

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-Kahalu'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, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12 noon

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

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org May 18, 2025 | 18 de mayo de 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

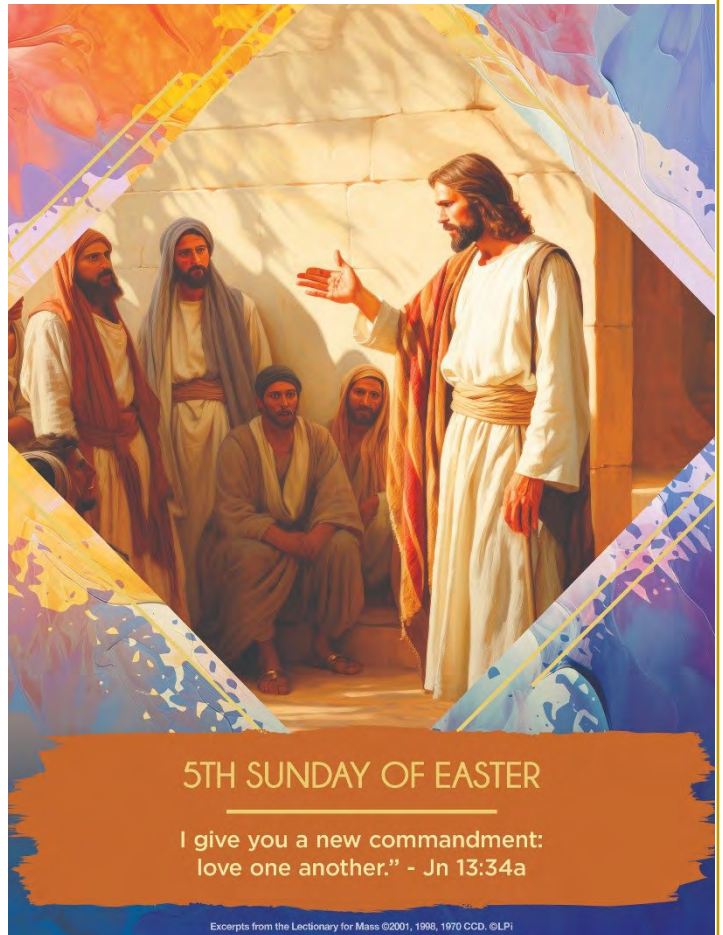
Reading I - **Acts 14:21-27** | Psalm - **100:8-9,10-11,12-15** | Reading II - **Revelation 21:1-5** | Gospel - **John 13:31-33,34-35**
Primera Lectura - **Hechos 14:21-27** | Salmo - **99:8-9,10-11,12-15** | Segunda Lectura - **Apocalipsis 21:1-5** | Evangelio - **Juan 13:31-33,34-35**

MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

Paul's back! After last week's "violent abuse," opponents organized a lynch mob that beat Paul nearly to death. But call Paul the "energizing evangelist," transforming deadly cruelty into life-giving zeal. Paul's past courage should inspire our commitment; Revelation's future "new heaven, new earth" should inspire our optimism. But Revelation's present assurance, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race," should challenge us to become "missionaries of mercy." Because Pope Francis declared that the Church's credibility is completely dependent on our showing unconditional mercy. Mercy, said Francis, makes the Church, the world, and everyone young again, reawakened to life's noblest virtues. Fittingly, in today's Gospel Jesus reinforces that theme: "This is how all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - 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.



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

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: **Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2,22-29**

Primera Lectura: **Hechos de los Apóstoles 14:21-27**

Psalm/Salmo: **62(61):2-3,5,6,8**

2nd Reading: **Revelation (Apocalipsis) 21:10-14,22-23**

Gospel/Evangelio: **John (Juan) 14:23-29**

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.

