



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Greeters Ministry

*Welcoming Visitors and Kama'āina
With the Aloha and Ho'okipa of Christ*

Kate Cutler coordinates the Greeters Ministry at St. Michael the Archangel, and she has found that its impact reaches far beyond the parish doors. Her sister once shared a compliment she heard while on an airplane, when a fellow passenger who had visited Hawai'i spoke warmly about St. Michael's, saying they felt genuinely welcomed at the parish.

"I couldn't get a better compliment than that," Kate says. "I want all visitors to have that warm feeling about our parish."

The Greeters Ministry demonstrates the profound impact of a simple act of ho'okipa – hospitality with a distinct Kona flavor. Before Mass, the greeters warmly welcome



visitors to St. Michael's, presenting them with a shell lei as a gesture of aloha and belonging. Each lei is tagged with parish contact information, making it easy for visitors to reach out with questions, learn more about the parish, or even give an offering — often long after their visit has ended.

Having traveled extensively, Kate knows what makes a parish feel truly welcoming — and she's confident the greeters at St. Michael get it just right.

"We hear people tell us how wonderful we made their visit to our church and our island," Kate says. "This gives us the opportunity to let people know that we personally love it here."

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Handing On Our Faith as Stewards of God's Goodness

Many Catholic parents feel like they've failed — especially when their adult children no longer practice the faith or attend Mass regularly. Parents are often slow to take credit for their children's successes but quick to shoulder the blame when it comes to struggles in the spiritual life.

Yet, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to live as stewards of all God's gifts — especially the gift of our Catholic faith. Stewardship is a response of gratitude to God, and one of the greatest ways we show that gratitude is by handing on the faith to those we love. Stewardship is always about invitation, witness, and love — not pressure or guilt.

In 2005, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, outlined the five essential marks of Catholic education — a message later published in *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools*. These marks apply not only to Catholic schools, but also to Catholic families and individuals who seek to be faithful stewards of God's grace.

1. Supernatural Vision

A stewardship life begins with a supernatural vision — recognizing everything we have is a gift from God, and our ultimate goal is heaven. From an early age, we should focus our hearts on eternal life with God. Do we speak to our children and grandchildren about heaven? Do we remind ourselves that we are stewards of this earthly life, always journeying toward eternity?

2. Christian Anthropology

Stewardship flows from understanding who we are — children of God, made in His image. Is Christ at the center of our daily lives? Are we showing through our words and actions that Jesus is the heart of our families? Stewardship begins with gratitude and flourishes when we live as joyful witnesses.

3. Communion and Community

Stewardship reminds us we are not isolated individuals but part of a greater communion — the Body of Christ. In our homes and parishes, we are called to build community, sharing life and supporting each other. Do we foster this in our families? Do we encourage generosity and self-giving?

4. Catholic Worldview

A stewardship way of life shapes how we see the world. A Catholic worldview helps us see God in all things and encourages holiness in daily life. Are we helping each other recognize God's call? Are we supporting and gently challenging one another to grow as disciples?

5. Gospel Witness

At its heart, stewardship is about witness. We don't need all the answers to share our faith. What matters most is showing how Jesus and His Church have made a difference in our lives. Stewardship invites us to be living examples of God's love and generosity.

Passing on the faith is not complicated. And it's never too late. Focus on the goal of eternal life. Keep Christ at the center. Build unity and community. Encourage holiness. Witness to the joy of the Gospel. Let's help our keiki, mo'opuna, and all our loved ones know what we're about — discipleship, holiness, and the journey to heaven.



St. Scholastica:

A SAINT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION

When looking at her life, her unwavering faith, and her deep love for God and her brother, St. Benedict, St. Scholastica is a remarkable example for all Catholics to honor and emulate. As we approach her feast day on Feb. 10, let us delve into the history and importance of St. Scholastica in the Catholic Church.

Born in Nursia, Italy, around the year 480, St. Scholastica is best known for her close relationship with her twin brother, St. Benedict, who is considered the father of Western monasticism. Raised in a Christian family, the siblings were inseparable throughout their childhood. However, as they grew older, they chose different paths: Benedict became a monk and founded the famous Monte Cassino monastery, while Scholastica embraced the monastic life in a convent located nearby. Despite the geographical separation, their spiritual connection remained unbreakable.

