



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 / 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, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **March 2, 2025 | 2 de marzo de 2025**

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading I - **Sirach 27:4-7** | Psalm - **92: 2-3,13-14,15-16** | Reading II - **1 Corinthians 15:54-58** | Gospel - **Luke 6:39-45**
Primera Lectura - **(Sirácide) 27:5-8** | Salmo - **91: 2-3,13-14,15-16** | Segunda Lectura - **1 Corintios 15:54-58** | Evangelio - **Lucas 6:39-45**



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Deuteronomy (Deuteronomio) 26:4-10**
Psalm/Salmo: **91 (90): 1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Romans (Romanos) 10:8-13**
Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 4:1-13**

THE INSIDE SHOWS

In this third Sunday of our reading from the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus speaks of the inner soul and its outer expression. He uses images as he teaches. He addresses all of us.

Jesus sees a plumb line connecting the soul with the soul's expression-words and actions. He uses exaggeration to drive home his point. We are urged to clear out the debris that blinds us. He knows that we have an uncanny ability to be blind to our own weaknesses, though they be as big as a board. He knows, too, how willingly we seem to ferret out others' smallest speck-like flaws.

And this, too, is for our general consumption; solid old goodness and solid old badness will show eventually. The old Latin saying, which echoes Jesus' images, is true: "What is bred in the bone will out in the flesh." By and by, the inside will show through. - 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.

Ash Wednesday, March 5 ~ Masses: 7am, 12noon, 5pm - English & 7pm - Spanish

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.

March 2, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:4-7 | 1 Cor 15:54-58 | Lk 6:39-45

“From the
fullness of
the heart
the mouth
speaks.”

(Lk 6:45)

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

It can be uncomfortable to admit, but our speech habits can truly reveal our interior life. Too often, I've fallen prey to the temptation of gossip or other alluring but unbecoming forms of conversation. Perhaps we all have to some degree, which is why today's words from Sirach capture our attention: "When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do one's faults when one speaks." This theme of speech being connected to our hearts is woven throughout Scripture, and it both challenges and encourages us. Before God came to us in the flesh, he came to us as the *Word*. Our words carry eternal weight; they have the power to bless or to curse. For this reason, the Scriptures today challenge us to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, in order to grow in virtue so that our speech may reflect his glory and our words echo his truth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's parable from Luke's Gospel, Jesus asks, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Ouch. Am I the only one who shifts uncomfortably when reading this? How often and how easily do we fixate on the way others have caused us frustration, discomfort, or hurt? While those things may (or may not) be true, it feels so easy to dismiss personal responsibility. In this passage, Jesus lovingly teaches us that when we live this way, we remain stuck in our patterns of sin. But he also gives us another option: "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly." It is through this honest examination of conscience and cleansing of our own sin that we come to know God more fully, and as our vision is cleared, become more aware of how his beauty and mercy surround us.

REFLECT

Today, let us pray for a deeper personal conversion through an honest examination of conscience, so that as we empty ourselves from our sinful ways, we may become more tethered to God's holy will, speaking his truth and living in his light. Commit to praying an Act of Contrition each day this week and ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in virtue.



Life of Stewardship

Today's readings exhort us Christian disciples to form ourselves - mind and heart - in imitation of Christ so we can better reflect His goodness in our daily lives.

The first reading from Sirach offers timeless counsel: "the fruit of a tree shows the care it has had: so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks." Jesus uses the very same analogy in today's Gospel reading from Luke: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit."

Everything we have is a gift from God to be used for His honor and glory. This includes the gift of speech and, even more broadly, all forms of modern-day communication - email, text, TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and the rest. What comes forth from our mouths, or keyboard, or phone, reflects what is in our minds and hearts. Our ability to communicate with each other is itself a gift which we must steward well.

In the same Gospel passage, Jesus reminds us, "No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." The more time we spend with Jesus, our teacher, through regular prayer and a strong sacramental life, the more we will become like Him. Then all that we do and say (and tweet and post) will bring others to closer to Him. This is the life's work of the Christian steward. It is privileged work indeed.

