



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

Email Address: [stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org](mailto: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 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) **December 8, 2024 | 8 de diciembre de 2024**

## Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I - **Baruch 5:1-9** | Psalm - **126:1-2,3,4-5,6** | Reading II - **Philippians 1:4-6,8-11** | Gospel - **Luke 3:1-6**  
Primera Lectura - **Baruc 5:1-9** | Salmo - **125:1-2,2-3,4-5,6** | Segunda Lectura - **Filipenses 1:4-6,8-11** | Evangelio - **Lucas 3:1-6**

### AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

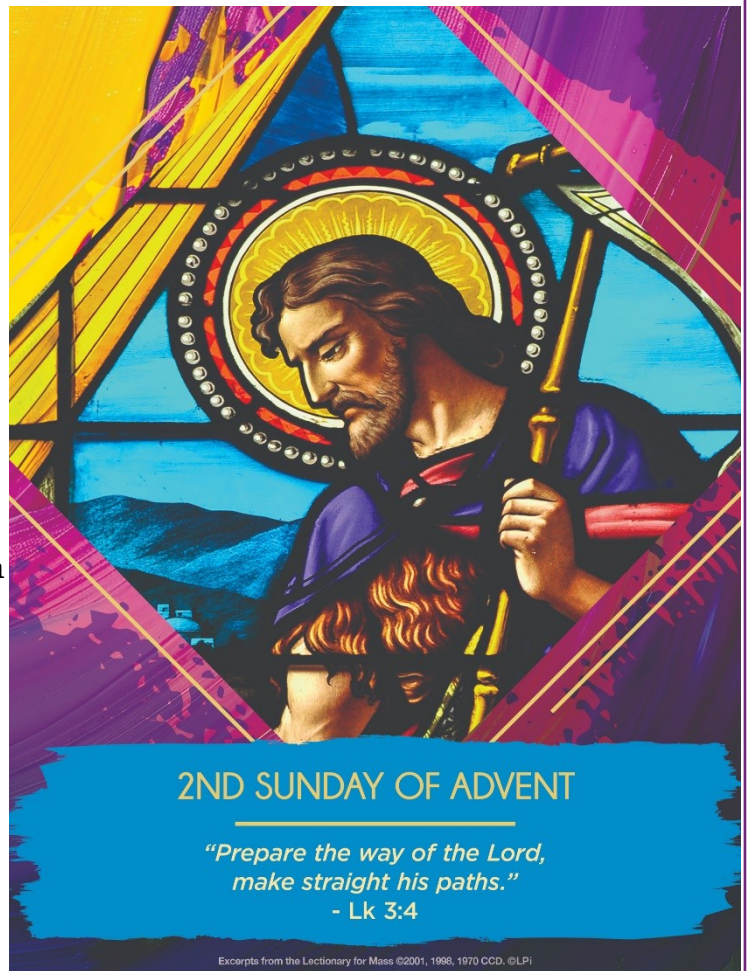
The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God. - Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

#### 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.



#### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."  
- Lk 3:4*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCD. ©GLP

#### Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Zephaniah(Sofonías) 3:14-18**

Psalm/Salmo: **Isaiah (Isaías) 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Philippians (Filipenses) 4:4-7**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 3:10-18**

**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](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org). To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.





December 8, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

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

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find Paul's words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says he is confident "that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day he comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to doing God's will. How do we know God's will for us? In his letter, Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception "to discern what is of value." In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

This is where "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness" speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ's coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today's Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and says to "prepare the way of the Lord." These words do not suggest passivity - waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord's coming in our own lives. God has made us *good*, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing "what is of value" in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.

### **SING**

*Dear Savior, haste*

*Come, come to earth*

*Dispel the night and show your face*

*And bid us hail the dawn of grace*

# Life of Stewardship

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two “comings” of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God’s love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ’s coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first “coming” on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

Let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ this Advent. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about — moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

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## Parish News

### Today is Commitment Sunday

Today is the day! Every parish household is asked to bring their completed Commitment Card to Mass. We are striving to become the Stewardship Parish that God intends us to be - intentionally committed to prayer, parish ministry, and the sharing of our financial gifts. Each parishioner has a unique and vital part to play and is needed in this mission. What is your part this year? Please put it in writing and turn in your Commitment Card today!

### Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Fundraiser

Please support the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Papaikou. After the 7am mass on **Sunday, December 8**, they will sell their hand sewn items outside the front entrance. Please stop by and get some Christmas shopping done! All proceeds will go toward their Building & Maintenance fund.

### Monday, December 9th - The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Honolulu)

Masses will be held at 7am and 12noon at St. Michael’s and 5pm at Immaculate Conception. Our Spanish Mass will be held at 6pm at St. Michael’s. This is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Honolulu. We will also pray the rosary at

11:30 before Mass. After the 12noon Mass, you are invited to Tea in the Grace Parish Center in honor of Our Mother Mary. Please RSVP to Suzanne at 808-769-1960.

