



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Keiki Faith Formation Program Looks Ahead to New Year

A Lifelong Journey of Growing in Faith

The most powerful thing we can do is go to Mass — it is where heaven meets earth. It is where we bring ourselves to the Father and, united with Christ in the Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves in a sacrifice of praise. It is where bread and wine become Christ’s literal Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, and through word and sacrament, we are nourished and commissioned to go forth and live the faith. The Mass is the center of our lives as Catholics and the Eucharist is its source and summit!

So, as we begin the 2023-24 year of Faith Formation, we have decided to do so using the Pflaum curriculum, a faith formation program centered on the Sacred Liturgy.



“We used to use this program, and we are excited to go back to it,” says Margaret Essex, Keiki Faith Formation Coordinator. “The Mass and the Eucharist are the central focus of our faith, and

we want the children to better understand them. This program uses the liturgical year as a base and goes into detail explaining it on the children’s level. It is a beautiful program.”

Faith Formation for kindergarten through fifth grade age groups will begin on Sept. 17. They will take place at the Grace Parish Center every Sunday after 9 a.m.

Mass. If you have not yet registered your children, we encourage you to do so.

“Faith formation is vital in order for our children to understand their faith

In this Issue

- 3** Living According to God’s Will *Forming a Conscience and Moral Code*
- 4** Order of Christian Initiation for Adults *Bringing Others to the Love of Christ and the Truth of the Catholic Church*
- 6** The Feast of St. Monica *An Exemplar of Catholic Stewardship and Discipleship*
- 7** The Children’s Rosary: *Helping Our Keiki Come to Know Jesus and His Mother*

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

Keiki Faith Formation *continued from front cover*

and take ownership of it," Margaret says. "It is a lifelong journey that will help them grow in their understanding of Christ and the Church, and commit to living as active Catholics as their lives go on."

Margaret has been a part of faith formation here at St. Michael the Archangel for about three years. She began as a catechist for our second-grade age group and has served as coordinator since the need arose.

"I have always been geared toward working with kids, and doing so in a faith-formation environment is particularly fruitful," Margaret says. "It is so rewarding helping the kids grow closer to Christ, watching the lights click on as they understand one thing or another. It is such a positive experience."

If you are looking for a way to serve the Church and bring keiki closer to Christ, we need you! We are still looking for catechists, particularly for our second and fourth grade age groups. If you are a confirmed, practicing Catholic, with a love for children and our Catholic faith, please consider serving as a catechist with our Faith Formation program!

"Faith formation is vital in order for our children to understand their faith and take ownership of it. It is a lifelong journey that will help them grow in their understanding of Christ and the Church, and commit to living as active Catholics as their lives go on."

— Margaret Essex

For more information, contact Margaret Essex at 909-938-9239. To register your child, contact the parish office at 808-326-7771 or simply stop by to pick up a form.





Living According to God's Will

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code

As Christians, it is important that we recognize the difference between right and wrong — both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward in accordance with God's will.

So, how do we work through these moral conundrums? One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed" (1777, 1778).

Think of your conscience as the "angelic" version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help

them to avoid fear, selfishness, and pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience" (CCC 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. In turn, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

Order of Christian Initiation

Bringing Others to the Love of Christ

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gave His disciples their Great Commission, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:19-20). When Jesus gave the disciples this command, He was in turn commanding all of us to do the same. We are called to evangelize others by how we live our own life and bring to them the love of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Catholic Church through our witness.

Formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has approved a name change to be truer to the translation from Latin into English. The “Order” of Christian Initiation for Adults is now the official name for the process that those entering the Church may go through, which includes several different “rites”. Four rites are included — catechumens (unbaptized adults), unbaptized infants, baptized non-Catholic Christians, and baptized Catholics in need of Confirmation (and/or Eucharist) for full Christian Initiation. This process was formerly known as “RCIA” and is now called “OCIA”.

