



Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalua'u

St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / Confessions: **Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church**

WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 11:30am

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 6:30am - 2:30pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org September 8, 2024 | 8 de septiembre de 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I - Isaiah 35:4-7 | Psalm - 146:6-7,8-9,9-10 | Reading 1 - James 2:1-5 | Gospel - Mark 7:31-37

Primera Lectura - Isaias 35:4-7 | Salmo - 145:6-7,8-9,9-10 | Segunda Lectura - Santiago: 2:1-5 | Evangelio - Marcos 7:31-37

FEAR NOT

In these times, there is plenty to be afraid of, if we only look around. It seems that every day the news media have yet more bad news to tell: wars, disease, terrorism, drought, social unrest, and more. Some people have stopped using clock radios to wake up in the morning, preferring a jarring buzzer to the even more jarring morning news. What more do we need before we realize that we are finite creatures, and while there is much we can do to make our world better, ultimately there is a lot that is simply not within our grasp? To this our loving God says, "Be strong, fear not!"

We must do what we can to make our world a better and safer place, but we must also realize our limits and that our ultimate safety is in the hands of God. We can be comforted by the realization that God loves us beyond measure, and will give us every help in our efforts to make our world a loving and safe place for everyone.

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PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and

snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,

we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the

heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell

Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about

the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2011, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Isaiah (Isaiás) 50:5-9**

Psalm/Salmo: **116(114):1-2,3-4,5-6,8-9**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **James (Santiago) 2:14-18**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Mark (Marcos) 8:27-35**

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.



September 8, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a | Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My first thought upon reading today's Scriptures is that by healing the deaf man, Jesus is fulfilling what God had said he was going to do since the time of the prophet Isaiah: "making the eyes of the blind see and opening the ears of the deaf," as we heard in the first reading. And indeed this is what Jesus did. But when I re-read the Gospel I was intrigued by the line: "[Jesus] took him off by himself away from the crowd." Jesus had a reputation as a healer and a teacher, so it stands to reason that he healed people in front of the crowds often. Why, then, does Jesus remove the man from the crowd? In a commentary on this passage, Bishop Robert Barron suggests that Jesus removed the man from the crowd as a way of demonstrating that the loud and boisterous voices of the crowd could make it hard to hear when God is speaking to us. Even though this man was deaf and was not able to hear Jesus' words, the crowds were a distraction, and a barrier to intimacy and communion. Doesn't this same thing happen to us from time to time? The voices in our world that compete for our attention can make it difficult to hear God's word. But it can be done, and the rewards are great. God is present with us; let's make an effort this week to focus in on the things in our lives that point us toward God and ready ourselves to receive his grace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears and looked up to heaven before healing the deaf man. By this action, Jesus is doing the will of the Father, which is to bring healing. Let's consider the question about competing voices in our lives and what we can do about it. For starters, we can carve out a time every day to quiet our hearts so we can hear the "still, small voice of God." Away from the crowd, we can put our whole being into truly hearing God's voice and asking for the help we need to be in right relationship with him. He longs to give us what we need but we must be open to receiving his gifts and his peace. If we are "tuned into" God, we can hear his Word clearly and speak that Word to others with conviction.

PRAY For me, there is no better way to spend quiet time with our Lord than Eucharistic adoration. Prayer and devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament transforms and heals. Give it a try.

Life of Stewardship

Our readings today offer us a message of hope — God is with us and wants to heal us. May this message come ablaze in our hearts so that we might live with unwavering faith.

The Gospel presents us with the story of the profound physical healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment. People brought him to Jesus and begged for his healing. Jesus took the man off by himself, touched his ears and his tongue, then proclaimed, “Be opened!” Immediately he was healed.

This story in our Gospel overwhelms us with comfort and peace because we have a compassionate God who sees our physical needs. Yet if we reflect further on this reading, we see that God uses this moment of physical healing as an opportunity to restore something much deeper — our souls.