### 2024 Advent Reconciliation Service

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be held at **6pm on Tuesday, December 10 at St. Michael’s**. Other Reconciliation Services scheduled in our West Hawaii Vicariate are:

**Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 6pm - St. John’s, Kealahou**

**Friday, Dec. 13 @ 6pm - Sacred Heart, Hawi**

### Special Collection-Retirement Fund for Religious

Envelopes for this week’s special collection was provided in last week’s bulletin. Say thank you to our elderly religious by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend. Your gift will directly help meet their needs. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

### Spiritual Book Club

Our next Spiritual Book Club meeting is on Thursday, December 19th at 4pm in the Grace Parish Center. This month’s book is *A Still Small Voice: Practical Guide to Reported Revelations*. Written by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, the book is considered to be a classic work for the Catholic layperson regarding miracles, visions, and other religious phenomena. Meetings are now available via Zoom. Call the Parish Office for more information. Come join us!

### Our Lady of Guadalupe - Thursday, Dec. 12

At St. Michael’s, we start our festivities in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the morning with **Las Mananitas, a serenade at 5:30am**. Celebration continues with **Mass at 6:00pm**. Following the Mass, there will be a potluck reception in the Grace Parish Center. Please join us!

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's yes to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.

### Sacred Heart Parish-Hawi Special Collection

Please help us to give Sacred Heart Parish a MERRY CHRISTMAS as they are experiencing financial difficulty right now. We will take up a special collection next week. Envelopes are provided in this week’s bulletin.

### 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.



## Stewardship of Treasure

November 24th - December 1st, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 4,985.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 15,069.25
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 14,329.00

### Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,461,311.42** 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 NOVEMBER 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](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

### Life Care Ministry

Come join our Communion Service on Thursday mornings from 9:45am to 11:00am at Life Care Center of Kona. We begin at 10am with Communion Service in the recreation room with the residents who can come. After the Communion Service we have a fun singalong. We then visit and bring Holy Communion to the rooms of those who were unable to come to recreation room. Life Care is a facility for long term skilled nursing care and rehab residents. Residents are extremely grateful for our visits, bringing Christ to them in the Eucharist, in his Holy Word, with Prayers, song and joy. This is truly a work of mercy and act of God's love. Please consider joining us on Thursdays. Contact the office with any questions and to schedule an orientation.

### Faith Formation

#### Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes will be held on Sundays, **December 8, and 15**. We are in need of a Faith Formation teacher for 4th grade which meets every Sunday after the 9:00 Mass in Grace Parish Center. The requirements are a love of God and a desire to teach children more about their Catholic faith. If this is something you might enjoy doing, please contact Margaret through the Parish Office. - *Margaret Essex, Cathecist*

#### Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Classes for December will be held on Sunday, December 8 and 15 from 5:15 - 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center.

- *Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

### Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

**Want to become Catholic? Want to receive the Sacraments?**

Anyone age 18+ who is curious about the history, rites, and spirituality of Christianity and wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, the development of Sacred Scripture, and/or is thinking of becoming Catholic to delve into deeper relationship with God as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

Join us for an informal conversation that may lead to receiving the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). We meet weekly after the 9am Mass on Sunday. Contact Deacon Sándor for more information.

### Second Sunday of Advent

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come."

- *Father John Muir, ©LPi*

### Everyday Stewardship - God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship - overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up - whoever he or she is - it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle,

**REV. KONELIO FALETOI**

*Pastor and Vicar Forane of the West Hawaii Vicariate*

**REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE**

*Parochial Vicar*

**DEACON SÁNDOR**

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**MAYRA RAMIREZ**

*Spanish Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator*

**BILL CULHANE**

*Food Pantry Ministry*

**THELMA BACXA**

*Community Outreach Ministry*

**SUSAN KEEN**

*Business Manager  
skeen@rcchawaii.org*

**JANICE LACRO**

*Administrative Assistant  
stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org*

what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants - what He needs - to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up - however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us - everything is ready for Him to do His job. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

**Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Straight Path**

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers. He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety. So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI

**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

4pm - Ernest N. De Lima, Katherine Juliana De Lima, Lindsey De Lima, Xavier Avilla, Marcia De Lima

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 7am - Justino Ganir, 18th Anniversary of Death & Placida Ganir, 15th Anniversary of Death
- 9am - Michiyo Echle, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 1:30pm - Mary La Barre, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 4pm - Intentions of Mariam Dolorosa

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

- 7am - Ken Hartz, 7th Anniversary of Death
- 12pm - MISSA PRO POPULO
- 5pm - Linde Rimkus, Rest in Peace

