St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Meet Parishioners Rich and Ellen Janevicius

Grateful to Live and Serve in a Welcoming, Active Parish Community

Ellen and Rich Janevicius

What began as a vacation destination soon became home for Ellen and Rich Janevicius. After first visiting the Kailua-Kona area for their 10th wedding anniversary, the couple returned here year after year, drawn not only to the beauty but to the sense of peace. When they eventually made the move permanent, it didn't take long for St. Michael's Parish to feel like home as well.

Welcomed warmly and personally, Ellen and Rich wasted no time getting involved — jumping in with both feet and embracing parish life through service, fellowship, and faith. Serving the parish has been a way for them to get to know people and feel at home since they moved about five years ago. Their favorite ministry is Coffee and Donuts, and they are up early to get it all going. Rich and Ellen love receiving so many kind comments from parish visitors, and it's a blessing to meet new people.

"We've had a lot of people come up and say they've never been to a parish like this that offers this kind of fellowship after Mass, and they're always very appreciative," Ellen says.

Ellen and Rich use Coffee and Donuts as an opportunity to connect visitors with parishioners from the same area or state, making it a fun and easy way for people to feel at home.

The couple remains active with many other ministries. A significant area of their involvement is the Charity Walk. They especially enjoy the camaraderie and the food

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Remembering St. Joseph on Father's Day

Believe it or not, Father's Day wasn't recognized as a national holiday until 1966. History states that two women were the driving forces behind the establishment of Father's Day as an official holiday.

In 1908, Grace Golden Clayton suggested a day of paternal observance to her Methodist pastor. Ms. Clayton's request, sparked by a tragic West Virginia mine explosion, sought to honor the fathers who perished beneath the mountains during the blast.

Two years later, a Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash. — inspired by the popularity of Mother's Day — pushed to establish a similar holiday honoring fathers. Mrs. Dodd was called to remember the selfless actions of her own father, Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Mr. Smart lovingly raised Sonora and her five siblings single-handedly after the death of his wife. The holiday was celebrated on June 19, 1910.

Today, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. A celebration in honor of all fathers, we are called to give thanks to the men who raised us, provided us with protection and support, and patiently watched as we stretched our wings for flight.

Fathers are beloved for their silent wisdom. They are the strong embrace daughters run to when in fear or sorrow, the righteous shoes sons attempt to fill when approaching manhood, the unending catalogue of answers to life's hardest questions. A parish priest once likened fathers to the human skeleton — fundamental — yet often forgotten. Just as we rarely notice the stabilizing existence of our backbones, without the guidance of fathers and father figures, we would lack the poise and dignity we carry because of their presence.

Consider the importance of Christ's earthly father, St. Joseph. When contemplating the Holy Family, St. Joseph doesn't hold the "celebrity" status of Jesus and Mary. Catholics everywhere hold special devotions to Mary, but what about St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse? Sadly, he often stands in the shadows of his wife and child. But isn't that what fathers are supposed to do? A good dad provides his children with the tools they need to succeed in life, then steps aside, hoping and praying they will lead better lives than his own. A good dad honors his wife and encourages her to shine in the virtue of her own femininity. A good dad follows in the footsteps of St. Joseph.

This Father's Day, as you rush to the hardware store to grab your dad a gift certificate, consider the relationship between Christ and St. Joseph. Cherish the silent love that fathers hold for their children. Understand the honor that fathers deserve and recognize the blessed nature of their guidance and leadership.

The Feast of

Corpus Christi:

Celebrating the Eucharistic Miracle

The Feast of Corpus Christi, designated as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, holds a special place in the Catholic Church. It is a celebration that honors and underscores the profound significance of the Eucharistic miracle and its role in the life of the faithful. Following the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' three year long National Eucharistic Revival, this feast takes on even greater meaning for us as it invites Catholics to reflect on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic Miracle: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ

At the heart of the Feast of Corpus Christi is the recognition of the Eucharistic miracle. Catholics believe that during the celebration of the Mass, the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ. This transformation, known as transubstantiation, is a miraculous act that emphasizes the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi serves as an occasion to honor and commemorate this profound mystery. It invites Catholics to reflect on the significance of the Eucharist in their lives and to deepen their understanding of the importance of Holy Communion. This feast is an opportunity to reaffirm one's faith in the transformative power of the Eucharist, emphasizing its central role in the Catholic faith.

The Eucharist and Holy Communion

The Eucharist has always been the heart of Catholic life. From the earliest centuries of the Church, the Church Fathers taught that the Eucharist is not only the Body and Blood of Christ, but also the source of the Church's unity and communion. St. Ignatius of Antioch, writing in the first century, described the Eucharist as the "medicine of immortality," while St. Augustine taught that in receiving the Body of Christ, the faithful are also drawn more deeply into the Body of Christ – the Church herself.

For the time of the early Christians, Holy Communion was never understood as a private act alone. To receive Communion meant entering more fully into communion with Christ and with one another. The Eucharist formed the Church into one people united in faith, worship, and love.

