



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Update on the Grace Parish Center

Community Looks Forward to Long-Awaited Completion of Project

Many longtime members of St. Michael the Archangel will remember talks of constructing a parish center taking place 30-plus years ago. The project has seen many setbacks over the years.

Finally, the Grace Parish Center will open after crossing one last hurdle. So far, \$3.8 million has been paid toward the \$5.5 million project. There were some issues with the flooring this past fall, but Fr. Lio is hopeful that this was the last obstacle and that the Grace Parish Center can open soon.

“People have been so generous with their treasure toward the Grace Parish Center. This will be a wonderful asset to our parish community.” — Fr. Lio

We are joyfully anticipating the Dedication to take place on Feb. 23. Bishop Silva will be with us to offer this special blessing.

The name of our new facility also has a special meaning to our faith community. The Grace Parish Center not only signifies the abundant gifts God has poured out upon our parish family. It also is a living tribute to a very special person, Grace Wilsey, who has defied the odds through the grace of God and remains an inspiration to us all despite being diagnosed with an extremely rare genetic disorder in 2013 — NGLY1 Deficiency.

There are only around 100 known cases of NGLY1 Deficiency worldwide, and when she was first diagnosed at age 4, doctors predicted she would not survive past the age of 5. But Grace is now 13 and thriving.

continued on page 2

In this Issue

- 3** Meet Kumo Keoni Jenny
- 4** Our 2022 Living Stewards — Island Treasures
- 6** Stewardship: What to do With a Windfall?
- 7** The “Other Saints” of Valentine’s Day Feb. 14: Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

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2023

Update on the Grace Parish Center

continued from front cover

Grace's parents, Kristen and Matt Wilsey, have been regular visitors at St. Michael. Grace has fond memories of celebrating many Easter, Christmas, and regular Sunday Masses at St. Michael's in the original church as well as the tent. They consider St. Michael to be their second home.

Grace's paternal great-grandmother was born and raised on Oahu and the family was eager to honor those roots as well as Grace by making a significant donation to the building campaign. So, it is only fitting that the Grace Parish Center honors Grace while symbolizing the abundant graces and blessings our

Lord has given us all. We are very appreciative of Bobbie and Mike Wilsey for their generosity.

But the completion of the project has not been without its setbacks.

One of the most significant bumps in the road came with the Kīholo earthquake in 2006. With the church being rebuilt, a foundation was laid for a future parish center. Soon, that foundation will be holding us as we enjoy ministries and events.

Fr. Lio is very grateful that the Grace Parish Center is now close to reality.

"I can't wait to welcome people into the new parish center," Fr. Lio says. "We were hoping to have it completed for our Feast Day, but now that's been pushed back a bit."

When we think about how long-awaited this parish center is, these last few months amount to a relatively small span of time. Nevertheless, the



Grace Wilsey at her First Communion.

excitement among our parishioners is palpable.

"What's a few more months when we've been waiting for so long?" Fr. Lio says. "But we are so close. It's so close that you can touch the doors now."

Fr. Lio acknowledges that the longtime wait has certainly been frustrating. He's so thankful for those who have stuck with the project. He asks for prayers to the Holy Spirit as the project end is finally in sight.

"We want to begin programs and expand others with the additional space in the Grace Parish Center," Fr. Lio says. "We have so

many great things in place. We want to take things to the next level."

Especially as activities and ministries have been coming back in recent months, people will be anxious to get involved.

"Our focus has always been that the hall would be a place where we can really celebrate and offer additional ministries — from Faith Formation to community gatherings and outreach, all these things that have been held back," Fr. Lio says.

Fr. Lio wants to thank every donor — from those who put money in the collection to those who made large commitments toward the Grace Parish Center. Every dollar has helped bring this parish to where it is today. "People have been so generous with their treasure toward the Grace Parish Center," he says. "This will be a wonderful asset to our parish community."

Please plan to join us on Feb. 23 for the Dedication with Bishop Silva. You can still give toward the Grace Parish Center project — learn more at stmichaelparishkona.org/online-giving/parish-center-building-campaign.



Meet Kumu Keoni Jenny

Transforming His Home-Grown Lā`au into Lei of Prayer and Aloha

Early Sunday morning, before the 7 a.m. English/`Ōlelo Hawai`i Mass, our clergy get a special delivery of beautiful lei made by parishioner, Kumu Keoni Jenny, that will adorn their vestments during the Sacred Liturgy.