The current OCIA team is guided by Deacon Sándor (who serves as spiritual and doctrinal advisor), along with

“It doesn’t matter where someone is at, they just have to have a desire to learn more and seek the truth. You don’t have to know everything in order to become Catholic. It is a lifelong process. It can be intimidating, but we are here to help walk them through the process.”

— Judy Glickstein

parishioners Ed Smialek, Judith Ashley Mills, Richard Casar, and Judy Glickstein. The team rotates duties.

Judy Glickstein has served several years. “Our parishioners are the ones who are bringing people into the church,” Judy says. “They are doing the hard work of evangelizing. Our team is actively working to meet them where they are at and lead them on the journey of joining the Church. I see that as being one of the most important missions of the Church and being a part of it is a privilege.”

The team uses many resources, including those from Ascension Press, Word on Fire, and Dynamic Catholic. This last year, the team walked eight people through the rites of entering into the fullness of the





Initiation for Adults

and the Truth of the Catholic Church

Catholic Church. They usually meet twice a month starting in October. The catechumens and candidates typically receive their sacraments during the Easter season, usually at the Easter Vigil Mass or shortly thereafter. Once they have received their sacraments, they are referred to as “neophytes.”

“After Easter, the neophytes continue to meet with us for what Deacon Sándor considers one of the most important parts of our program — mystagogy,” Judy says. “During this time, we work to deepen their understanding and the practice of the sacraments. They are now an established member of the Church, but now what? We go into the Acts of the Apostles and also let them take the lead on what things they want to learn more about. We really use this time to encourage them to become active members of the Church as well. We have over 50 active ministries at our parish so we encourage them to find somewhere that the Holy Spirit is leading them to get involved.”

The Catholic Church is a deep treasure of history, Tradition, and Truth. It is a lifelong process to continue learning, deepening our faith, and growing closer in relationship with God.

“When our candidates and catechumens come to us, there is a broad spectrum of where they are in their faith and what they know,” Judy says. “Some people have been researching and learning about the Catholic faith for years before they come to us. Others are joining us earlier in their process. It doesn’t matter where someone is at, as long as they have a desire to learn more and seek the Truth. You don’t have to know everything in order to become Catholic. It is a lifelong process. It can be intimidating, but we are here to help walk them through the process.”

It is the same thing for those who are a part of the OCIA team — you don’t have to know every single thing about the faith in order to be a part of this ministry. You learn, grow, and look for answers to the questions that you don’t know. All that is needed is a genuine desire to help bring others into the fullness of the Church.

“We encourage anyone who feels called to share what they have learned in their faith lives to join us,” Judy says. “We need witnesses to God’s goodness and love. It is a chance to share what you know, what you have lived, and what you have learned from God.”

To get involved or for those desiring to learn more about the Catholic Church, contact Judy Glickstein at judy.glickstein@aol.com or 808-222-5535.



The Feast of St. Monica

An Exemplar of Catholic Stewardship and Discipleship

Every year on Aug. 27, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Monica, a woman whose unwavering faith, perseverance, and commitment to her family have made her an iconic figure in Catholicism. St. Monica's life serves as an inspiration for all believers, highlighting the virtues of Catholic stewardship and discipleship. Through her profound love for God, her steadfast prayers, and her selfless dedication to her family, St. Monica offers a timeless example of faith in action.

St. Monica, born in 331 AD in present-day Algeria, was raised in a devout Christian family. From an early age, she embraced the teachings of the Church and sought to deepen her relationship with God. Her faith sustained her through the joys and trials of life, providing a solid foundation for her stewardship and discipleship.

Her life exemplifies the concept of stewardship. She recognized that everything she had, including her family, possessions, and talents, was a gift from God. In her stewardship, she employed these gifts for the glory of God and the well-being of others. St. Monica's stewardship was particularly evident in her dedication to her family. Despite facing numerous challenges, including her husband's infidelity and her son, the future St. Augustine's, wayward path, she refused to give up on them. Instead, she poured her love, prayers, and guidance into their lives, consistently striving to bring them closer to God.

