



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Join Us for Our Parish Retreat

A Unique Opportunity for Parishioners to Draw Closer to Christ



Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

There are few ways to nurture our faith life in a more meaningful way than by participating in a parish retreat — and this June, we have a wonderful chance to do so! We are blessed to have the opportunity to increase our spiritual awareness with a one-day parish retreat on the Four Pillars of Stewardship, led by the dynamic Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB. By opening our hearts and minds, we can be prepared to answer the call to deepen our faith now and year-round.

Fr. Godfrey, the current Rector at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Ill., is looking forward to joining us on Saturday, June 29 to share his deep passion for the stewardship way of life. He brings with him a great enthusiasm for the topic in addition to a wealth of personal experience.

“Through the grace of God, I’ve been a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey since 1988 and a priest of the Catholic Church since 1994,” Fr. Godfrey says. “Each assignment I’ve been given by the superior has brought many

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

IUNE/JUNE
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2024

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blessings. I have served the Church as a seminary teacher, pastor, chaplain for a community of Benedictine Sisters, seminary administrator, Choirmaster, and other tasks. I've directed retreats since soon after I was ordained a priest."

Our retreat day will be a unique opportunity for parishioners to come and experience spiritual renewal as they learn more about the Four Pillars of Stewardship — Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service — and opportunities to transform both individual lives and entire faith communities. The theme of the spirituality of stewardship is near and dear to Fr. Godfrey's heart as it provides us with a valuable guide to life in Christ.

"This topic is important because it helps people see their true vocation as Christian disciples," he says. "In other words, what has Christ asked me to do? The pillars are important because they embody the movement of the Christian life. Each of us has the call to grow along the four ways: What does welcoming look like in our day? Do I tell God what I need and also listen for the answer? Am I willing to learn, be formed, and grow in my faith? And how does all of this move me to notice the needs of others and serve Christ in them?"

In today's busy world, a parish retreat invites us to step out of our daily routines for a moment and

focus on strengthening our relationship with God and, in turn, more fully answering the Gospel call to community and discipleship.

"It's not an easy task to take stock of the most important elements of our lives while we're in the thick of daily living," Fr. Godfrey says. "A retreat, at its best, gives us the 'time away' — even if it's in our parish — to examine what is important and how we're measuring up. Retreats also encourage the important art of listening to God's grace speak to our hearts. It's so easy to miss that still, small voice in our otherwise hectic lives. It's also a wonderful time to connect with other parishioners, an act of hospitality in itself so that we become stronger communities of faith."

With Fr. Godfrey at the helm, our upcoming parish retreat promises to be a truly impactful and engaging experience for all who attend. We hope that parishioners will plan on taking advantage of this unique opportunity to experience a deepening of faith by participating in this one-day retreat on Saturday, June 29!

"More than anything, I appreciate the good work the Holy Spirit chooses to do in the lives of people as a result of drawing near to the quiet voice of God's grace," Fr. Godfrey says. "I look forward to getting to know my fellow disciples on the journey."



If you would like more information about the upcoming retreat or to RSVP, please call the parish office at 808-326-7771 or email us at stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org.



The Heart of Catholic Stewardship: *Sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure in Gratitude to God*

Stewardship is not just a concept; it's a spirituality and way of life deeply rooted in the teachings of the Church. At its core, stewardship is about recognizing that everything we have — our time, talents, and treasure — are gifts from God. It's a response of gratitude and an active commitment to use these gifts for the service of God and the benefit of others.



through education and formation is a form of stewardship. Teaching religious education, leading Bible study groups, or mentoring others are ways we can help others grow in their faith. Offering emotional support, encouragement, and a listening ear are talents too. Our ability to be compassionate can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

TIME: A COMMITMENT TO PRAYER

Our time is one of the most precious gifts God has given us. In the hustle and bustle of modern life, it's easy to overlook the value of time. Yet, as Catholics, we are called to use our time wisely and in gratitude. This means dedicating time for prayer, reflection, and worship. Time spent in prayer is a powerful way to connect with God. It's not just about asking for things, but also about being in God's presence, listening, and expressing our gratitude. Regular prayer, whether it's personal or communal, strengthens our relationship with God and deepens our faith. Attending Mass and receiving the sacraments is a significant use of our time. It is during these moments that we come together as a faith community to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Worshiping as a community is a vital aspect of our faith, and it reflects our gratitude for God's love.