May 18, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27 | Rev 21:1-5a | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

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

Today's Gospel occurs shortly before Jesus gives his Last Supper Discourses in the Gospel of John. Judas has betrayed Jesus, and now the Lord speaks to his inner circle for one of the last times before his arrest. "I will be with you only a little while longer," he says. At these words, I imagine a hush falling over the group. Rattled by Judas' strange actions and alarmed by the Lord announcing his impending departure, the disciples' eyes must have darted about as they held their breath, awaiting Jesus' words. "I give you a new commandment," he says. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In a word, Jesus summarizes his teaching: love as God loves. He is using these last moments to exhort his disciples to be as he is. We know it won't be easy – it will involve sacrifice and suffering – but the Holy Spirit is present with us to guide and advocate for us on our journey.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering and wondered, "Have I done something wrong?" When we meet resistance on the narrow path, it can make us question our choices, ourselves, and sometimes even God. Let today's first reading be a boost of confidence on your journey; remember that your suffering does not imply a misstep. "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," Paul and Barnabas exhort the disciples (and us). It is natural to grow fatigued, especially when we encounter hardships. This is one reason why the Lord desires that we never journey alone. By God's perfect design, humans require companionship, from other humans and from the Creator himself. In the reading from the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle hears a loud voice saying, "God himself will always be with them as their God." Though the road may be peppered with pain, and the trials overwhelming, may we never forget that our God is very near!

PRAY

Today's readings reveal themes of perseverance in faith, radical love, and the stunning reality that the Lord is *truly present* to us. As we pray with these Scriptures, consider asking yourself: *What areas of my life feel distant from the Lord's presence? How can I open these areas up to receive his light and his love?* Take time to talk to the Lord in prayer about these things. When you do, make sure you leave space and silence for him to speak.



The Last Supper, Carl Bloch (1834-1890), Public Domain

Life of Stewardship

Today's readings on this fifth Sunday of Easter contain inspiring but challenging messages for us Christian stewards.

The Gospel from John includes this well-known verse: "My children . . . I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

What a succinct description of a stewardship way of life. It sounds so simple. But simple does not necessarily mean easy.

How exactly is Jesus Calling us to love? As He, Himself loved. Jesus loved (and loves) by serving us and by making a sacrifice of His very life for us. That is a tall order.

Living a life of service and self-sacrifice is not easy because it requires us to continuously fight against our selfish inclinations. But the more we empty ourselves of "self" by serving others, the more room we make in our hearts for God to pour His grace into us. Amazingly, the more we give our lives away to others, the more He fills us up with Himself who is love itself.

And amid the inevitable challenging moments this way of life entails we can be assured that the Lord who loves us so much that He died for us and established the Eucharist to be our strength and nourishment, is right here with us every step of the way.

As we face the hardships that come with living as Christian stewards, we can continue to rejoice in the wonder of the Resurrection this Easter season, finding great joy in following in our Lord's footsteps and in loving as He loves.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News

ASAP (Assistance and Support After Pregnancy)

The Knights of Columbus distributed Baby Bottles after on Mother's Day weekend for their fundraiser for ASAP (Assistance and Support After Pregnancy). Please support them by putting your daily change in the bottle. The Knights will be collecting the bottles on Father's Day, June 18th. All of the monies collected will go to support mothers & children in need through Family Support Hawaii. If you prefer, **please make checks out to St. Michael's Church or the Knights of Columbus and note for ASAP.**

Neocatechumenal Way Catechesis

An Announcement of Joy! What was it that the apostles and the early Church fathers did that made such a marvelous and revolutionary change in the lives of so many people who were immersed and lived in such a corrupt and pagan society? St. Paul called it, "The stupidity of preaching the Good News!". This Kerygma or Proclamation of the Good News converted and changed the lives of thousands, so much so, that those who preached with such faith were willing to give their lives for the sake of the gospel and to cry out "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!" They were not recounting a system of morality of laws, nor some new ideology, but a Good News that, for those who listened and believed it, were able to experience a change in their lives which freed them from the slavery of vices, and offered them a new life filled with joy even if faced with persecution and death. This good News was not just that Jesus Christ had died and rose from the dead, but that they experienced this same resurrection from the death of their former life of hell. This joyful announcement is forever new and still has

the power to change and convert us.

