



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Faith Formation

Forming Keiki into Intentional Disciples and Growing the Future of Our Church

Helping keiki grow in their Catholic faith is a vital part of parish life — and a meaningful way for parishioners to share their faith with the next generation. Margaret Essex directs Faith Formation for kindergarten through fifth grade and relies on dedicated catechists and volunteers to make the program possible.

“Being a catechist is extremely rewarding because we are teaching the children about their Catholic faith in a way that makes it alive and relevant in their daily lives,” Margaret says. “We support what the parents are teaching. The teachers want God to be the focal point in their students’ daily lives, and it’s so



rewarding to see the spark in their eyes. There is so much negativity in the world, and we want to bring love and sunshine into their day.”

Volunteers serve as catechists and classroom assistants each Sunday, with

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Sharing the Good News

Evangelization as an Expression of Stewardship

The word “evangelization” can sometimes sound intimidating. Many Catholics hear it and immediately think of public speakers, missionaries, or people with extensive theological training. Yet at its core, evangelization is much simpler. It is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others and inviting them to encounter His love.

Most people first learn about faith through the witness of others. A parent teaches a child how to pray by praying. A friend offers encouragement during a difficult time. A parishioner extends a warm welcome. A coworker demonstrates kindness and integrity rooted in faith. These everyday moments often become opportunities for God to touch someone’s heart through the simple witness of another person’s life.

Stewardship helps us understand why sharing our faith is so important. Everything we have comes from God, including the gift of faith itself. We have been blessed with the opportunity to know and follow Jesus Christ, participate in the life of the Church, and experience His love and mercy. Stewardship calls us not only to receive these gifts with gratitude but also to share them generously.

Sharing the Good News does not require having all the answers or delivering a perfect explanation of Church teaching. More often, it involves living our

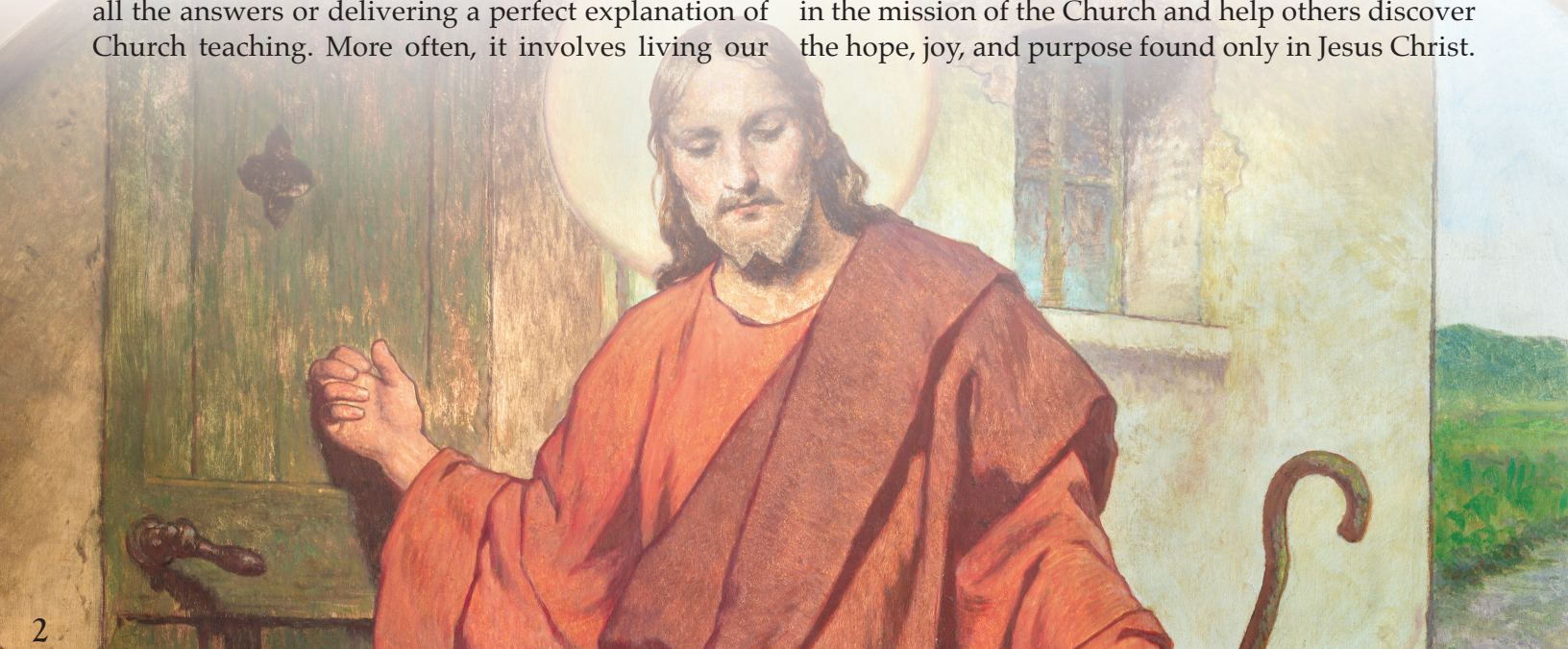
faith authentically and being willing to speak about the role God plays in our lives. A personal invitation to Mass, an offer to pray for someone, or a simple conversation about faith can have a lasting impact.