St. Scholastica's life teaches us the importance of nurturing one's spiritual journey. Her deep commitment to the monastic life exemplifies how individuals can find their own paths to God. By dedicating herself to prayer and contemplation, Scholastica became an inspiration for those seeking to deepen their faith and grow closer to the Divine.

Her story is a testament to the power of sibling love, as well as a profound love for God. Her famous encounter with St. Benedict on the evening before her death is a poignant example. On that night, the two siblings met for their annual spiritual rendezvous. As they conversed about matters of the soul, Scholastica implored her brother to stay with her, as she had a premonition that it would be their last meeting. When Benedict

refused due to his monastic rule, Scholastica fervently prayed for a downpour. Miraculously, her prayers were answered, and a thunderstorm prevented Benedict from leaving. Three days later, Scholastica passed away, and Benedict saw her soul ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. This story encapsulates the pure and selfless love that we should all strive for in our relationships, both with our loved ones and with God.

St. Scholastica also stands as an advocate for women in the Church, proving that their spiritual contributions are equally valuable. As the founder of a Benedictine convent, she demonstrated that women could lead a life of dedication and prayer within the monastic tradition. Her legacy endures in the many women who have followed her example and become devout sisters and nuns, contributing significantly to the Church's spiritual growth and service to society.

St. Scholastica's feast day on Feb. 10 is a time for Catholics to reflect on the virtues she embodied and to seek her intercession in their lives. Her love for God, her profound spirituality, and her dedication to the monastic life make her a beacon of inspiration for Catholics. Honoring her reminds us to cultivate our spiritual lives, deepen our relationship with God, and embrace the powerful bonds of love with our family and community.

As we celebrate her feast day, let us remember her legacy and seek to emulate her example of selfless love, commitment to God, and dedication to the monastic life. St. Scholastica's life continues to inspire Catholics, reminding us of the profound impact one person can have on the faith and devotion of many.

An Inside Look at the Homeless Ministry Addressing Urgent and Tangible Needs

St. Michael the Archangel is collaborating with other organizations to end homelessness in Hawai'i. There is a real need for affordable housing for families and individuals who are flesh-and-blood realities that are often diminished in statistics.

Our Homeless to Housing Ministry is working to end homelessness through collaboration with community groups who can put faces to those statistics. Shirley David, St. Michael Pastoral Council Chair, is the coordinator for the Ministry.

Shirley's involvement began through the Just Faith program offered at St. Michael the Archangel.

"My involvement began when my comprehension of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly its emphasis on the preferential option for the poor, deepened through my participation in the Just Faith program," Shirley says. "This experience helped me recognize the fundamental human need for adequate housing with the importance of providing a safe environment for individuals and families to flourish."

Shirley cites the influence of Cynthia Taylor, St. Michael's former pastoral associate, who invited Shirley to attend Community Alliance Partners (CAP) meetings with her.

"Cynthia saw the potential for my skills and experience to contribute meaningfully to our efforts," Shirley says. "My background in legislative advocacy from my professional work in California proved to be a valuable asset as I became more involved. This experience enabled me to support our initiatives more effectively and contribute to meaningful change."

CAP is a coalition of non-profits, government officials, and the faith-based community working to end homelessness. St. Michael Parish is a paid voting member of CAP. The Homeless to Housing Ministry members can take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by CAP for understanding how the non-profit groups work with the unhoused and with those in jeopardy of becoming unhoused.

"They learn at meetings about upcoming projects and programs of member agencies," Shirley says. "They learn how to build awareness and advocate with one voice, with advocacy being participating in building the legislative priorities of CAP."

Another group, the Vibrant Hawai'i Housing Coalition, also invites anyone who wishes to learn to join and attend their monthly Zoom meetings.

"These Zoom meetings focus on the housing needs





Homeless to Housing Ministry Meets the Needs with Great Compassion

of our island community, about innovative housing options, and about legislation focused on eliminating roadblocks to build affordable housing,” Shirley says. “With the information and tools learned from both organizations, our ministry members talk to our state and local elected officials, testify in support of legislation, write letters to the editor in West Hawai’i Today, and other press, especially in response to misinformation. Our ministry members encourage parishioners and others to join the effort with learning opportunities and by hosting community events related to housing and homelessness.”

Ministry members help newly housed families through organizations, such as Hope Services, that support families moving out of homelessness. Through foundation grants, Hope Services purchased Kani Le’a Apartments, a three-story apartment complex in Kailua-Kona made up of 12 two-bedroom apartments. The apartments are being renovated to provide permanent supportive housing for families and individuals with low and extremely low income.