Please join us at the Neocatechumenal Way catechesis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6pm in the Grace Parish Center. For more information, please contact Jonathan at stengerjp@hotmail.com.

Baptism Class

Our next Baptism class will be held on Saturday, May 24 at 9am in the Parish Office Conference room. All parents and godparents are required to attend. Please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org to register.

Children's Rosary

All children in the parish are invited to come together to pray and lead the Rosary as a prayer group **after the 9am Mass on Sunday, May 25th**. Parents are invited to stay and pray along as the children lead the prayers. This is a great way to pray together as a family. We will meet at the grotto.

Grief Recovery Method Program

The Grief Recovery Method program provides a safe environment for you to look at your old beliefs about coping with loss, which losses continue to affect your life, and take effective actions that will lead you to complete unresolved emotions that may still be causing you pain. This is an "action-based" program, involves reading and writing assignments outlined in *The Grief Recovery Handbook, 20th Anniversary Expanded Edition*. This program is not a drop in group, and registered participants meet for 8 weekly sessions. There is **no cost for this program**, but it does require a firm commitment and attendance at all sessions for success in learning to recover from unresolved grief.

The 8-week program will be held **Wednesdays, June 4 - July 23, 2025, from 10 am - 12 noon** at St. Michael's. To register, contact **Suzanne Zaw**, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, at (808)339-7980.

Men of Faith

Is meeting with fellow men of our parish and growing in your faith of interest to you? If yes, we invite you to join us every Wednesday from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM on the St. Michael's South Lanai! We will reflect upon the prior Sunday's readings and discuss how they can positively impact our lives. Special invitation: The last Wednesday of each month is extra special as we have a potluck dinner in the Grace Parish Center beginning at 5:30 PM.

Fr. Larry Denis

Fr. Larry Denis was ordained into the Sacred Order of Priesthood on Friday evening by Bishop Silva at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu. We are excited to have Fr. Larry celebrate his First Sunday Masses with us on Sunday, May 18. He will celebrate the 9am and 4pm Masses here at St. Michael's. A reception will follow after the 4pm Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

You have a special hour of adoration waiting for you . . . Every **Wednesday from 7:30am to 5pm**. Call the office at **326-7771** to claim your victory!

Stewardship of Treasure

May 5th -11th, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 3,004.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 8,650.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 8,459.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,973,494.19** 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 MAY 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.

Women's Retreat - Saturday, June 7

Save the Date! We are blessed to have Sister Malia Wong as our presenter at our first women's retreat on Saturday, June 7 from 7:30am to 1pm in the Grace Parish Center. More details to follow!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Classes

Have a great summer! During the break, please join our Children's Rosary Club after the 9am Mass on the last Sunday of each month. They will pray one decade of the rosary at the grotto.

-Margaret Essex, Cathecist

- Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister

Encounter . . . Summer Bible Camp

We are excited to present our first ever Bible Camp for youth entering grades 6-12. Register now as space is limited! Join us for Bible Camp from 8am - 4pm on July 14 through July 18 in the Grace Parish Center. There is no cost to attend. Registration forms are in the kiosks.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

I've always found it amazing that Jesus never says to his disciples the straightforward and bumper stickery words "I love you" or "I will always love you" (a la Dolly Parton's song). Why doesn't Jesus say, "I love you"?

Well, actually he does, but in particular ways. He says, "As the Father loves me, so I love you" (John 15:9) thereby rooting his love for us in the space of the Holy Trinity. This week he commands, "Love another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). He presents his love for us as a completed action which continues into the present moment. How has he loved

us? By becoming one of us, one with us, and finally giving his life for us in his suffering on the cross. We weren't there when he did that, but neither were his Apostles (except one). Still, that action is his great "I love you" to us.