When her son, Augustine, strayed from the faith, St. Monica fervently prayed for his conversion for over 17 years. Her unwavering faith and persistence in prayer are powerful examples of discipleship. Despite the challenges and setbacks she faced, she never wavered in her belief that God's grace could transform her son's life. Her steadfast commitment to praying for Augustine ultimately bore fruit, as he later became one of the Church's greatest theologians and saints. She is the patroness of St. Michael's "Return" Ministry where we pray for non-practicing Catholics to return to the sacramental life of the Church and rekindle their faith.



St. Monica's example encourages believers to trust in God's plan, even in the face of adversity, and to persevere in prayer and intercession for their loved ones. Moreover, St. Monica reminds us of the importance of family and the power of our actions as stewards of God's gifts. We are called to nurture and guide those entrusted to our care, recognizing that our love, patience, and prayers can lead others to encounter Christ and experience His transformative grace.

The Feast of St. Monica invites us to reflect on her profound impact as an exemplar of stewardship and discipleship. Her life inspires us to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, responsibly using them for the good of others. Through her unwavering love, prayers, and perseverance, St. Monica teaches us the power of discipleship, illustrating that our actions and intercession can lead others to a deeper relationship with God. As we honor her memory on this special feast day, may we strive to emulate her virtues and carry forward her legacy of faith in our own lives.



The Children's Rosary: Helping Our Keiki Come to Know Jesus and His Mother

It was only about five months ago that Mary Warren began leading the Children's Rosary. She is hoping that this ministry will provide an opportunity for children to not only learn how to pray the Rosary but also to develop a relationship with Jesus and His mother.

"This group serves the two-fold purpose of teaching children about the wonderful devotion to the Rosary, but also teaching them the meaning of Eucharistic Adoration," Mary says. "It is a chance for children to become friends with Jesus by spending time with Him and His mother."

The Rosary is a very powerful prayer, and giving children a chance to pray it together opens up many opportunities for them to learn about and grow in their understanding of the faith. One of Mary's main goals for the ministry is to give children confidence in their relationship with Jesus so they can bring this special prayer into their homes.

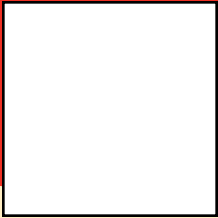
"We want to increase the number of children praying the Rosary at home and hopefully get the whole family involved," Mary says. "It will make a difference in their lives. Children are busy with so many things, constantly running here and there. We want to help them see the importance of carving out a short period of time to focus on Jesus and His mother. Even if it is just once or twice a week, taking the time to

continued on back cover

"Teaching children has to go beyond just knowing their prayers, but they need to know Jesus as well. This relationship with Jesus and His mother will stay with them throughout the rest of their lives."

— Mary Warren





St. Michael the Archangel Parish

75-5769 Alii Drive
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



The Children's Rosary *continued from page 7*

think about and reflect on the Rosary will be a great benefit to the children and their families.”

Mary believes that it is important for the children to gather because they motivate each other. Seeing other children praying and growing closer to Christ helps them find joy and peace in their own prayers.

“We have one child who is teaching her friend how to pray the Rosary and they are calling it ‘the Jesus Club,’” Mary says. “Other children have asked me if we can go see Jesus again. I think they recognize the peace and quiet

that comes with adoration, and it helps them focus and learn how to pray. Teaching children has to go beyond just knowing their prayers — they need to know Jesus as well. This relationship with Jesus and His mother will stay with them throughout the rest of their lives.”

The Children’s Rosary Ministry meets on the last Sunday of each month after 9 a.m. Mass, in front of the Blessed Sacrament at the adoration chapel or in the church itself. Children of all ages and their families are invited to join together in prayer.

For more information about the Children’s Rosary Ministry, contact Mary Warren at 808-895-8703.

..... **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) • Confessions: Saturday 9 a.m.
Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 5 p.m. (at Immaculate Conception) • Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.