This understanding was renewed during and after the time of the Second VaticannCouncil (1962-65). Thinkers such as Henri de Lubac, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Joseph Ratzinger (later to become Pope Benedict XVI) emphasized that the Eucharistcreates communion: communion with God and communion within the Church. They reminded the faithful that the Church does not simply "celebrate" the Eucharist; rather, the Eucharist forms and renews the Church.

The Second Vatican Council echoed this ancient teaching by calling the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life." Every time we come forward for Holy Communion, we are invited not only to receive Christ personally, but also to become more fully united as His Body in action within the world.

Let us hope that our celebration of Corpus Christi deepen our love for Christ in the Holy Eucharist and strengthen the bonds of communion and charity within our parish 'ohana.

E Komo Mai i ka ʻOhana o ke Akua

Welcoming Souls into the Church this Easter Season

This April, we were blessed to celebrate the Easter Vigil and welcome souls home to the Catholic faith. We extend our congratulations to the newest members of our faith 'ohana.

John Bangston
Karlos Benavides
Terry Glant
Ed Halpin
Derek Haspe
Kenneth Johansen Ioane Sanders
Araceli Mendez
Emily-Marie Ortiz-Gambing
Kaemllury "Kay" Rodriguez Guifarro
Taylor Salazar
James Stephenson
Victor Wiglesworth
Apache Arrow Youngblood-Solis
Alberto "Tito" Zarate Jr.
Luis Zarate

Christians entering Full-Communion with Catholic Church this Easter:

Tyler Cobb
Margaret Gross
Allegretto Rhoads
Samantha Saldivar
Doug Leo Zimmerman

Catholics completing Full Christian Initiation this Easter:

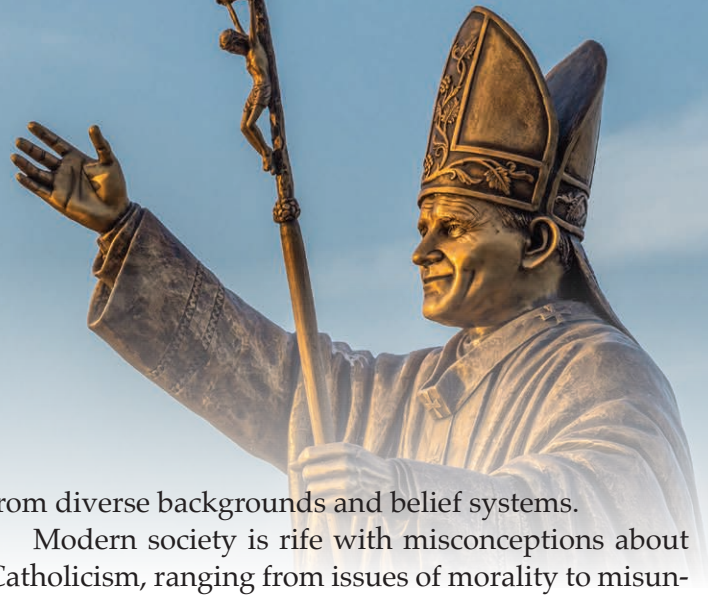
María Garces
Marisa C B Farm
Giovanni Maciel Hilario
Michelle Ornelias
Blaze Tallulah Roper

Haumāna and ʻOhana Celebrate *Confirmation and First Holy Communion*

Hoʻomaikaʻi to our young parishioners who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion with Bishop Larry Silva this spring!

DEFENDING THE FAITH:

The Imperative for Catholics in the Modern World



In an era marked by diverse ideologies and constant questioning of religious beliefs, the role of Catholic apologetics has become increasingly crucial. Catholics are called not only to practice their faith but also to be articulate defenders of it in the face of skepticism. Misconceptions about Catholic teachings, ethical concerns, and challenges to the Church's authority abound. The call to defend Catholicism has never been more pressing.

Catholic apologetics is the art of providing a reasoned defense of the faith. It involves explaining and justifying Catholic beliefs, practices, and traditions in a way that engages with the questions and criticisms of the broader society. Apologetics is not about arguing or imposing beliefs but rather about presenting a compelling case for the rationality and truth of Catholicism.

The Call to Become Better Defenders

Catholics must equip themselves with a solid understanding of their faith by delving into the teachings of the Church, understanding the Bible, and being aware of the historical context of Catholic doctrines.

Being a defender of the faith requires the ability to articulate Catholic beliefs clearly and coherently. This means developing the skill to explain complex theological concepts in a way that resonates with individuals from diverse backgrounds and belief systems.

Modern society is rife with misconceptions about Catholicism, ranging from issues of morality to misunderstandings about the role of the Church in history. Catholics must actively address and dispel these misconceptions, presenting the authentic teachings of the Church with humility and conviction.

Rather than retreating from discussions with those who hold different beliefs, Catholics should actively engage in dialogue. A respectful exchange of ideas fosters understanding and bridges gaps between different worldviews.