His love is also hedged in a command: "Love one another." So how can we practically follow it? The great St. John XXIII wrote in his diary that each day he followed this rule: "Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it." The hidden nature of a good deed is a sign that it is truly loving. This week, take on St. John XXIII's practical meth-od of following Jesus' great commandment of love. It's a splendid way to say, "I love you." - Father John Muir, ©LPI

Treasures from Our Tradition

Frequent fliers today have many ways to accrue air miles, so one doesn't always have to endure long hours in cramped seats to earn free hours in cramped seats. In St. Paul's day, there were no such perks, nor would there have been any legal system for him to protest the shipwrecks he endured. He had other rewards in mind. The churches that he established in the catalogue of cities from today's first reading must have been very different from one another. Language, culture, customs, religious history, obstacles to community, social challenges, the places where they met, their clothing, their bread and wine, all distinct, particular to the area.

There were social customs as well: in a Christian household, the only place where a slave would be able to stand legally as an equal with the master would be at the table of the Lord, because at that table a new world of reconciliation was imaged. While Paul revered local customs, he was relentless about challenging the ways that people lived their Christian lives and how their worship reflected them. It is much the same today, as a global Catholic Church seeks to respect local customs and culture, allowing for differences in many things, yet always giving expression to the underlying presence of Christ, who binds us all together into his body.

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

Everyday Stewardship - Loving as New Creations

"There's something different about you." Think about the times in your life when this has been said to you. Maybe it was after someone complimented you on a job well done, and you realized that you were walking through life with a little more confidence. Maybe it was after meeting someone special, as you carried the glow of that relationship wherever you went. Chances are, if someone has noticed something different about you, it's because, inwardly, you've been changed by the loving or respectful actions of another person.

Love, you see, can make us into new creations. From the love of God flows the grace to tackle any challenge, including the biggest challenge of all: loving each other well. Christ knows what a big request this is. He was human, too. He came and lived among us. He knew intimately what it was to love people in the chaos of their own flaws. He knew what he was asking of us when he said, "As I have loved you, so you should also love one

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)
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00pm
- 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
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00pm

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00pm

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)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Baptism Classes are held monthly as needed. 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.

another."

In essence, this is the call to stewardship: loving as Christ loves, amidst the messiness of everyday reality. Loving with accountability, challenging ourselves and our brothers and sisters to be faithful even when it is hard. Loving with an unflinching sense of hospitality that welcomes even those we do not agree with or understand. Loving with gratitude, giving thanks for the great variety of ways that Christ can make himself known to us through others.

It isn't easy - we all know that. But if we ask God for the grace to remain steadfast in this greatest commandment, we will be given what we need to live as new creations.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Resembling Jesus

I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In researching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother's dearest childhood friend. When I visited this woman to take her photo, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years.

She said: "You resemble her." I wept on the way home. My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much.

Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well - being identified as belonging to her in some way - was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as theirs somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his. The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. This is how all will know that you are my disciples.

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good - we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially. As he loves us.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, LPI

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

4pm - Fran Sullivan, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 7am - Mrs. Patricia Ann Hebert, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Patricia Ann "Kuuipo" Saldua, 3rd Anniversary of Death

MONDAY, MAY 19TH

- 7am - Brenda Robinson, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Mary McCheyne, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, MAY 20TH

- 7am - Brenda Robinson, Rest in Peace
- 7am - Zola Ingram for Healing
- 5pm - Lukas Carr for Healing

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST

- 7am - Mary Lou Knurek, Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, MAY 22ND

- 7am - Patty Jo Hart, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Jon Woodbury, Birthday Blessings

FRIDAY, MAY 23RD

- 7am - Stephen Grande, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Fran Sullivan, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH

- 7am - Patty Jo Hart, 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.



SCAN ME

Use this QR Code for our Amazon Wishlist. Items purchased can be mailed directly to the Parish Office. Mahalo for your support!

A Measure for Love


This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Acts 14:21-27 - End of the first mission
- ▶ Revelation 21:1-5a - New heavens and new earth
- ▶ John 13:31-33a, 34-35 - A new commandment

There are teachings of Jesus that seem to sum up his message perfectly. The Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do to you"—is one example. Another appears in the Gospel passage from John today. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (Jn. 13:34).