Oftentimes we are blind and deaf to God in our lives. We miss countless opportunities to see God working in our day-to-day moments — through our loved ones, our community, or even a stranger. We miss the quiet voice of Jesus in our hearts telling us to choose Him instead of sin, respond in love instead of anger, or care for someone else in a moment instead of ourselves.

These are how we need to be spiritually healed. And the scriptures remind us that God is with us and wants to heal us.

This week let us seek God to heal our souls and transform our hearts. Let us pray that our eyes and our ears might “be open” to His workings, words, and promptings in our lives.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Please join fellow parishioners on **September 8th after the 7am and 9am masses** for a delicious breakfast and fellowship in the Grace Parish Center. The \$5 per person (children free when accompanied by parent) menu items include pancakes, sausages, fruit, juice, water and kona coffee.

Life Care Ministry

Come join our Life Care Ministry on **Thursday mornings from 9:45am to 11:00am** to help with Communion Service at Life Care Center of Kona. We begin at 10am with Communion Service in the recreation room with the residents who can come. Holy Communion is brought to the rooms of those who are unable to come to the recreation room. They are extremely grateful for our visits, bringing Christ to them in the Eucharist, in his Holy Word, with Prayers, song and joy. After the Communion Service we have a fun sing-along.

Kupuna Ministry

The **Kupuna Ministry** meets **Wednesdays from 8:30am to 10:30am** in the Grace Parish Center welcoming seniors of all ages. Come at any time and stay as long as you want. We begin with social time, then coffee, snacks, song and group prayer. We pray a special prayer for the return of our family and friends to the Faith with the intercession of Saint Monica. Craft making follows or you can play Mah Jong, beginners welcome, or just come for company and fellowship. In June, the crafters crocheted PRAYER SHAWLS and made ORIGAMI GIFT BOXES. In July and August, we learned to make

RAINBOW ROSARIES. Come join us in September for DRAWING and PAINTING. **Supplies are provided.**

National Remembrance for Aborted Children - Saturday, Sept 14

This is a national campaign to remember children lost by abortion through prayer vigil, and also for hope and healing for women and men who have been affected by abortion.

Our Respect Life Ministry will pray the Rosary at the St. Michael Cemetery at 3pm on Saturday, September 14 and then we will attend our 4pm Vigil Mass. “Cupcakes for Life” will be available after Mass at the Respect for Life information desk.

Eucharistic Healing Service - September 17

There will be a Eucharistic Healing Service at 6:30pm on Tuesday, September 17 at St. Michael’s. followed by healing prayers for emotional, physical, spiritual healing and healing in relationships. Come and experience the healing touch from God’s love!

Grief Recovery Class

The Grief Recovery Method program provides a safe environment for you to look at your old beliefs about dealing with loss, which losses continue to affect your life, and take actions that will lead you to complete unresolved emotions that may still be causing you pain. It’s an action-based group, involves reading and writing assignments outlined in *The Grief Recovery Handbook – 20th Anniversary Expanded Edition* (book provided). This program is not a drop-in group, registered participants meet for 8 weekly sessions. You will learn actions that help, and you will choose what loss you want to focus upon. The Grief Recovery Method is a scientifically-tested Evidence-Based Program that provides anyone coping with emotional pain from loss, with an effective method to help them heal, whether the loss was recent or in the past. There is **no cost for this program**, but it does require a firm commitment to recover from unresolved loss, and attendance at all weekly sessions. Facilitated by **Suzanne Zaw**, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, the 8-week program will be held on **Wednesdays, September 25 – Nov 13, 2024**, from **10am-12noon** at St. Michael’s. Call Suzanne to register at (808)339-7980, or leave a message at the Parish Office (808)326-7771. For more information, there will be an information table outside the Grace Parish Center after the 7am and 9am Masses on September 8, after the 4pm Mass on Saturday, September 14, and after the 4pm Mass on Sunday, September 22.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Faith Formation classes for students in **grades K-5** begin on **Sunday, September 22nd from 10:20-11:20**. Students in K-3 will meet in the Grace Parish Center, and 4th and 5th will meet on the North Lanai.