TALENT: SHARING OUR UNIQUE GIFTS

Each of us possesses unique talents and abilities. Stewardship calls us to recognize our talents as gifts from God and to use them for the greater good. Actively engaging in ministry and service within our parish community is a way to share our talents. Whether it's teaching, volunteering in the Sharing Garden, bringing Holy Communion to the sick, or any other form of service, our talents enrich our faith community. Sharing our knowledge and skills

TREASURE: A MEANS TO SERVE

Our financial resources, though often viewed as a personal possession, are also a gift from God. Stewardship encourages us to view our financial means to support the Church, charitable causes, and those in need. Tithing, the act of giving a portion of our income to the Church, is a tangible way to share our treasure. By doing so, we support the Church's mission and ministries, which include providing spiritual guidance, caring for the community, and spreading the Gospel. Apart from tithing, we are also called to give to charitable causes. Our financial contributions can support organizations that serve the less fortunate, work for social justice, and provide essential services to those in need. As an extension of financial stewardship, planned giving — such as leaving a bequest to the Church or charitable organizations in your will — ensures that your legacy continues to benefit the Church and society even after you've passed away.

In embracing stewardship, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God. By actively using our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God, we strengthen our faith, support our faith community, and serve others. This is not merely an obligation, but a joyful response to God's boundless love and generosity. Stewardship is a way of life that deepens our connection with God and empowers us to make a positive impact in the world.

Celebrating First Communion and Confirmation

Ho'omaika'iana to our keiki who received the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. It was such a joy to celebrate with you as you take these important steps on your faith journeys!





Welcoming Our Brothers and Sisters at the Easter Vigil

During the Easter Vigil, we were blessed to welcome 16 people from our community into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Jessica Avendaño-Silva
Navid Avendaño-Silva
Nayeli Avendaño-Silva
Dylan Cancino Hernandez
Jonathan Cancino Hernandez
Kevin Cancino Hernandez
Jeongun "June" Legay
Levi Legay
Bradley Llanes
Napo'oanaokalā Llanes
Ava Ota Alvarez
Noah Ota Alvarez
Miley Reyes Silva
Mele Schultz
Terry Ward
Will Winderbaum





Outreach Ministries: *Bringing the Love of Christ Into the World*

Whenever we gather for Mass, after receiving Our Lord in the Eucharist, we are sent forth to bring the love of Christ into the world. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains how the Mass connects directly to our everyday lives.

“The liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (*missio*) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God’s will in their daily lives” (1332).

This mission can be accomplished in small and large ways, in our homes, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods, with our family, friends, and strangers. Our parish’s Outreach Ministries ensure that, as a community, we are always working towards this mission. Thelma Bacxa coordinates various Outreach Ministries, which touch so many lives.

“It’s important for the parish to have an outreach ministry as a way to reach others in need in the community,” Thelma says. “We serve other agencies and programs as they do direct service to families and are aware of the needs of the families they serve. We don’t ask questions but help with the need. Food and non-food items are a big need, especially when it comes to children in the home.”

Outreach begins with people’s most basic needs. When the need for food, clothing, and shelter is met, and an individual begins to come out of their crisis, that is when they will see the light of love that helped them when they were in need. Our Food Pantry is critical in meeting the basic needs of those in our community. For those with babies and young children, or kūpuna, our Diaper Ministry is a vital resource so that families never have to choose between food and diapers.

Other outreach ministries address homelessness, human trafficking, domestic violence, and the right to life. We have opportunities to engage with our local community as well as our global community. We provide meals, tend gardens, and serve seniors, children, and adults.

There is truly an opportunity for everyone who is looking for another way to reach out to the community and to share the light of Christ with those who are suffering or in need. Our parish partners with local agencies to ensure that we are meeting people’s needs in the best possible way. The end of Mass, when we are instructed to “go forth,” is really only the beginning.

“It deepens my faith and fills my heart knowing that this is what we are called to do,” Thelma says.

For a full list of outreach ministries, visit the Catholic Social Justice and Community Outreach page on the parish website. Contact Thelma Bacxa through the parish office for more information, 808-326-7771.