“The most tangible outcome of our work is answering the call for furnishings,” Shirley says. “In the past, we have participated in Habitat for Humanity blitz builds, hammering and painting, decorating, and providing support services for the volunteers.”

Through her work with CAP and the Vibrant Hawai’i Housing Coalition, Shirley has learned that new house construction does not keep up with the needs of local residents.

“The high cost of rentals is directly related to a lack of enough housing,” she says. “The slow housing permit process, especially for multi-tenant buildings, and too strict building codes add to the housing shortage. Vocal ‘not in my backyard,’ or ‘NIMBY’ neighborhood coalitions are very successful in stopping low-income

and workforce housing projects. In the meantime, families and individuals are living in overcrowding situations. They ‘couch surf’ and sleep in their cars. Wages do not keep up with housing costs.”

Shirley notes that an illness in a family or a layoff that takes a wage earner out of the workforce can send a family into homelessness.

“Working families are living paycheck to paycheck,” she says.

There have been memorable moments while Shirley has been serving in our ministry, most notably while she was canvassing homeless individuals with Hope Services.

“This was participating in Point in Time Counts,” Shirley says. “At least biannually during the last week of January, volunteers ask the unsheltered where they slept on a single night. Collected data helps outreach workers locate unsheltered individuals and guide them toward a healthier lifestyle. We observed families sleeping in cars. We talked to individuals hidden away from view and out in the open.

“The most memorable conversation was with a young woman who offered hospitality in her makeshift tent home,” Shirley adds. “When asked if she needed anything, she said she would take some of the snacks and beverages offered because a wild pig had come through her space the night before, disturbed her furnishings, and eaten her food. She was still upbeat and told us she had just applied for a job at a local store within walking distance. She was hopeful that a steady job would help improve her situation.”

There are a number of ways St. Michael parishioners can help. One way is under the leadership of the Homeless to Housing Ministry. Through that group, our parish is sponsoring a unit at the Kani Le’a Apartments and will furnish it as a family unit.

Donations and furnishing help are needed. Contact the parish office at 808-326-7771.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle:

FEB. 22

On the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle on Feb. 22 commemorates the foundational role of St. Peter in the establishment of the Church and the unbroken apostolic succession. It is a day to reflect on the authority and leadership entrusted to St. Peter and his successors, the popes, in guiding the Church.

The term “Cathedra” is derived from the Latin word for “chair” and symbolizes the seat of authority, making this feast a unique and meaningful celebration, as it is a celebration of the authority given to St. Peter by Jesus Himself.

In the Gospel of Matthew (16:18-19), Jesus tells Peter, “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” This passage underscores Peter’s unique role as the Rock upon which the Church is built and his authority to guide the faithful.

The feast also serves as a symbol of unity. St. Peter, as the first pope, is seen as the unifying figure who connects the Church’s past, present, and future. The Chair of St. Peter represents the unbroken line of apostolic succession, linking the current pope to the authority given to Peter by Jesus. This continuity is a powerful reminder that the Church is one body, guided by a line of spiritual fathers who share the same faith and teachings.

On this day, Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the role of St. Peter and his successors in the life of the Church. It is a time to consider the impact of the pope’s leadership and teaching on the global Catholic community. Many also offer prayers of gratitude for the guidance provided by the pope and for the Church’s unity.

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter is a symbol of the papal office and its spiritual authority. Renaissance master Gian Lorenzo Bernini created the dramatic Altar of the Chair found in St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City, where the pope presides over significant liturgical celebrations. This altar piece features a famous stained glass depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove emitting rays of light over a monumental cast bronze sculpture of a golden chair being lifted in the clouds. This golden chair is actually a cast-bronze reliquary that houses within it an ancient wooden throne (the cathedra) that tradition says was used by St. Peter himself, the first Pope. The bishop’s cathedra is often associated with a bishop’s teaching office, as the pope is considered the chief teacher of the faith.

While the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter highlights the authority of the pope, it also serves as a reminder of the pope’s role as a servant leader. Just as Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as a sign of humility and service, the pope is called to lead with humility and serve the Church with love and compassion to preserve Christian unity. This feast encourages Catholics to pray for the pope as he carries out his challenging responsibilities.