Evangelization is most effective when it grows naturally from relationships. People are often more open to hearing about Jesus when they first experience His love through the actions of others. Acts of generosity, compassion, hospitality, and service become powerful witnesses to the Gospel.

Parishes thrive when parishioners embrace this. Stewardship creates communities where people feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged in their faith. As parishioners share their gifts and live their faith openly, they help create an environment where others can encounter Jesus Christ.

Every Catholic has a role to play in this mission. God has entrusted each of us with unique relationships and opportunities that no one else can fulfill. Through our words, actions, and example, we can help bring the Good News to those around us.

As Christian stewards, we are called to share the gifts we have received. The gift of faith is among the greatest of those blessings. By sharing the Good News through the witness of our daily lives, we participate in the mission of the Church and help others discover the hope, joy, and purpose found only in Jesus Christ.





Making Prayer a Daily Priority

Responding to God's Invitation Each Day



Most Catholics understand the importance of prayer, yet many struggle to make it a consistent part of daily life. Busy schedules, family responsibilities, work commitments, and countless distractions can easily crowd out time with God. Even with the best intentions, prayer sometimes becomes something we plan to do rather than something we actually do.

Yet prayer is not simply another item on a spiritual checklist. It is the foundation of our relationship with God. Through prayer, we listen to His voice, express our gratitude, seek His guidance, and open our hearts to His grace. Just as healthy relationships require regular communication, our relationship with God grows stronger when we spend time with Him consistently.

Stewardship begins with recognizing that everything we have comes from God. This includes the gift of time. Each day offers opportunities to choose how we will use the hours entrusted to us. When we intentionally set aside time for prayer, we acknowledge God's place at the center of our lives and respond to His invitation to draw closer to Him.

Prayer does not need to be lengthy or complicated to be meaningful. A few quiet moments in the morning, reflection on Scripture, grace before meals, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, or an examination of conscience before bed can all help cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus. The key is consistency rather than perfection.

Regular prayer also shapes the way we live stewardship. As we spend time with God, we become more aware of His blessings and more attentive to His will. Prayer helps us recognize opportunities to serve others, use our gifts wisely, and respond generously to the needs around us. It reminds us that stewardship is not simply about what we do but about becoming people who live our discipleship with intention.

Many saints viewed prayer as the source of their strength and mission. They understood that fruitful service flows from a relationship with Jesus. Without prayer, even our best efforts can become disconnected from the One who gives them meaning and purpose.

Establishing a habit of prayer often begins with small steps. Setting aside a specific time each day, choosing a quiet place, and committing to a simple routine can help transform good intentions into lasting habits. Over time, these moments become opportunities to encounter God and experience His presence more fully.

Each day, God invites us into conversation with Him. As Christian stewards, we are called to respond to that invitation with grateful hearts. By making prayer a daily priority, we deepen our relationship with Christ and become better equipped to share His love with the world around us.

Questions and Answers About O

It's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. This is an annual occurrence – part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Michael the Archangel. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. How is the Lord asking you to use the time, talent, and treasure that you've been blessed with? The following should help you discern your commitments to our parish this year.

Commitment Weekend is November 7-8.
Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish.

"My life is already too busy with family and work. I barely have time to relax. How can I possibly share my time and talents with our parish?"