The modern world provides a plethora of platforms for communication. Catholics can harness the power of social media, blogs, podcasts, and other digital mediums to share their faith and engage with a global audience.

In a world where faith is often challenged and misunderstood, Catholics are called to be ambassadors of truth and defenders of their rich tradition. Embracing the art of apologetics is not a task reserved for theologians alone but a collective responsibility for every Catholic. By becoming better defenders of the faith, Catholics contribute to a more informed and respectful dialogue, fostering understanding and appreciation in the diverse tapestry of beliefs that make up the modern world.

Apologetics Resources for Catholics

Catholic Answers: A comprehensive resource offering articles, videos, and a radio show that addresses a wide range of questions and challenges to the Catholic faith.

***Summa Theologica*, by St. Thomas Aquinas:** A timeless work that delves into the philosophical and theological foundations of Catholicism, providing a solid intellectual basis for apologetics.

***Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis:** While not explicitly Catholic, this classic work presents a rational defense of Christian beliefs, offering valuable insights into Catholic apologetics.

***Fides et Ratio (Faith and Reason)*, by Pope St. John Paul II:** An encyclical that emphasizes the harmony between faith and reason, guiding Catholics in articulating the rationality of their beliefs.

***The Case for Jesus*, by Brant Pitre:** This book explores the historical evidence for the reliability of the Gospels, providing a scholarly foundation for defending the truth of the Catholic faith.

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound

Ensuring that Christ is Shared with All in Our Faith Community

The Eucharist is the center of our faith and worship as Catholics. Receiving Holy Communion weekly or even throughout the week is an immeasurable gift. For homebound parishioners, being unable to come to Mass is a great loss, but thankfully we have ministries that ensure all can receive Holy Communion and know that our parish prays and cares for them.

For many years, Teresa (TJ) Moses coordinated our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound. Having served in this ministry since 2013, TJ experienced firsthand how meaningful this service is to our sick and elderly parishioners who are unable to attend Mass.

"To bring Jesus to our sick parishioners is to give them love because Jesus is love," TJ says. "It's hope and shows them that somebody cares for them. Our volunteers are involved because they're the hands and feet of Jesus."

When clergy or extraordinary ministers visit someone in their home to bring Holy Communion, they share Scripture and pray together as much as the recipient can. The ministers use a book to guide them through simple prayers to help the recipient prepare to receive Holy Communion. Some parishioners need Communion brought to them for a brief period, while others are homebound on a long-term basis. In either circumstance, relationships are formed through these regular visits.

"Sometimes they get to be good friends, and they just talk," TJ says. "They will see if they need something or bring them a bulletin or a holy card."

Sometimes, parishioners get well and can return to Mass. Other times, they need to go to the hospital or a care home for greater care. The Homebound Ministry works in tandem with the Hospital and Care Homes Ministries to ensure that everyone can receive Jesus.

"We also keep Father in the loop so that he knows if he needs to give the Sacrament of the Sick for them," TJ says.

The volunteers are first trained as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and when they go for their first visit, an experienced minister will accompany them. Ministers are connected with parishioners who live near them when possible. Needs fluctuate, so not all volunteers are always needed, but when a parishioner is in need, ministers make an effort to take them Holy Communion every week.

"It impacts all those that are in this ministry because they see the patient still being fully Catholic," TJ says. "It gives the recipients a fullness to know that somebody cares for them and that Jesus cares for them and is sending people out to them. The patients feel the love coming from the church, and they appreciate it very much."

Any homebound parishioners, or their friends or family on their behalf, can contact the parish office to have Holy Communion brought to them in their home.

TJ recently moved back to Missouri. We are very grateful for her many years of dedicated service to our community and St. Michael will always be 'ohana.

To serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound, hospitals, or care homes, contact the parish office at 808-326-7771.

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along the route.

In addition, Rich is on the board of Full Life, which serves adults with disabilities and runs the Special Olympics. They both volunteer with the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i, which helps visitors who are in distress. They also help with the St. Michael's charity golf outing.

"The ministries here are open and inviting," Rich says. "It feels like a true parish community."

Ellen is also in the Hula Ministry and was involved in Hula back in their hometown, near Chicago. The Hula Ministry meets throughout the year and offers sacred hula as prayer at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and some funerals or special holy days..

Furthermore, Rich is on the Finance Council. He was invited to serve, and he considers it a privilege.

When Ellen and Rich were living near Chicago, their parish there felt very large and not homey. They felt like a number and slowly drifted away.

"It was easy to feel unnoticed," Rich says.

"Here, we felt welcomed immediately," Ellen adds. "Fr. Lio remembered our names, and people welcomed us as if we'd been here our whole lives."

In her free time, Ellen plays pickleball. Rich enjoys tinkering, especially with electronics. He's the go-to person for electronics and camera systems in their neighborhood.

"We've had a lot of people come up and say they've never been to a parish like this that offers this kind of fellowship after Mass, and they're always very appreciative."
— Ellen Janevicius

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.