Praising God's Creation Through the Greenery Ministry and Sharing Garden

Here in Hawai'i, we are so blessed with the beauty of God's creation on our island. Year-round, volunteers from the Greenery Ministry take the time to enhance this beauty and bring it into our worship space at St. Michael. Our parish also caretakes an abundant Sharing Garden to serve the needs of our community. By being stewards of God's gifts, these volunteers can serve our parish 'ohana in a variety of ways.

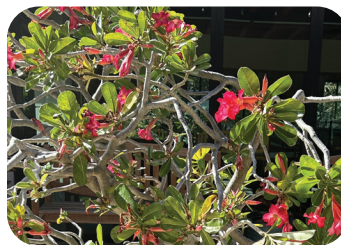
"Everybody loves to see something beautiful," says ministry leader Beth Bartell. "Our church is beautiful, our grounds are beautiful, and that's the overall feeling when you enter our church. When you start working in there, you see people coming in and out, spending time in prayer and reflection, and it brings it all together as far as why we're here and what we're doing."

Currently, ministry volunteers meet on Friday mornings to prepare the church interior and lanai for weekend Masses. They water and care for the plants, and also decorate with flowers and greenery for different celebrations and seasons throughout the liturgical year.

"We spend about five hours a week doing the maintenance and weekly decorating, and then there's additional time when we are decorating for special occasions, or bringing in new plants," Beth says. "We change everything for the different liturgical seasons. For instance, when we ready the church for Lent, we take out all the plants and keep it very simple, with things like cacti instead of flowers. Then on Holy Saturday in the morning, we'll go ahead and change it all out, so when people come in, they'll see a beautiful sea of flowers around the baptismal font and the altar.

"When we come to Mass on Sunday, it's wonderful and enriching and it's community, but this ministry is community in a different way," she adds. "It's serving others, and making sure they feel the presence of God when you walk around the church and on our grounds."

"Tending to the plants in the church and on the



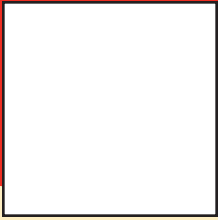
lanai is a great opportunity to serve and honor God," says Greenery Ministry member Kate Cutler. "I feel blessed to be part of this welcoming environment."

Beth also runs the parish's Sharing Garden, located on acreage at the Immaculate Conception church grounds. The garden is home to a variety of fruits and vegetables, including avocados, citrus fruits, bananas, lychee, bok choy, kale, cabbage and eggplant. These are planted, tended, and harvested by ministry volunteers. They are then distributed by the parish food pantry and Backpack Program, and are also donated to Ulu Wini transitional housing.

"Also, if we know somebody in the parish or community who has a special need, we try to help them out, too," Beth says.

Volunteers work on Monday, Wednesday and

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75-5769 Alii Drive
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



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Friday mornings — each volunteer usually comes one day each week, although some will volunteer on all three.

“It’s not a set schedule, and people come and go whenever works for them,” Beth says. “Everyone has something they enjoy, and they do different things — for example, we have one person with ‘magic fingers,’ so we always save the planting for her. We have another person who loves to weed. We also have people who come to Hawai’i for the wintertime, and they help us out while they’re here.”

“It’s so rewarding to work in the garden,” says one ministry member. “From seedlings to harvest to loading for distribution, we provide quality produce to local families. It’s a labor of love.”

“There’s such a need here for local, sustainable

produce — people aren’t getting the good quality produce that they need,” Beth says. “At the most basic level, feeding someone is what being a Christian is about. It’s also very fulfilling to grow something, pick it and share it with people freely — no strings attached, just a smile. This past year, the garden has been a blessing, and the abundance of fruits and vegetables have filled many tummies of our families. They look forward to the variety that comes from the garden, and the weather continues to allow the garden to multiply.”

The Sharing Garden Ministry encourages volunteers to get involved. No experience is needed — only, as Beth says, “a willingness to get a little dirty, enjoy our beautiful Hōlualoa weather, and meet great people.”

For more information, or to get involved in these ministries, contact Beth Bartell at 808-351-8589 or bethbartell7@gmail.com.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 11:30 a.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.