



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

PARKING AMBASSADORS Perform Essential Service and Extend Hospitality to All

We have many ministries here at St. Michael the Archangel that serve to foster ho’okipa (hospitality), such as the Coffee and Donuts Ministry, the Lei Ministry, and Welcome Committee, to name a few. It’s important to make parishioners and guests alike feel welcome. This is part of our Hawai’i tradition and our Christian tradition. Each person who walks through our doors should know they are welcome, valued, and loved.

As parishioners at St. Michael the Archangel, it’s easy to take for granted that we know where to park and how to navigate the parking lot. But it may not be evident to everyone. To meet this need, Fr. Lio requested a new ministry, which Mansfield Montizor helps oversee — the Parking Ambassadors Ministry. The ministry kicked off its efforts in early November. Before launching this ministry, an informal group had been parking people and directing traffic on Sundays. However, it was recognized that this service is also needed for special occasions.

“We noticed the importance of conveying hospitality through aloha by greeting and welcoming parishioners as they come to celebrate not only in Sunday Masses but also the various special occasions throughout the year,” Mansfield says.

There are currently eight members, and Mansfield would love to see more people get involved. If someone knows of an event coming up, call the parish office and offer to help.



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FEBRUARY/MARCH
PEPELUALI/ MALAKI
2025

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Lenten Stewardship

and Nurturing a Deeper Connection to Christ

The sacred season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 this year. This is a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. We strive to grow closer to Christ during this period through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A frequently overlooked but deeply meaningful approach to enhancing one's Lenten spiritual journey is to embrace the stewardship way of life. How can stewardship help Catholics deepen their commitment to their Lenten spiritual journey and ultimately draw closer to Christ? Stewardship is a way of life rooted in the belief that everything we have – our time, talents, and treasure – is a gift from God. We are called to be good stewards of these gifts, using them to serve God and others. Stewardship goes beyond the idea of simply giving back to God; it's about recognizing that all we have is ultimately God's, and we are entrusted with these resources for a purpose. Here are some ideas on how stewardship can be integrated into one's Lenten journey:

Give Time in Service: Lent is a time for self-examination and a renewed focus on serving others. By volunteering your time for charitable organizations or within your parish, you can actively participate in almsgiving. Choose a cause that resonates with you, whether it's helping the less fortunate, visiting the elderly, or mentoring the youth. Stewardship reminds us that time is a valuable resource and dedicating it to others is a way to draw closer to Christ's selfless love.

Share Talents with the Community: Your unique talents and skills are gifts from God, and they can be used to serve your faith community during Lent. Whether you have musical talents, artistic abilities, or organizational skills, consider how you can contribute to your parish or church activities. Share your talents to enrich the liturgy, contribute to spiritual growth, or support your fellow parishioners in their Lenten journey.

A Lenten Sacrifice of Treasure: The concept of tithing is an essential aspect of stewardship. During Lent, consider making a financial sacrifice as a way to live out almsgiving. This could involve increasing your regular giving to your parish or contributing to a special charity or mission project. The act of sacrificial giving not only helps those in need, but it also

serves as a reminder of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our salvation.

Cultivate a Prayerful Heart: Stewardship extends to our spiritual lives as well. A key aspect of stewardship is recognizing the importance of prayer and deepening our relationship with God. Use Lent as an opportunity to focus on prayer, both in personal reflection and communal worship. Pray for guidance in stewarding your time, talents, and treasure in a way that honors God and serves His people.

Self-Examination and Reflection: Lent is a season of self-examination, repentance, and turning towards God. Embrace the practice of regularly examining your stewardship in your daily life. Are you using your gifts and resources to their fullest potential in service to God and others? Consider making a commitment to reevaluate and adjust your stewardship practices as you journey through Lent.

Practice Gratitude: Stewardship is grounded in gratitude for the blessings we've received. Throughout Lent, consciously practice gratitude for the many gifts God has entrusted to you. Reflect on how these gifts can be used to serve others and draw closer to Christ.

Embracing stewardship during Lent can be a transformative experience as we seek a deeper connection to Christ in preparation for His resurrection at Easter. It reminds us that our time, talents, and treasure are gifts from God, and it challenges us to use these gifts to serve others and glorify God. By giving of ourselves in a spirit of stewardship, we can live out the core principles of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — in a way that reflects Christ's love and sacrifice. Ultimately, this way of life can help us grow closer to Christ and become better disciples of His love.





THE FEAST OF ST. PETER DAMIAN: A Celebration of Catholic Stewardship

The Catholic Church is replete with saints whose lives and contributions have left an indelible mark on the faith, and St. Peter Damian stands as a shining example of stewardship. His feast day, celebrated on Feb. 21, serves as a reminder of the importance of this virtue in the life of a devout Catholic.