We all have obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also have the same number of hours each day to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize. Before you fill out your Commitment Card, reflect on your priorities and where God fits into your day-to-day life. Remember, living as true stewards of God's gifts involves giving back the first fruits of what He has given to us in thanksgiving, not the "leftovers."

"I'm happy with my current parish participation. Why do I need to fill out a Commitment Card each year?"

As part of the renewal process, we must consider our current level of participation in parish life. Sometimes, the call to stewardship involves the quality of service along with its quantity. In looking through the opportunities for ministries available at the parish, you may find yourself drawn to a new ministry or new ways to share of your time with God to enrich your prayer life. So, your current level of participation might not change drastically, but how you participate may evolve as you grow in stewardship. Even if you end up participating in the same ministries as in the past, turning in a Commitment Card means you have reviewed your present ministries and recommitted.





Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

"I'm not very active in the Church and feel it may be too late to get involved. Why fill out a Commitment Card?"

It's never too late to renew your faith life, and filling out a Commitment Card is a simple step to immediately return to the life of the parish. Our parish community is not here to judge, but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking, "Attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation," and discern additional ways God is calling you.

"I'm reluctant to make a yearly financial pledge in case things change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?"

Your Commitment Card is not a contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Commit based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your circumstances change, your gift will likely change as well, but remember to prioritize God first. Nobody will send a bill collector if you can't fulfill your Treasure commitment due to a change in your financial situation. But we must begin our commitment by writing down goals for giving back of our gifts to God.

"I've expressed interest in a ministry in the past, but nobody ever followed up with me about it."

We do our best to follow up with everyone who has shown interest, but we are human, and we sometimes fall short. If this has happened in the past, we sincerely apologize and encourage you to renew your interest again on your Commitment Card this year. Every year, we go into the renewal to make sure everyone is contacted, and we will do so again this year.

"I don't agree with everything that goes on at our parish and feel when I fill out a Commitment Card, it condones things I disagree with."

You are not making a pledge between yourself and our parish; you are pledging to God. Disagreements occur in life. This is a part of being human, and we respect the opinions of every parishioner. But it is important that each of us fulfills our discipleship of Christ by growing in relationship with Him and utilizing the gifts He has given us to carry out His mission, regardless of disagreements. Beyond helping the parish, filling out a Commitment Card expresses a devotion to spiritual growth and strong belief in the Catholic faith.



Welcoming All as Christ

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

2026 COMMITMENT CARD

My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on
November 7 or 8 or mail using the envelope provided.
Thank you and God bless you!

St. John Paul II and the New Evangelization

Using Our Gifts to Bring Others to Christ



Pope St. John Paul II remains one of the most influential figures in modern history. Throughout his papacy, he encouraged Catholics to embrace their faith with confidence and share the message of Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world. His life and leadership continue to inspire people to live as faithful disciples and generous stewards of God's gifts.

Born Karol Wojtyła in Poland, St. John Paul II experienced tremendous hardship during his early years, including the loss of family members and the challenges of living under both Nazi occupation and communist rule. Despite these difficulties, he remained deeply rooted in faith and developed a profound trust in God's providence.

As pope, St. John Paul II traveled extensively, meeting people from every corner of the world and calling them to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. He believed that every Catholic had a role to play in sharing the Gospel and helping others encounter God's love.

His life provides a powerful example of stewardship. Rather than focusing on his own talents and accomplishments, he placed the gifts God had given him at the service of the Church. His intellect, communication skills, leadership abilities, and unwavering faith became tools for advancing the mission of Christ.

St. John Paul II frequently reminded everyone that faith is not a gift meant to be hidden. Instead,

faith is meant to be shared. Stewardship teaches the same principle. The blessings we receive from God are entrusted to us so that we may use them for His glory and the good of others.

This call extends to every Catholic. While few people will have the global influence of a pope, everyone has opportunities to share faith through daily interactions, acts of service, words of encouragement, and personal witness. God uses ordinary people and ordinary circumstances to accomplish extraordinary things.

St. John Paul II also emphasized the importance of courage. Sharing our faith can sometimes feel uncomfortable, especially in a culture that often discourages religious conversation. Yet stewardship challenges us to use the gifts God has given us rather than keeping them hidden out of fear or uncertainty.

