, I plan to join other ministries within this parish to strengthen my faith.”

Kaua Conley-Kapoi: “Receiving confirmation and communion has been a long and beautiful journey for me. When I was younger, I didn’t fully know the importance of receiving Holy Communion and Confirmation. I remember I didn’t want to have to cross my arms over my chest when Father came around giving the body and blood of Christ. I wanted to take the Eucharist. Now that I get to participate in the Eucharist, I have realized how blessed I am to be able to witness the sacrifice and blessings God gives when he shares his love with us. I believe this is through Holy Communion and Confirmation. Over the past two years of being back in church and youth ministry, I have had a lot of love and incredible influences to look up to in their faith. I am truly grateful for all the lessons and words of wisdom I was shared with before receiving Confirmation, for it has taught me how being initiated into the church is being able to gain the word and love of God and share those gifts with those you can. I plan to join other ministries soon as well in order to keep my faith strong and my bond with the church strong as well. For right now I love being in youth ministry with my peers. Its nice to have friends and those close in age experience and share your faith with each other.”

Angello James Alvares: “Receiving the sacraments of confirmation and holy communion means that I strengthened my bond to God and I've become closer to him. I can also become a servant of God and become an altar server.”



Kailani Ortiz



Dalus Fujimoto



Lawai'a Uwekoolani



Keoni Ortiz



Easton & Kaitlyn Ashley DeCoite



Rylan Oliveira

COVID19 Changes Mass Attendance

Reported by: Bob & Daisy Muego

The following are rules and guidelines implement by CDC and Diocese of Honolulu:

1. Reservations are needed for all Sunday Masses and Weekday Masses. **Please call the parish office 572-7652 by Thursday at 3 p.m. to reserve your seat for the Mass that you want to attend.**

For contact tracing purposes in case of a virus outbreak, we will need your name, address and contact number. Should the particular mass you are requesting is filled, you will be given an option to choose another time for Sunday or for a weekday Mass.

2. Those who do not have a reservation and insist on attending, must stand and WAIT outside practicing social distancing until the sign in person is ready to check them in and then the ushers will seat them. Otherwise, **“No reservation, No Entry”**.

3. Always wear a face mask inside and outside the Church. The only time you can remove your mask will be after receiving the Holy Communion and then you put it back on. You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer's.

4. Please check in at the door and then the Ushers will seat you. Household families can sit together. Couples also can sit together. Others will be alone 6 feet apart.

5. After mass please follow the ushers' instructions keeping 6 feet social distancing as you leave the church.

6. Candles may be lit after Mass only, using social distancing.

7. Socializing and visiting in the parking lot is not allowed. Please go straight to your car and exit the parking lot.

8. Donation box will be at the entrance of the Church. You can place your donation in the basket before or after the Mass.

Sr. Bernadette Meno checking in Robert and Daisy Muego from the reservation list for the weekday 7 a.m. morning mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church during the COVID19 Pandemic. Sr. Bernadette



ensures that the attending parishioners during the morning masses follows the church protocol such as social distancing, wear a mask, sanitizing their hands before entering and leaving the church, no socializing in church after mass, take home with you the breaking bread book, and pews, altar and door knobs are sanitized after the mass.

Block Rosary

In spite of the corona virus, more parishioners were drawn to attend the daily mass at 7 a.m. in October and consequently stayed after mass and prayed the Block Rosary Novena to petition our Blessed Mother to end the pandemic.

There was no living rosary held because it would be extremely difficult, and we could not offer snacks due to social distancing. Fr. Michael hosted the rosary on weekends and parishioners were assigned to host the rosary on weekdays.