- *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday is on **March 5th**. Masses will be at **7am, 12noon, and 5pm** in English and **7pm** in Spanish. All Masses will be celebrated at St. Michael's. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be after the 7am Mass with **Benediction at 3:30pm**. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed during our 12noon Mass.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, March 2 at 3pm**. We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy. The Consecration prayer helps us to acknowledge God as our Eternal Father, to honor Him, and to give Him our commitment to follow His commandments.

40 Days for Life

The Respect Life Committee will begin the 40days For Life prayer vigil starting Wednesday, March 5 through Sunday, April 13 in front of St. Michael's Church. 40days For Life is a peaceful prayer vigil to end abortion occurring nationwide and internationally. The Respect Life Committee will have a table with information and resources this Sunday 3/2 after the Saturday and Sunday masses. You may also sign up online at: www.40daysforlife.com/en/kona.

AARP Tax Aide Offers Free Tax Preparation

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

- Hale Halawai on Thursdays from 8am - 12noon serving clients in-person; first-come/first-served walk-in basis.

- Yano Hall on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm. Both walk-ins and appointments accepted. APPT. LINE for Yano Hall location only: (808) 765-9141

Visit <https://hi1.taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/taxpayer-information/> for more information.

40 Cans for Lent

The Knights of Columbus will begin their "40 Cans for Lent" campaign on Ash Wednesday. **Please consider donating one can for each day of our Lenten season.** Donations can be left in the carts near the front entrance.

Lenten Fish Fry Friday - March 7

Please join fellow parishioners starting March 7th for Lenten Fish Fry Friday's from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for just \$10 per person, in the Grace Parish Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

St. Michael's 15th Annual Golf Tournament

St. Michael's 15th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday March 8th at Kona Country Club. Volunteers are still needed and Silent Auction items are available for bidding. Stop by the golf desk after Mass this weekend to bid on some great items!

Lenten Soup Supper

Beginning March 12, we will be hosting a soup supper after Benediction. Join us for Benediction at 5:00pm. Then different ministries will be providing a simple soup supper in the Grace Parish Center. Bread will also be available. You are welcome to bring your own soup bowls and spoons. Paper goods will be provided too. We look forward to seeing you for this simple meal as we come together to embrace the Lenten season.

Friendly Place Lunches Ministry

This ministry provides a hot meal every Monday for our unsheltered neighbors here in Kona. We can always use more help! Prepare part of the meal, help to serve the food at the Friendly Place, or make a donation to help with the cost of the weekly meal. Please call the office for info.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes for March are on March 2, 9, 23, and 30. No class on March 16.

- Margaret Essex, *Catholicist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Regular classes will be held on March 9 and March 30. There will be no Youth Ministry class on Sunday, March 2nd. Please note that our class on March 9 is a **Mandatory Safe Environment Training for all youth**. No classes on March 16 and 23 for spring break. -*Eduwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sun-

Stewardship of Treasure

February 17th - 23rd, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 1,871.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 14,031.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 12,579.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,718,942.79** 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 FEBRUARY 2025

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.

day speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer and service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray and serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures from our Tradition

Many Catholics who are not active in the Church will still seek out ashes this Wednesday. Likewise, many Jews who are not otherwise observant will follow the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, with great exactness, fasting and refraining from work and entertainment. People customarily dress in white as a symbol of purity and a reminder of God's promise that our sins will be made white as snow. While the overture to Ash Wednesday for Christians may be a festive Mardi Gras celebration, for Jews it is the New Year feast of Rosh Hashanah. Ten days before the Day of Atonement to God, people are expected to repair breaks in human life. These are days for

offering forgiveness and seeking to repair harmed relationships with family, friends, or coworkers. Everyone is expected to seek out someone and "clear the air" by asking for understanding for any mean words or thoughtless deeds in the past year.

Perhaps the ashes you receive will be invested with deeper meaning if you follow a similar plan. This year, Rosh Hashanah will be September 22, and Yom Kippur October 1. A conversation with some Jewish friends or neighbors about their experience of a season of repentance may be a blessing on your Lent.

- James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Everyday Stewardship - Planted in the House of the LORD

Grocery delivery apps are all the rage these days, and I can't deny the convenience of tapping your finger a few times and seeing your week's shopping dropped on the doorstep. But there is one aspect of this trend that seems to make a lot of shoppers nervous - fruits and vegetables.