Let us be mindful of this special day, as the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle is a significant celebration, commemorating the authority and leadership entrusted to St. Peter by Jesus, the unbroken apostolic succession of Catholic bishops, and the unity of the Church. It also serves as a time for reflection, prayer, and gratitude for the pope’s role as the spiritual leader of the Church. As Catholics celebrate this feast, they are reminded of the foundational role of St. Peter and the enduring importance of the papal office in guiding and preserving the Church.



Meals that Heal

A Ministry Assisting and Feeding Members of Our Parish Family in Times of Need

Meals That Heal is a beautiful, everyday way for parishioners at St. Michael the Archangel to support one another during life's challenges. Whether someone has good news, such as welcoming a new baby, or rough news, like recovering from surgery or facing chemotherapy, this ministry steps in with the simplest and most comforting gift — a home-cooked meal.



Volunteers turn their kitchens into places of compassion. Through the simple act of cooking, they help ease the burden of families who need a little extra care, reminding them that they are not alone and that their parish community is walking with them every step of the way.

Cheryl Roderer leads this ministry, having started it after moving to Hawai'i from Alaska, where she had led a similar ministry. Meals are available to anyone, but for the most part, parishioners are the primary recipients. Cheryl has 40 volunteers she reaches out to via email to share the link to Meal Train, which helps her organize the dates and meals.

When Cheryl calls the recipient, she doesn't ask what she can do for them. She makes it clear that volunteers want to do this. The volunteers take note of allergies and dislikes. They typically bring meals three days a week for four to six weeks. After the time is up, they reevaluate if the person or family needs more.

"We have this one elderly couple, and they've gotten meals on and off for probably a year," Cheryl says. "When she's overwhelmed, she just lets me know, and we put them back on the schedule."

To Cheryl and the volunteers, it's about being there

for people. This is a simple way to help, allowing people to complete the work at their own convenience, in the comfort of their own home.

"It's exactly what Matthew 25:36 says. 'For I was ill and you cared for me,'" Cheryl says.

Many people are unsure of what they need or are hesitant to ask for help. But we all need to eat.

"We ask parishioners to be cognizant of what's going on with people and let us know," Cheryl says. "People often want to help, but they don't know what to do. And most people know how to cook."

Cheryl lives on the mainland for part of the year, so she sends DoorDash meals to the recipients.

"Both parties feel blessed," she says. "The people who bring the meals feel more blessed than the people who get the meals. It really is such a flexible ministry. People can double the meal they're already making."

Cheryl loves being part of Meals That Heal because she knows it makes a difference. Sharing food is a way for her to help, and she enjoys it. She also helps provide meals at The Friendly Place homeless shelter.

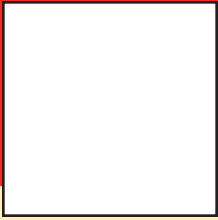
"It's meaningful because these people are so grateful," she says.

Cheryl also brings the Eucharist to nursing homes and independent-living facilities.

As for Meals That Heal, Cheryl estimates that volunteers have provided about 1,000 meals since 2016.

"This is a joy, and we're very blessed to be able to do it," she says. "People don't want to burden others by asking for help. This ministry lets us help without them needing to ask."

To get involved in Meals That Heal or to request meals for someone, contact Cheryl Roderer at caroderer@gmail.com or 702-910-8140.



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Greeters Ministry *continued from front cover*

If there's time, greeters will ask visitors some questions and give them travel tips along with an invitation for Kona coffee and donuts. Kate enjoys this part of the ministry.

"We have had so many visitors express how pleased and surprised they are with the warm welcome they receive at St. Michael's," she says. "Our entire stewardship group should feel good about sharing this aloha."

Kate would like to thank those who support this ministry in other ways, including the Kūpuna Ministry for helping with the lei. Kate could always use more help preparing lei. She does have another request, though — consider becoming a greeter!

"Come join our ministry — you will be rewarded with warm 'thank you's' and beautiful smiles," she says. "You get to watch these visitors walk into church to celebrate Christ's banquet."

As far as ministries go, the Greeters Ministry is low-pressure with no meetings. You arrive shortly before Mass begins to greet and welcome.

Having lived in Hawai'i for almost 10 years, St. Michael's is a vital part of Kate's life. It has also made a profound impact on her faith.

"Coming back to St. Michael's has made all the difference," she says. "This parish is so phenomenally beautiful — everything about it."

To become a greeter, contact Kate Cutler at 971-334-3264 or katecutler1124@gmail.com.

Mass Schedule

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