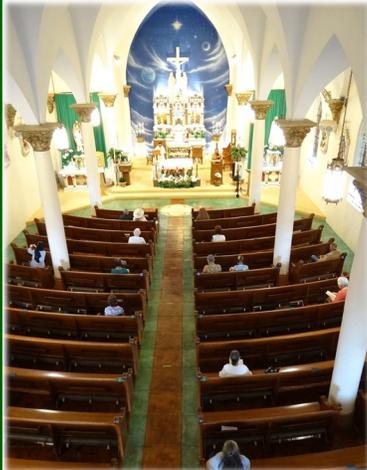
Block Rosary hosted by Lorna Fernandez. Pictured are Sr. Bernadette Meno, Lorna Fernandez, Fr. Michael Tolentino, Aida Figueroa, Daisy & Bob Muego

Help to sanitize the pews after the rosary was not a problem. Thanks to Sr. Bernadette Meno who ensured that church protocols were strictly followed.

Mahalo to Fr. Michael and all the parishioners who hosted the rosary. Parishioners donated flowers for the Sacred Heart and Blessed Mary altars every week, and gave love offerings for the church.

Sanitizing & Social Distancing

Reported by: Bob & Daisy Muego



After sanitizing his hands, Fr. Michael gives Jackie Harris and Lydia (Leah) Reyno the Holy Eucharist at mass.



Parishioner, Bob Muego, sanitizing the pews after the weekday 7am morning mass.

After the daily mass, parishioners are invited to stay and pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and the holy rosary for the victims of the Covid19 virus.

Leilah Eusebio lighting the Advent candle on the Third Sunday of Advent.



Altar Servers

Reported by: Helen Souza

The altar servers have been adjusting to the "New Norm." With the guidelines in place and the support of Fr. Michael, Deacon Pat and each other they are doing great. Everyone has pulled through and adjusted to serve God's call. The servers came together for a Zoom meeting on September 13th to work through the changes. We also did a Rosary together via Zoom on Oct. 26th to pray together. Going forward to the holidays we just continue to pray "Jesus I trust in you."

St. Joseph's Early Learning Center

Reported by: Helen Souza



Helen Souza does a temperature check of Caiden Vinson upon checking into school.

The School has its COVID19 protocol in place and is moving forward for the second half of the 2020-21 school year with "In-person" classes. With a total of 27 students and safety procedures that are in compliance with the State of Hawaii Department of Health, the staff and families are working well to keep the campus safe. There are temperature checks and wellness exams upon arrival of staff and students. With smaller cohort groups of 9 students and one consistent teacher in place and sanitation procedures done on all equipment and playgrounds to help reassure safety. The classrooms, hallways and outdoor campus are also set up for social distancing as well as maximizing ventilation when possible. All field trips and fundraising activities has been canceled but grants received help to acquire PPE, training and sanitation items to continue the centers focus on safety.



LORD, Teach us to be your Steward

Almighty Father, teach us to be your steward with a joyful heart.

Teach us to celebrate our gifts for the growth of God's kingdom.

Teach us to be dedicated to your call and to support our Diocese in its mission.

Bless us when we celebrate the Eucharist and show us how to make Jesus present in our lives. By following your son, Jesus Christ, empower us to share our time, talents and treasures as stewards of this parish, St. Joseph Church.

We humbly ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



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Master Planning & Building Update

Reported by: Bruce Anderson

Multi-Purpose Center: Since the last update, two issues remaining in order to proceed on the Multi-Purpose Center project:

1. A contract has been signed with Mason Architect for the archeological monitoring plan to be submitted to the Hawaii State Historical Division.
2. All documents relating to the consolidation of the three separate lots into a single parcel that St. Joseph Church sits upon are being finalized by Title Guarantee for submittal to the Bureau of Conveyances.

Demolition and construction should begin after all permits are approved and we finalize our contract with the contractor. Betsill Brothers is the contractor retained to complete the project. Jordan Santos is the project manager.

Financial Update: There is currently \$2,536,649.90 in the building fund for the Multi-Purpose Center. Cash available total was \$2,918,422.03 before expenses to date of \$381,772.53.

Steeple Repair: A project to repair the aging steeple and address the water leaking from the steeple has been initiated. We are currently working with Erickson Structural Engineers and are looking for an architect to assist in the early planning stages.

Cemetery Blessing & Candle Lighting

Fr. Michael and Deacon Pat blessed each gravesite.



Photos by: Jacob Metz