"I love to do the lei," Kumu Keoni says. "It's part of my dedication to the faith. We give our clergy lei to represent not just our aloha for St. Michael and the Church, but also because it's a Hawaiian Mass, it's appropriate to wear a lei. So that's why I dedicate myself every week to give the clergy their lei adornments for Mass."

For many years, Kumu Keoni has been creating and providing extraordinary lei for St. Michael's with his home-grown flowers and plants. The practice of lei-making is a spiritual exercise for Kumu Keoni. He loves seeing the clergy when they come to celebrate the sacraments each Sunday, wearing the result of his week-long meditation that prayerfully prepares him for each Sunday Mass.

"I look at the lei when I'm in liturgy, thinking about sewing the lei and praying, collecting the flowers, putting time aside in thought," he says. "That's like putting time every day to dedicate to prayer with Jesus; with God. It's never been put on me as a heaviness — I am always



For many years, Kumu Keoni has been creating and providing lei for our clergy with his homegrown lā`au. The practice of lei-making is for him both a blessing and a prayer. He loves seeing the clergy when they come to celebrate Mass each Sunday wearing his creations.

so excited to see the floral adornment on our clergy. It fills the altar with the beauty God has provided."

Kumu Keoni says his gift of service is a privilege and something he enjoys taking part in. Having been gifted the flowers from God, he feels it

continued on back cover

"We grow the flowers, we grow the trees, and we pick every single day. When we pick, it's always good to know we're preparing from Sunday to Sunday for the Mass. Every day is a picking experience, a closer walk with the Lord."

—Kumu Keoni Jenny



Our 202 St. Mich



Abby Afan*

Angel Afan*

Gabriel Afan*

Jaime Aguilar

Pacita Batangan

Roland "Pepe" Bouchard

Esperanza Cancino

Sandra Cancino

Ann Christiansen

Suzy Cuaresma

Phyllis Dresie

Fr. Konelio Faletoi

Vicki Farley

Marisa Farm

Maria Flores

Lourdes Foronda

Rosewitha Fowler

Antonio Gaspar

José Guadalupe Favian

Frank Haleakala

Emilia Maria Jackow*

John "Keoni" Jenny

Tamia T. Kalele*

Braxton T. P. Kimitete*

Zoe F. O. Kimitete*

Rosana Knudson

Kathleen Kunitake

Stephanie Lisac

Raymond Lorenzo

Pedro Maldonado

Judy Mann

Dee McDaniel

Mike McKinnon

Molly McRight

José Moisés Ruiz

Pat Montizor

Andrew Mowlinski*

Alicia Pasco

James & Maura Patao



2 Living Stewards — Island Treasures

at the Archangel Church, Kailua-Kona Hawaii



*Ho'omaika'i 'ana
to our 2022 Island
Treasures. The
way you live out
stewardship inspires
our entire parish
'ohana to be better
disciples of Jesus!*



Colleen Porter

Patrick Quigley

Necitas Revilla

Pedro Robledo

Fernando Robledo*

Adolfo and Celia Villamil

Alejandro Villamil*

Fernando Villamil*

**Denotes youth parishioner*



STEWARDSHIP: What to do With a Windfall?

A businessman sells some property for a nice profit. A woman retires from a 20-year career at age 43. A high school student discovers he has an exceptional talent for playing the piano. What do they have in common?

Each person has recently received a windfall — an unusually large gain of money, time, or talent. Now each must answer a question — what to do with this newfound gain?

The businessman, already somewhat financially successful, finds that the profit from the sale of rental property is unexpectedly large. For the first time, he feels an urge not to save it, but to share it. The next Sunday, even though he already contributes to his parish, he puts a larger sum in the offertory basket. He also knows of a local charity that supports low-income mothers, and mails them a generous donation.

After her retirement from the Air Force, a woman finds she has a large amount of time during the day. Her husband works full-time and her two children are in high school. She hears a quiet voice asking, “How can you give back for all that you have received?” She calls her pastor and explains that she has the time to play a significant role in a parish ministry. He asks her

to re-invigorate their newcomer’s ministry and visit each new family, to which she happily agrees.

In his high school music class, a 10th-grader discovers an amazing talent to play piano. After encouragement from family and friends, he joins the ensemble at the Sunday morning Mass. He even volunteers to play at special functions at the parish when needed.

In all three cases, the businessman, retiree and student have received something of value, and have made deliberate choices to share it with others, particularly within their parish.

Of course, it could have been different. The businessman could have taken an especially extravagant vacation. The woman could have done any number of things with her free time (couldn’t we all?). The young pianist could have used his talent to form a band or make a recording. And the truth is that they can still do all those things. But having received such wonderful gifts, their gratitude compels them to share a *portion* of them. After all, what do they lose by sharing what was already a gift to them from God?