Born in Ravenna, Italy, in 1007, St. Peter Damian lived during a time when the Church was facing challenges, including corruption and a need for reform. Initially a hermit, he later became a Benedictine monk, a cardinal-bishop, and a renowned theologian. His contributions to the Church and his commitment to reform and spiritual renewal made him

a significant figure in the Catholic tradition.

The feast of St. Peter Damian holds a particular significance in the Church for several reasons:

Champion of Monastic Reform: St. Peter Damian's life was characterized by his dedication to monastic reform. He recognized the need to restore the discipline and spiritual fervor within monastic communities. His works, such as *The Book of Gomorrah*, addressed issues of clergy misconduct and moral decay within the Church, advocating for a return to the monastic way of life. His feast day reminds us of the importance of reform, both within the Church and in our personal lives.

Doctor of the Church: In recognition of his theological writings and profound insights into the faith, St. Peter Damian was honored with the title of Doctor of the Church. His theological contributions continue to shape Catholic doctrine and spiritual practices. His feast day is an opportunity for Catholics to reflect on the wisdom of this great theologian and the continued relevance of his teachings.

Exemplar of Catholic Stewardship: St. Peter Damian's life exemplified the principles of Catholic stewardship. He understood that everything, including his talents and gifts, came from God. He lived a life of simplicity and humility, choosing to use his talents for the betterment of the Church and the world. His commitment to monastic life, prayer, and theological scholarship reflected his acknowledgment of God as the ultimate source of all gifts. This is a powerful lesson in stewardship: to recognize our gifts as blessings to be shared with others.

Advocate for the Poor and Marginalized: St. Peter Damian's commitment to stewardship extended to his care for the poor and marginalized. He used his influence to advocate for the less fortunate, demonstrating the importance of generosity and compassion. His feast day is a reminder of the Catholic call to serve those in need and to use our resources for the well-being of others.

A Life of Sacrifice: St. Peter Damian's life was characterized by sacrifice and self-denial. He chose a life of austerity and penance, demonstrating the virtue of self-sacrifice for the sake of spiritual growth and the service of God. His feast day serves as an inspiration for Catholics to embrace a life of sacrifice, aligning their actions with the principles of stewardship.

The feast of St. Peter Damian is a celebration of a remarkable saint whose life exemplified the principles of stewardship. His commitment to monastic reform, theological contributions, advocacy for the poor, and a life of self-sacrifice continue to inspire us to this day. By reflecting on his legacy and the importance of stewardship in his life, Catholics can draw lessons for their own spiritual journeys and contributions to the Church and society. St. Peter Damian's feast day is a time to honor his memory and recommit to living lives of faith, service, and stewardship in the modern world.

MEET OUR LIVING STEWARDS:

Congratulations to our 2024 Living Stewards. You inspire our entire parish 'ohana to be better disciples of Jesus. Mahalo for all that you do!

Jaymie Akiona
Juana Alcantar
Mark Appleby
Fe Bacawag
Jana Bennett
Thelma Baxter
Trinh Bui
Gloria Buswell
Charlie Cajumban
Raynaldo Cancino
Adele Cassar (Youth)
Okeah Cassar (Youth)
Joseph Chan
Dalia Cruz
Jack Drabinski

Lizbeth Erazo (Youth)
Annie Ferren
Mária González
Ronnie Guillen
José Gusman Gomez
Victor and Toni Claire Ha'anio
Herlani Herkamto
Gio Hilario (Youth) -
Theresa Holderread
Rich and Ellen Janevicius
Dave and Patty Kellar
Eugene and Evita Kowalski
Levi Legay
Mary Beth Main (Youth)
Rose Main

Luis Angel Magaña
Luis Bernabé Magaña
Vicente Magaña
Sandra Manuel
Tania Yaneth Martinez
Francisco Mendez
Wava Piela
Filbert Sanchez
Mike Sellers
Joe Smith
John and Helen Sullivan
Mei Lin Uganiza (Youth)
Kendra Wike (Youth)
Will Winderbaum





Island Treasures 2024



Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

March 19



Devotion to St. Joseph began relatively late in Church history, primarily because his role of husband to Mary and head of the Holy Family was underplayed in early Christianity by many unauthenticated legends of Christ's childhood. These legends almost always portrayed Joseph as an old man, a simple guardian of Mary and Jesus.

Modern theology places Joseph in a much more important position. Because of his valid marriage to Mary, Joseph shared in Mary's parenthood — Joseph was a father to Jesus in every way except biological. Joseph appeared publicly as the natural father of Jesus, thus shielding the virginity of Mary and the reputation of Jesus. Joseph's fatherly love, authority, and watchful service were all necessary circumstances in God's plan for the Incarnation.

Joseph was born in Judea or Galilee in the first century B.C. Little is stated in the Bible about the influence Joseph had on Jesus. History tells us that he brought Mary and Jesus to the temple each Passover and taught Jesus the carpentry trade. He seems to be the silent family man who shows his love for his family by providing them with security. The very safety of Mary and Jesus was guarded by Joseph when he took his family into Egypt to avoid the massacre of male babies ordered by King Herod.