The feast of St. John Paul II on Oct. 22 offers an opportunity to reflect on how we are using our own gifts. Are we placing them at the service of God's kingdom? Are we helping others encounter Jesus through our words and actions?

By following the example of St. John Paul II, we can become faithful stewards who use our gifts generously and help bring others closer to Christ. In doing so, we continue the mission of sharing the Gospel and building God's kingdom in our own communities.



The Friendly Place Lunches Ministry

Serving Our Neighbors in Need and Recognizing Christ in Them

There are people among us who can easily go unseen — those experiencing homelessness, the homebound, the imprisoned, the poor, and others in need. As Catholics, we are called to see them, serve them, and recognize Christ in them.

Through The Friendly Place Lunches Ministry, parishioners put that call into action by preparing a simple, hearty meal each week for 60 to 75 people at The Friendly Place in Kailua-Kona. A warm meal provides nourishment, but it also offers something more — a reminder to those facing difficult circumstances that they are seen and cared for.

Janice Lacro, parish administrative assistant, believes wholeheartedly in the importance of this ministry.

"The Friendly Place Lunches Ministry is a simple, steady outreach of compassion," she says. "The meal is meant to be an extension of our own table — something warm, filling, and offered with dignity."

Each Monday, a volunteer coordinates the meal. Patty Kellar handles the first week of the month, while Sue Costa coordinates the second week from September through May and Cheryl Roderer from June through August. Parish office volunteers take the third week, Teresa Clark the fourth, and Debra Miles the fifth.

The meals don't need to be



elaborate. Volunteers may prepare a dish, provide ingredients, or make a financial donation. Those who wish may also help deliver or serve the meal, but neither is required. Even something as simple as cookies, rice, or chopped vegetables can become part of the weekly meal.

"Every contribution becomes part of a shared offering of care," Janice says.

The ministry grew from a desire to offer tangible help to people in need.

"Preparing a meal felt like a natural expression of our faith and a way to quietly support those who are struggling," Janice says.

And parishioners don't need to be accomplished cooks to participate. What matters is a willingness to contribute and help provide a

home-cooked meal.

"One memorable moment that stays with us forever is when a guest simply said, 'Thank you for remembering us,'" Janice says. "It wasn't about the menu — it was about being seen. That small exchange reminds us that even a simple meal can carry deep meaning for someone facing hardship."

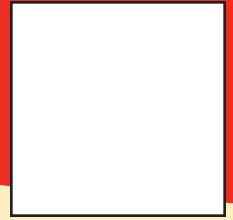
Providing lunch can also have an impact beyond meeting an immediate need. The meals bring people to The Friendly Place, where they can connect with resources.

"A meal provides immediate comfort," Janice says. "It says, 'You matter.' It also encourages individuals to come to The Friendly Place, where they can access the resources that help them move toward housing and stability. The meal becomes a doorway to hope."

Whether through cooking, helping with a meal, or making a financial contribution, there is a place for anyone who would like to support the ministry.

"You'll be welcomed, guided, and supported," Janice says. "And you may find that this simple act of service fills your heart in ways you didn't expect. One Monday can become a blessing — for you and for those you serve."

Contact the parish office at stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org to learn how you might get involved.



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

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Faith Formation *continued from front cover*



classes from 10:15 to 11:50 a.m. There are also opportunities to help with special projects throughout the year.

Faith Formation supports parents as they pass the Catholic faith on to their children. That formation remains important even after children receive their sacraments, helping them continue to learn about their faith, grow closer to

Christ, and become more connected to parish life.

"This is a great way to give back to the parish because we are helping families to become involved in activities in the church and to feel that they are an integral part of it," Margaret says.

All catechists complete diocesan Safe Environment training before serving in the classroom. Online formation is also available, along with resources in the Faith Formation

supply room. Catechists prepare their lessons using the Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program.

For Margaret, helping children develop a strong foundation of faith makes the ministry especially rewarding.

"It is so important to have a vibrant Faith Formation ministry for the youth," Margaret says. "They are the future of the Catholic Church, and we need them to help the Church grow."

To learn more or to get involved, contact Margaret Essex through the parish office at 808-326-7771 or at messex@rcchawaii.org. Faith Formation registration can be found on the parish website.

..... 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.