We’re all gifted and are called to share on a daily basis. But when the big blessings come, let’s pray for the grace to be even more generous than ever.



GIVE



The “Other Saints” of Valentine’s Day

Feb. 14: Feast Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Everyone knows Feb. 14 is the Feast of St. Valentine and, of course, the secular, commercialized day of romance known as Valentine’s Day.

But for the Catholic Church, this day devoted to love is also the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius — two ninth-century Greek missionaries known as the apostles of the Slavic peoples.

So, who were Cyril and Methodius?

Brothers from a wealthy senatorial family in Thessalonica, Cyril and Methodius became Christian missionaries to the region of present-day Czech Republic. In 815 and 826 respectively, Sts. Cyril and Methodius renounced their wealth and status and became priests. Both were living in a monastery on the Bosphorus — now known as the Istanbul strait that separates Europe and Asia — when the authorities from the Khazar Empire summoned Constantinople for a Christian missionary. Cyril was chosen and was accompanied by his brother. Both learned the Khazar language and converted many of the people.

Soon after the Khazar mission, there was a request from officials in Moravia (a region in the present-day Czech Republic) for missionaries who could preach and celebrate liturgical services in the local dialect. Although German missionaries had already labored among the people for some time, they had little success.

To fulfill this mission, Cyril and Methodius adapted the Greek alphabet into a script for the Slavonic language. The result was the “Cyrillic” alphabet, which was first used to translate the Bible and liturgical books. It also became the primary means of written communication for large portions of the world, including modern-day Russia.

The two labored in Moravia for four years until 868, achieving greater success than the German missionaries. After being summoned to Rome, they met with Pope Adrian II, who warmly approved of their methods. They were commended by the pope for their missionary activity and ordained bishops. Yet Cyril would not return to Moravia and died in Rome in 869.

To further Methodius' work in Moravia, Pope Adrian II appointed him archbishop of a new archdiocese in the territory, independent from the German church. Unfortunately, this had the effect of angering his German critics, who had him deposed and imprisoned for three years.

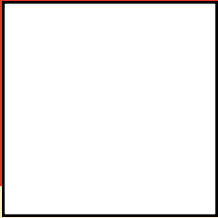
Pope Adrian's successor, John VIII, managed to have Methodius freed and had him reinstated as archbishop, after which he expanded his work to incorporate the region of modern-day Poland. The new Pope continued to support Methodius' use of the Slavic languages in worship and his translations of the

Bible, despite continuing controversy with some elements of the German church.

Eventually, with the assistance of several Greek priests, he translated the entire Bible into the language that is known today as Church Slavonic. He chose his successor from among the native Moravian Slavs whom he had evangelized and died on April 6, 885.

Patrons of Moravia, and specially venerated by Catholic Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, Orthodox Serbians and Bulgarians, Cyril and Methodius are eminently fitted to guard the long-desired unity of East and West. In 1980, St. Pope John Paul II named them additional co-patrons of Europe.





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Meet Parishioner Kumo Keoni Jenny

continued from page 3

is a way to give back to God the blessings he has received.

“I always make my lei in thought and prayer.”

There is a spiritual component to wearing lei. At certain times during the liturgical year, such as Lent, lei are not worn at our parish as a form of fasting for the season. Kumo Keoni prepares during the week by gathering flowers every day at his homestead to make the lei which consist of thousands of individual flowers. This has become a daily time for prayer and meditation for him.

This process immerses him in a keen awareness of the beauty of Ke Akua’s creation that is plentiful at our island home.

We grow the flowers, we grow the trees, and we pick every single day,” he says. “When we pick, it’s always good to know we’re preparing from Sunday to Sunday for the Mass. Every day is a picking experience; a closer walk with the Lord.”

Kumo Keoni has been practicing lei-making for as long as he can remember. Taught by his Tūtū wahine from a young age,

he began providing lei for special occasions and events. But now, he desires to dedicate his time to serving the Church with his talent.

“It’s just a wonderful representation of *aloha* — always give, never stop giving,” he says. “And when I see the clergy wearing the lei, I am reminded that it’s all a part of that style of our Hawaiian culture to give — to give freely and lovingly and give with no expectation. Sitting in Mass, seeing the lei on display around Father’s shoulders, it’s beautiful. It’s just a wonderful feeling.”

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 11:30 a.m. (Spanish)

Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 5 p.m. • Confessions: Saturday 9 a.m. • Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.