In the history of the Church, Western veneration of Joseph began with the introduction of the Feast of St. Joseph in the late 15th century.

In 1870, at the end of the First Vatican Council, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph to be the patron of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of carpenters, workers, fathers, and a happy death given that he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus. The title of Joseph's March 19 feast day is "Husband of Mary." Pope Pius XII later declared May 1 to be the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to counteract the Communist May Day holiday.

A traditional prayer to St. Joseph

O Blessed St. Joseph, faithful guardian and protector of virgins, to whom God entrusted Jesus and Mary, I implore you by the love which you did bear them, to preserve me from every defilement of soul and body, that I may always serve them in holiness and purity of love. Amen.



The Eucharistic Evangelization Ministry

Bringing Our United Purpose Under Christ to the Forefront

As Catholic Christians, we believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. At every Mass, Jesus comes to us as we partake in this immense mystery. In a world suffering at the hands of widespread mental illness and increasing hopelessness, this message must be heard.

“Our children are experiencing unprecedented levels of depression, anxiety, loneliness, and other spiritual and mental health disorders, which as an emergency physician I have witnessed firsthand,” says Dr. Scott French. “This current tragedy of epidemic proportions has a genesis in our modern culture’s narrative to our children that there is only the material world, and that science has proven that God does not exist.”

Responding to a need to spread a message of hope to the world, Dr. French began the Eucharistic Evangelization Ministry. The ministry seeks to “restore truth, faith, and hope in the Eucharist, the “medicine of immortality” and the “rescue plan for humanity.”

The ministry involves the distribution of brochures regarding several key topics — 21st-century Eucharistic miracles, scientifically valid near-death experiences, the Big Bang, and the Shroud of Turin.

“What if 21st-century science also reveals evidence that the claims of the Bible and the Catholic Church are true, that each one of us is unique, beloved, and never to be repeated by an all-loving God?” Dr. French says. “What if it reveals that our real home is to be reunited with this same living creator God in heaven?”

Calling upon his own expertise as a physician and scientist, Dr. French can give scientific context about our existence, but he says there is much more to human

beings than just that. We are not random — we truly have a purpose. While our society sees the heaviness and darkness of humanity, there is hope because all life comes from God.

“Culture tells us, life comes from the material world,” Dr. French says. “But it doesn’t — it comes from God. Jesus really did have a resurrection, our souls come directly from God.”



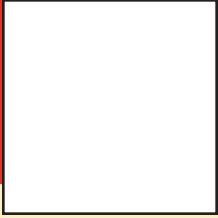
Dr. Scott French

The pamphlets will be distributed at St. Peter by the Sea, and will be available at a booth for the Kōkua Kailua Village monthly stroll. They are also in the kiosks at St. Michael. In addition, the ministry hosts a series of talks at the Grace Center, other Hawai’i parishes, conferences, presentations to other Christian churches, as well as at multiple venues throughout Hawai’i and, eventually, neighboring islands. Dr. French himself has also spoken broadly on these subjects, having been featured by EWTN, presenting talks at various conferences across the country, and presentations both at parishes and schools.

While the ministry has been around for a few years, Dr. French remains the only active member. He wishes to extend an invitation to parishioners so that the ministry can grow and flourish.

“Please join the Eucharistic Evangelization Ministry ohana, whose mission is helping to restore truth, faith, and hope in the Eucharist and our Catholic faith to all ‘ohana and our community,” he says.

For more information or to get involved, contact Dr. Scott French at scott@magiscenter.com.



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Parking Ambassadors *continued from front cover*

“The members also enjoy greeting and welcoming people, and hopefully bring that feeling with them into the church as we celebrate the Eucharist together as a faith community,” Mansfield says.

When people can park and navigate in a stress-free environment, they will enter the parish feeling better overall. In turn, this will improve their entire Mass experience.

Mansfield serves because he loves God and his parish family. He knows others feel the same way.

“Serving Jesus our Savior and Lord is foremost,” he says. “We do that by helping and serving at St. Michael the Archangel Parish. It is a means of coming closer to God — not only with this ministry but the many other ministries that we have here at the parish.”

Mansfield encourages all parishioners to use their gifts to get involved in the parish. He believes stewardship helps us grow in our relationship with God.

“Jesus served the people,” Mansfield says. “We

follow His example by serving our Christian community, expressing God’s love for all of us.”

We mustn’t just show up for weekend Mass, then leave and not come back. We should be getting to know our fellow parishioners and guests. This ministry is one way to make that happen.

“Our parish community has one thing in common that extends beyond our church, and that is our love for God,” Mansfield says. “Our lives may be different in the way we live. However, our paths, at some point, will converge through our communion of faith. That’s when we are called as a faith community to help one another to stay the righteous path of God.”

To become a Parking Ambassador, contact the parish office at 808-326-7771.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., and 4 p.m. (English), 12 p.m. (Spanish) • 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.