A lot of us have strong opinions on our fresh produce and aren't ready to delegate this highly subjective selection process to a total stranger. My father was a produce manager and I remember as a child learning about the complexities of choosing correctly. Getting a bad bag of under ripe tomatoes after shopping on an app could easily sour one on the whole idea.

Forrest Gump said life is like a box of chocolates. I say, we're all like grab bags of produce dumped on someone's doorstep - but if we're Christians who live our faith publicly, we're stamped with the name of God. If your thumb is green enough, you know that you can tell a lot about a gardener from the produce he grows. We who are planted in the house of the Lord - what do we reveal about our Gardener?

What do our actions show of His teachings? What do our words reflect of His voice? What does our strength reveal of the soil from which we sprang and the life giving waters that nourished us?

When we open ourselves up to those we encounter, let's make a special effort to show the care we have had - lest our peers come away from the experience thinking God doesn't know how to garden, when in reality, it's us who don't always know how to grow. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS©LPi

Be Each Other's Eyes

I was traveling recently and watched as a wife led her blind husband onto the plane by her arm. She lovingly helped him into his seat and made sure he was comfortable. She placed their bags above in the bin and then sat next to him. They were ready for the flight. As I sat in my seat just a few rows away, I wondered what he would do if she ever left his side.

Sometimes those we love in our life can be blind, and we need to be their eyes. They aren't physically blind, but they are unable to see the truth about their life, situation, or needs. We need to lend them our sight and insight, or they will remain in their world of darkness.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Can a blind person guide a

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
- Soup Supper (starts 3/12) 5:30pm,
- 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

- Stations of the Cross - English 5:00pm
(St. Michael the Archangel)
- Stations of the Cross - Spanish 6:00pm
(Immaculate Conception)
- Lenten Fish Fry 5:45-7:15pm

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 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class. To register, please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

blind person?" If we aren't actively working to be sure that we can see clearly, what will we be able to offer someone we care about when they come to us with their blindness? Can you lead someone to Christ if you aren't living a life with him yourself? Can you share with another truth if you aren't concerned with knowing the truth yourself?

Life is not always easy. Without faith, hope, and love, the road can be too hard to travel. We are not created to be alone. Instead, we are created to be traveling companions. However, the blind cannot lead the blind. May the Light of Christ dispel your darkness and give you sight so that when the call comes, you might lend an arm to lead the blind. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Log in Your Eye

Today's Gospel is a big favorite of non-Christians - or Christians who don't like being told what to do.

That trusty ol' remove the wooden beam from your own eye line is a classic. Mind your business, Christians! You're not perfect either.

And that's entirely true. None of us are perfect. We've all got logs in our eyes. We can't approach life acting like we have the answers simply because we follow Jesus. Jesus has the answers, and we have Jesus.

The real problem with having someone remove a splinter from my eye, if he himself has a log in his eye, is not that he has no business removing the splinter from my eye. It's that he can't see clearly to do it. His own eyesight is occluded.

If we see a splinter in another person's eye, or a problem in the world that needs to be fixed, or a scandal in the community that should be addressed, what Jesus is saying is not that we should ignore it and move on. He's merely saying that, when we see these things, we must take them first as a challenge to examine ourselves. To address the problem as it exists within our own souls, so that we ensure we are seeing clearly. Then, if we reach out to pluck the splinter, we will do so with clear eyesight.

He wants us to worry as much about our own souls as we do about other people's. We tend to look at the world and feel anxious - so much evil! So much hate! So much sin! We pray, God, when will you change it?