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**

- 7am - Ruth Sutherland, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Monique Garcia, 1st Anniversary of Death
- 5pm - John Repasky, Rest in Peace

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**

- 7am - In Thanksgiving for Eugene & Veronica Laughlin

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**

- 7am - Special Intention of Maria Dolorosa
- 7am - Debbie Gallo for Healing
- 5pm - Maria G. Jaramillo, deceased, Birthday Remembrance and Linda Garciduenas, Birthday Blessings

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

- 7am - In Thanksgiving for Eugene & Veronica Laughlin
- 5pm - Anital Hinlo, Pedrita & Tibocio Genesiran, May They Rest in Peace

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

- 7am - Catherine Miller, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

**Requesting a Mass Intention**

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**.

**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.**

# Straighten It Out

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Baruch 5:1-9 - Jerusalem consoled
- ▶ Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 - Gratitude and hope
- ▶ Luke 3:1-6 - John the Baptist

On the first Sunday of Advent, we always hear Jesus' instruction to stay awake and watchful for his second coming. On the second Sunday we always hear how John the Baptist appeared on the scene in the desert outside of Jerusalem calling for people to repent and "prepare the way of the Lord." The Jews and early Christians of the first century would have recognized John as a prophet like those in the Old Testament. Like John, the Old Testament prophets were usually fiery, passionate characters who unsettled the rich and powerful while offering hope and consolation to the poor and outcasts.

In this passage, we hear John the Baptist urge everyone to get their act together because the Lord is coming soon. It's as if children who were messing around suddenly realize their parents will be home soon. "They are on their way! We better clean up this mess and start behaving!" God isn't a parent who wants us to behave out of fear of punishment, but God knows our habit of getting off track. That's why Advent is the perfect time to be reminded by the prophet John that we need to repent, ask forgiveness, and get back to doing God's work. As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath this week, we are invited to reflect on what we still need to straighten out in our lives so that we can better receive Christ when he comes to us.

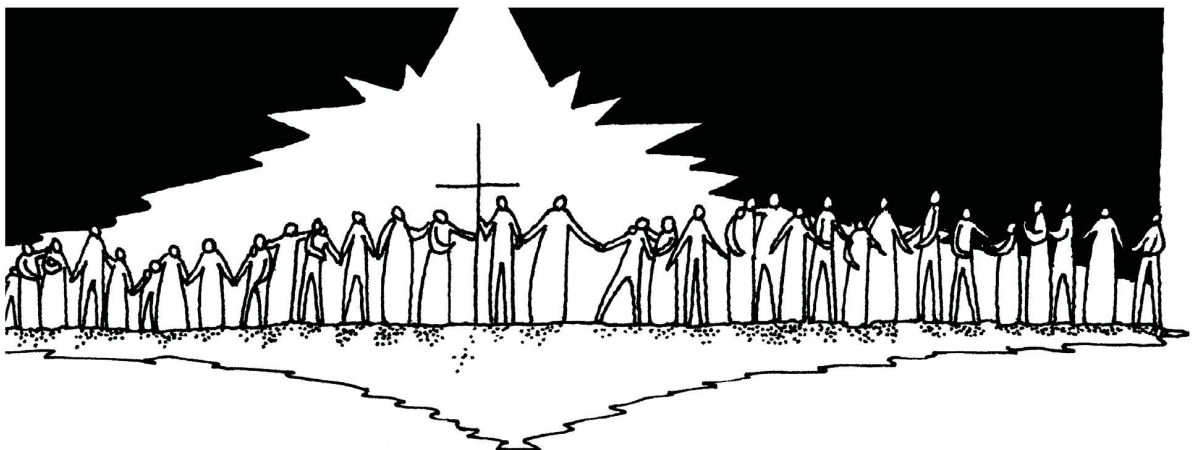
"Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

**Sheepish Question:**  
How can I bring real hope to someone suffering in a difficult time?

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you think of as modern-day prophets who call others to turn away from their sins and toward justice and truth? They might be someone you know personally or be a famous figure. They may be Christian, but don't have to be.
- 2 What can you do this coming week to "prepare the way of the Lord"?

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# Parish Life Photos

Be featured in our bulletin, website, social media, newsletters, etc. Send your ministry/parish life photos to [smkonamedia@rcchawaii.org](mailto:smkonamedia@rcchawaii.org)

**St. Michael's**  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 13227**  
**MEETS ON THE 2ND MONDAY**  
**OF EACH MONTH**  
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**GRACE PARISH CENTER**



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## ~ YOU ARE INVITED ~

(schedule 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 with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- 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) 10:15-11:20am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm  
(See the Faith Formation section of bulletin for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

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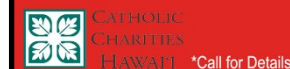
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## Men of Faith

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