



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

Helps Young Parishioners Grow in Faith and Relationship With Christ

Being part of a community is a necessary component of our spiritual lives. The need for community is even more important for our youth and keiki, who seek answers to their questions and look for like-minded friends.

Here at St. Michael the Archangel, our youth have the incredible opportunity to find community, learn about the faith, and have fun — all in our Youth Ministry program.

“Our goals are to help youth in sixth

through 12th grades to find resources that help them grow spiritually through catechesis, structured activities, prayer, and community,” says Edwina Fujimoto, Coordinator of Youth Ministry. “We want to help guide them to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.”

The Youth Ministry meets a few Sundays per month during the school year, from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m., and on long weekends from 1 to 7:15 p.m. Reaching out beyond



In this Issue

- 3 The Final Goal of Kalema
- 4 A Look back at our Parish Celebration
- 6 Celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church Pope Francis Declares Theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”
- 7 An Inside Look at Our Parish's Food Pantry Living Out Works of Mercy and Feeding Our Neighbors in Need

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

APR/MAY
APELILA/MEI
2025

continued on page 2

Youth Ministry *continued from front cover*

textbook-style learning, the program seeks to creatively present the catechetical lessons and teachings to the teens. This includes using stories, games, arts and crafts, skits, and more, to help engage the teens and encourage them to remember what they learned.

"Everyone learns at different paces and on different levels," Edwina says "We create opportunities for discussion about where they are and how they are growing in faith."

As the Youth Coordinator, Edwina's favorite part of serving is when she sees the youth experience an "aha" moment when they are excited about connecting the dots over a spiritual matter.

"Over the years that I have been in the Youth Ministry, I have seen so many of them grow in their own faith, including the Youth Ministers' growth," she says.

Born and raised Catholic, Edwina attended faith formation classes from an early age through high school. While her parish didn't have a designated youth ministry, some parents would help the kids learn about faith and showed them how to serve at the altar and as lectors.

Later, as Edwina's children were growing up, her

daughter asked her mom if she'd consider moving into the role of a youth minister. In 2000, Edwina began reading about and attending classes and conferences dedicated to high school youth ministry.

"I felt the Lord calling me to this ministry and began to advocate for teens in our parish and community," Edwina says. "I began to grow in my faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, He took over most of my life and I continue to learn, chase Him, and transform myself and my life."

As Edwina approaches retirement, she feels that while the work can be heavy, her role in youth ministry has been very fulfilling.

"I pray those who hear or feel that call will be obedient to the Lord and answer," she says. "It is life-changing for the better in all things and all ways."

Edwina's hope for our Youth Ministry program is that it will help parents lead and guide their children into a "deeper understanding of their faith and relationship with the Lord," as she says. This is done by providing resources for both the parents and teens as they face issues or hurdles involved with growing up in a secularized culture.

"I always pray that each child will grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and that they will continue that growth into young adulthood and beyond so they can succeed at all they do by living a joyful and loving life in the Lord, and raise God-loving children," Edwina says.

All teens in sixth through 12th grades are invited to attend the Youth Ministry gatherings. Any volunteers who are Safe Environment-certified are also welcome to help.

"We love new ideas and more energetic and positive energy," Edwina says. "Adults that may not have completed their Safe Environment training [yet] can always donate bottled water and individually wrapped snacks for the ministry."

For more information about the Youth Ministry, contact the parish office at 808-326-7771 or visit www.stmichaelparishkona.org.





THE FINAL GOAL OF KALEMA:

The Easter Triduum

Kalema, Holy Lent, is a time of deep prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that uncovers for us whatever is sinful, deceitful, or corrupt in our lives so we may be transformed to better reflect the image of Christ. This is our time of intense preparation.

But for what purpose? Quite simply, it is to prepare us for the Easter Triduum.

A three-day span — from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday — the Easter Triduum is set apart from Lent as the church year's most important liturgy. A single celebration accomplished in 3 acts, each day we journey with Christ through His Passion, life-giving Death, and Resurrection, making present the historical events that brought about our Salvation.

The Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with our first act: the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Here, the Christian community makes present the events in the Upper Room where, according to Pope Benedict XVI, Christ "anticipated His death, freely gave His life, and offered the definitive gift of Himself to humanity."

The Mass of the Lord's Supper includes the washing of feet. During biblical times, it was customary for people to have their feet washed by servants upon entering a house. When Jesus washed His disciples' feet at the Last Supper, He humbly revealed the command to love one another with a servant's heart. This commandment is passed on to us as modern-day disciples and is commemorated on Holy Thursday in this moving devotion.

On this day, after Communion, the Mass does not end. Instead, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to an "altar of repose" where all of the faithful are invited to pause in adoration, accompanying Jesus' agony in Gethsemane. It was on this night that Peter, James, and

John fell asleep and left the Lord alone, even after His command to "keep watch over me while I pray."

Our liturgy continues on Good Friday with our second act, commemorating Jesus' trial and crucifixion. This is a day of fasting, abstinence, penance, and prayer. No Mass is celebrated on this day. Instead, we gather to continue our celebration with the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion — the Eucharist is reserved from Holy Thursday.

Holy Saturday is the day of the entombed Christ — it is a day of great silence. This silence is broken only at the start of the Easter Vigil, as the faithful call to mind the glorious "light of Christ" that has come to dispel the darkness.

The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Easter Triduum and the greatest celebration of the entire liturgical year. We rejoice in Christ's victory over sin and death, as well as His continuous presence guiding the Church. On this third and final act of our celebration, the catechumens, now formally "the Elect", become Christians as fully initiated Catholics through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Easter is so important that we celebrate it for an entire octave of eight days until Divine Mercy Sunday. Then we continue on for fifty days until Pentecost Sunday with other baptized candidates receiving the sacraments of initiation to join us in full communion with the Catholic Church.

So, whether you've sacrificed wholeheartedly this Lent or fallen short of your resolutions, the purpose of the journey is to unite ourselves with Christ and prepare for the arrival of Easter. Please join us for the Easter Triduum. The Lord awaits your arrival! All are invited!

Mahalo Nui for Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of St. Michael the Archangel Church

St. Michael the Archangel Church was established in 1980.





of Our New Church Building on Historic Al'i Drive!

hed at this spot in Kailua-Kona on July 5, 1840.



Celebrating

the 2025 Jubilee Year
in the Catholic Church

Pope Francis Declares Theme,
“Pilgrims of Hope”



The Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year, themed “Pilgrims of Hope,” offers Catholics worldwide a profound opportunity to deepen our faith and rekindle our relationship with Christ. A Jubilee Year, rooted in the biblical tradition of restoration and renewal, is a special time set aside by the Church to foster spiritual growth, encourage reconciliation, and celebrate God's abundant mercy. Declared by Pope Francis, this Holy Year is an invitation for all Catholics to embrace hope as a guiding light in our spiritual journey.

At the heart of the Jubilee Year are pilgrimages, particularly to Rome, where the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica was opened as a symbol of God's grace. Walking through the Holy Door signifies a

passage into a renewed life with Christ. In his apostolic letter introducing the Jubilee, Pope Francis emphasizes the need for hope in a world marked by challenges, encouraging the faithful to rediscover our role as witnesses of Christ's love and mercy.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) echoes this sentiment, urging American Catholics to see the Jubilee Year as an opportunity for renewal and a deeper commitment to discipleship. The bishops have outlined several ways for Catholics to participate in the Jubilee, including pilgrimages to designated shrines across the United States, special liturgical celebrations, and communal acts of prayer and service. The USCCB also encourages parishes to focus on Eucharistic devotion, as the Jubilee aligns with the National Eucharistic Revival, emphasizing the transformative power of the Eucharist in Catholic life.

Special events and devotions will highlight the year. Many dioceses will host local pilgrimages, mission retreats, and reconciliation services to inspire spiritual renewal. Parishes are encouraged to organize events fostering community and prayer, such as Eucharistic

processions, adoration, and acts of charity. These activities aim to remind the faithful of our call to stewardship and our role in building up the Body of Christ. Bishop Silva has commissioned a Traveling Jubilee Cross that will visit every parish. It will be on Hawai'i Island from March 1st to April 13th.