All students **must be registered before attending** class. Parents can register in the office or online. Students who come to Faith Formation on the first day with-

Stewardship of Treasure

August 19th - 25th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 1,650.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 6,283.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 4,798.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,255,777.08** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

Mahalo for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in 'Ohana in Christ to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab**. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

out being registered may complete a registration form and will be asked to attend class the following Sunday. A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate is needed if your child was not baptized at St. Michael's.

- Margaret Essex, *Catechist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Our first Youth Ministry class is on Sunday, September 8 at 5:15pm. We look forward to seeing everyone!

- Edwina Fujimoto, *Youth Minister*

Men of Faith

Would you like to increase your spirituality with fellow men of our parish? Well, that opportunity is available to you every Wednesday! Our meetings focus on reflections on the prior weekend readings as we strive to grow closer to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ and His Church. We meet on the St. Michael's South Lanai from 5:30-6:30pm.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the most touching YouTube videos I've ever seen is one in which a deaf woman receives new technology to heal her hearing. She hears her husband's voice for the first time - and her own, too - and bursts into tears of overwhelming joy. It must have been like an immovable wall between her and her loved ones came tumbling down.

We are all like this woman, to some degree. We believe in the presence of God's love, but we can't hear Him. We can't speak well about Him. The deaf man who can't speak properly in the Gospel today is an image of what God wants us to experience again and again. Jesus takes the man aside to a private place away from the crowd, touches his ears and tongue, and says, "Ephphata!" The man's ears are opened, and he speaks clearly. Contact with Christ has this effect on us. 4

This experience happens to us in our baptism, almost exactly. It happens to us in the liturgy. It happens in our private prayer. It happens when we hear the voice of God in our conscience. The more we engage these privileged channels of Jesus' healing, the more we are empowered to hear and speak of the presence of God's perfect love.

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Orthodox Christians have a saying about the reality of sin. They speak of "this holy and sinful Church, which we love." We know all too well the effects of sin on the faith community. From our earliest days, we have seen baptism as a place where the old self dies in Christ, dies to sin, and rises to new life. Our ancestors in faith held that post-baptismal major sin was unthinkable. Yet, as one Baptist minister once explained, "We know that sin is drowned in the water, but it would appear that the devil is a pretty good swimmer."

The origins of the sacrament of penance have to do with a similar insight among bishops in the early church. A critical question for them was whether or not a baptized person who had committed a public sin could be re-established in church life, forgiven, and restored. Forgiven, yes, was an early answer, but restored was another matter. Penance would be a permanent lifestyle for the forgiven; they would live at the margins of the community, clearly visible in distinctive garments, and their access to the table of the Eucharist was restricted. The harsh beginnings of public penance led in time to a true treasure of our tradition: the ability to find our way home through the ministry of others, and a way for all of us sinners to experience the gentle embrace of our forgiving Lord. - Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Everyday Stewardship-Choosing Deafness

If you're a parent, you know that hearing evaluations are usually done at a child's annual physical exam starting around age four. The little person gets hoisted up onto the exam table, fitted with a pair of special headphones, and then they need raise their hand when they hear a sound.

I bet all of us parents who have sat through one of these tests with a preschooler - especially a particularly strong-willed one - have experienced a moment where we ask ourselves: I wonder if there's something wrong with her hearing. Is that why she doesn't listen to me? 'Come here, put on your shoes, pick up your toys, finish your carrots, don't touch that' - she isn't being naughty, she just can't hear it!

And then that moment, for those of us whose kids passed the hearing test with flying colors, comes crashing down into a realization that, yep, they can hear just fine. They're just choosing deafness.