And He whispers back: I will change it here. Now. In your own heart. You just have to ask. - Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

4pm - Phillip Moss who passed away on January 11, 2025, May he Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

- 7am - Raymond & Mabel Branco, May they Rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Alfred Lacro, 9th Anniversary of Death

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD

- 7am - Dr. John & Monica Choe, 41st Wedding Anniversary Blessings
- 5pm - Deacon Michael Ross, Anniversary of Death

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

- 7am - Gloria Lynne Fabel, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Richard Joseph Merenda, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO
- 12pm - MISSA PRO POPULO
- 5pm - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

- 7am - Ben Kim & Grace Choe, Birthday Blessings and Joy & Inoh Choe, Special Intentions
- 5pm - Carmen Lacro, 13th Anniversary of Death

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH

- 7am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Rodolfo Gonzalez, 2nd Anniversary of Death

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

- 7am - Anthony Regimbal, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

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.**

Judge It By Its Fruit

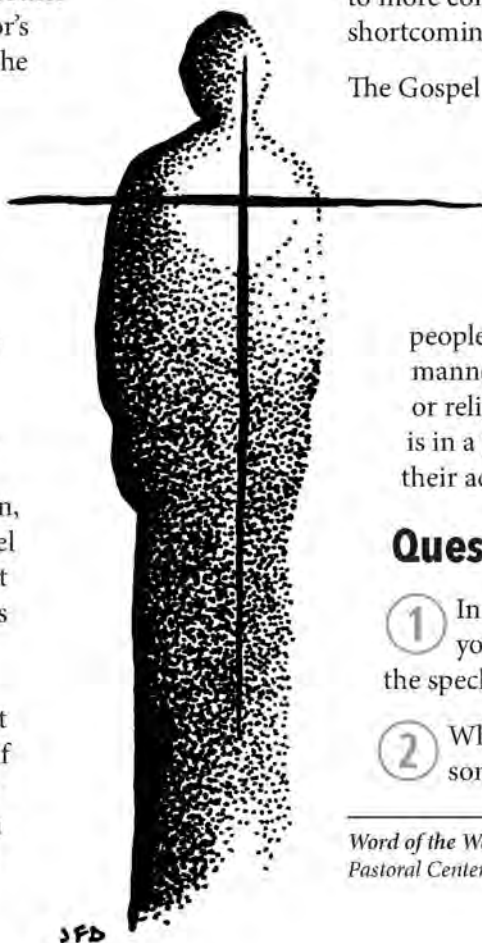
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Sirach 27:5-8 - All tested by their speech
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 - Glorification of the body
- ▶ Luke 6:39-45 - All known by their works

As is often the case, the first reading and the Gospel reading are connected in theme. The first encourages us to judge people by their words, not their physical appearance, because their speech reveals their interior life. Just as good fruit grows from a tree well-cared for, someone who cultivates a good character will speak from that place of goodness. Two centuries later, Jesus echoes the same theme, expanding on it with further examples.

Jesus' teachings today give a very concrete challenge to all his disciples down through the ages that is often hard for us to hear. Rather than point out the faults of another — “the speck in your neighbor's eye”—we are asked to notice the wooden beam in our own eye. Of course, we may want to believe that our neighbor has the beam in his eye, while we either have only a speck or maybe even think we are completely clear-sighted!

The paradox is that when we quit focusing on someone else's faults to remedy our own, we will probably no longer feel the need to stand in judgment of anyone else. Just before this passage, Jesus stated, “Stop judging and you will not be judged.” That statement might seem almost impossible, but if we concentrate on taking the wooden beam out of our own eye that might naturally lead



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“Remove the wooden beam from your eye first, then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye.”

Sheepish Question:
Okay, what IS this log in my eye and how does it weaken my relationships?

to more compassion and understanding of others' shortcomings.

The Gospel passage ends with Jesus picking up on a theme in the first reading from the Book of Sirach. Both remind us that we can know a tree by its fruits—good trees will produce good fruit, but rotten trees will not. Though the world may judge people by their “appearance” (their skin color, manner of dress, sexual orientation, language, or religion), Jesus asks us to look deeper to what is in a person's heart. Ultimately, their words and their actions will reveal what is there.

Questions of the Week

- 1 In what kinds of situations do you find yourself getting caught up in focusing on the specks in other people's eyes?
- 2 What good fruits have you seen produced by someone who is genuinely a “good tree”?

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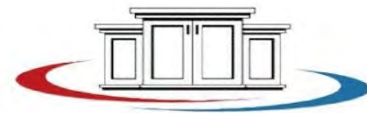
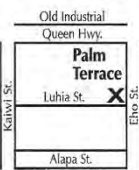
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