Catholics across the United States can celebrate the Jubilee Year in their daily lives by embracing discipleship and stewardship. Engaging in regular prayer, receiving the sacraments, and participating in acts of service and charity can deepen our connection to Christ. Families might consider creating home altars, praying the Rosary together, or reading Scripture to mark this holy time. Small groups or parish ministries can focus on themes of hope and renewal through study and discussion.

Ultimately, the 2025 Jubilee Year is a call for all Catholics to walk as “Pilgrims of Hope” — to rediscover the joy of the Gospel, renew our faith, and strengthen our commitment to Christ. By participating in the Jubilee's spiritual and communal opportunities, the faithful can grow closer to God and embrace our mission as stewards of His hope in the world.

For more information on Jubilee 2025, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Jubilee page at www.usccb.org/jubilee2025.



AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR **PARISH FOOD PANTRY**

Living Out Works of Mercy and Feeding Our Neighbors in Need

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us, the Corporal Works of Mercy guide us to serve our neighbors "as if they were Christ in disguise." One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to "feed the hungry." Food insecurity is a real problem across Hawai'i — and it often impacts children. The Food Pantry at St. Michael the Archangel is a way to live out this essential work of mercy by feeding people throughout the area.

Volunteers distribute food on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. As one of two food pantries that remained open during the COVID shut-downs, the volunteers distributed a lot of food. The need had leveled out for a time, but it has gone up again over the last two years. Fr. Lio has made it clear that anyone who needs food gets it — there are no screening requirements for the food recipients.

Bill and Cindy Culhane oversee this ministry.

"About 40 percent of the island's residents are

considered food insecure, so the need is great," Bill says. "Most of our recipients are working families."

Fr. Lio asked Bill and Cindy to take over this ministry about eight years ago, knowing they have a heart for this work. Each person or family who comes through gets a bag of staples and fresh produce, some of which comes from the Sharing Garden here at the parish. Some of the produce is donated by parishioners and the rest is purchased. The amount distributed to each person in need depends on their family size.

"We get a lot of donations, but we also have items we have to buy, and we are thankful the parish is so generous in supporting this essential ministry," Bill says.

The Food Pantry has been around since the early 1990s. Bill says he happily took over because he "loves food." He'd also done work with other organizations that feed the hungry.

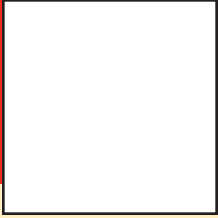
"There is a large number of people who are concerned about where they are getting their next meal here," Bill says.

On the Thursday before the distribution, volunteers gather to sort the food and prepare the packages for distribution.

"The people we serve are very grateful," Bill says. "We hear it in what they say and see it in their smiles. The people who volunteer are the friendliest people."

continued on back cover





St. Michael the Archangel Parish

75-5769 Alii Drive
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



Food Pantry *continued from page 7*

"I wanted to get involved because this is something that is needed and something I can do to help," Cindy adds.

The Food Pantry also works with several other parish ministries, and at the fourth Saturday distribution, diapers are also available. Bill and Cindy are thankful to all the volunteers who keep it thriving and all those who donate.

"When you consider how we distribute 600 pounds of rice and 250 cans of Spam per time, we need a lot of items," Cindy says.

Find a way to support this ministry — it is, after all, answering Christ's call to "feed the hungry."

"People don't have to be of any certain religion," Cindy says. "If they are hungry, we will feed them."



"You can always come to a session and watch," Bill adds. "We keep volunteers busy when they come. We make sure they are all useful."

To get involved in the Food Pantry, contact Bill and Cindy Culhane at bandcculhane@yahoo.com.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m. (‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i/English), 9 a.m., and 4 p.m. (English), 12 p.m. (Español) • Confessions: Saturday 9 a.m.
Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. (St. Michael) • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 5 p.m. (Immaculate Conception) • Wed 6 p.m. (Immaculate Conception in Spanish)
Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Vespers and Benediction (St. Michael)