But how can we really get mad when we remember that we do the same thing to God day in and day out? I often wonder if God, sitting in His Heaven, tires of calling to us in the same way young parents tire of calling out unheeded directions to their small children. Help that person. Hear My voice. Open your heart. Give of your-

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self here. Talk to Me.

What is the call He wishes you to hear today? Can you hear it? Are you listening? - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Be Opened

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves.

One of them is New Year's Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they're not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become.

But by May, the wind is out of our sails. We've learned the concepts, we've used up the pencils, yes - but we've remembered that underneath it all we're basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can't change ourselves at all, not on New Year's Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don't change. Not without miracles. But being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment - in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don't, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can't change ourselves, but we can be changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting - now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI

"He put his finger into the man's ears . . . and said to him, 'Ephphatha!'- that is, 'Be opened!' - And immediately the man's ears were opened ..."

Mark 7:34-35

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
4pm - Teodoro Parada, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7am - Mary Peralta and Jenny Peralta, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Opie Perez, Rest in Peace
- 1:30pm - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Ed & Debbie Cunningham, 40th Wedding Anniversary

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

- 7am - Seth Rowland, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Charles Hildebrandt, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

- 7am - Maria R. Guzman, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Andrea Fowler Miller, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Avanessa Fajardo, Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

- 7am - Gordon Ke, 1st Anniversary of Death
- 7am - Andrea Fowler Miller, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - JP Urgino, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

- 7am - Debbie Lehua Amone, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Mary Wong, Special Intention

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

- 7am - Red Sutherland, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**. If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, **please call well in advance of the date to secure it.**

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am** at **Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

Be Healed - Keep Quiet

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 35:4-7a - Israel's deliverance
- ▶ James 2:1-5 - Against favoritism
- ▶ Mark 7:31-37 - Healing of a deaf-mute

Jesus' ancestors awaited a savior who would work miracles with great power, opening the eyes of the blind, opening the ears of the deaf, and healing the lame. What they probably didn't imagine was a person like Jesus who healed people even in areas like the Decapolis, where most people did not worship the Jewish God. Even less would they have imagined a Messiah who would heal by sticking his fingers in ears and sharing his saliva by touching other people's tongues! Another surprise and mystery for Jesus' followers was his insistence that the people he healed keep quiet about the miracles.

No one knows for sure what Jesus' desire for secrecy was all about, but there are several theories. Perhaps he understood that the more "PR" he got, the less he would be able to move about freely to continue his ministry. Maybe Jesus realized that as soon as he became a public figure, his teaching and preaching would make him enemies and shorten the time before they killed him for his outspoken views. Maybe Jesus didn't want to be known as a sensationalist, a magician, or a miracle worker (there were others in his time and culture), because his message went far beyond physical healing.

The irony of the story is that after Jesus healed a deaf and mute man, the man *couldn't* keep quiet, so Jesus' fame spread in a



HEY, BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TREAT OTHERS BECAUSE, FROM A DISTANCE, GOD IS WATCHING.

HELP the HUNGRY

OKAY, SO MAYBE HE'S CLOSER THAN WE THINK!

SAGELE

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"Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God... he comes to save you."

Sheepish Question:
What is my part in the work of God's grace?

foreign territory which had previously been "deaf" to his teachings.

Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had an experience when you were surprised by healing words or actions from an unexpected person or situation?
- 2 Jesus worked this particular miracle outside of a synagogue and outside of his own Jewish community. In what "Decapolis" have you seen God at work (i.e. outside of your religious tradition)?

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PARISH EVENTS

(may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm (2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee, Sweets & Tweets with Fr. Lio 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm (resumes on Tuesday, September 3)

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-11:00am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm (3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY - NO EVENTS

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass (Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 12:30-1:30pm (Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father After 1:30 Mass (1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:20-11:20am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm (See the Faith Formation section of bulletin for class dates)

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 I humbly ask you, through the intercession of
 Brother Joseph Dutton, that You will
 grant me this favor - - -
 Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
 I will be forever thankful if you present my
 request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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