If Jesus had left this new commandment at "love one another," it would have been open to more interpretation. What one person might consider love ("I beat my child to teach him a lesson because I love him") would be offensive to another person's understanding of love. If we think only in terms of "love one another" we might be tempted to reduce it to something like "Do no harm." That could let us off the hook for not being proactive to help others, as long as we aren't actively making someone's life harder. Adding the line "as I have loved you, so you also should love one another" calls us to measure how we define love against how Jesus lived it out.

Jesus was honest and direct in calling people to accountability for their actions, and he challenged them to stretch to be better. But he didn't shame people. He didn't withhold forgiveness, no matter what the sins were. He always moved to bring people back into the community rather than condemning them to be outcasts. He stood up for those being cheated or exploited by the wealthy and powerful. He reached out to the sick and the

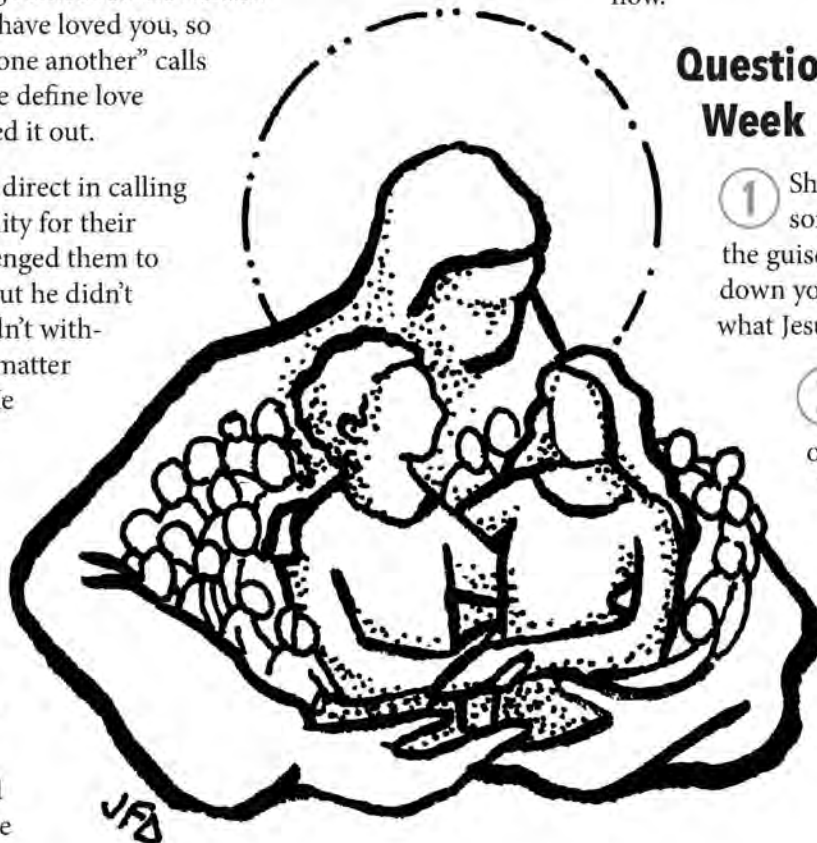


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"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sheepish Question:
How do people know that I'm a disciple of Jesus?

lame, offering his healing presence no matter how grotesque their illness or disfigurement was. Let us then love one another as Jesus showed us how.



Questions of the Week

- 1 Share an example of something done under the guise of "love" when deep down you know that is not what Jesus would have done.
- 2 What changes for you when "love one another" becomes "love one another as I have loved you"?

Word of the Week •
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



As You Love Us

Gracious God,
you make all things new.
You dwell with us,
promising to bring us to a place
of peace, comfort, and joy—
to everlasting life!
Help us
to proclaim this Good News,
to strengthen the spirits of those
around us,
and to encourage them to persevere
in faith.
Grant us the wisdom, courage,
and perseverance
to love one another
as you love us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Behold, I Make All Things New



Today's readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35. Jesus tells us that we will be known as his disciples by the way we love others. Our daily acts of service bring the presence of God to those around us. What a gift and a challenge to accept! This Sunday, spend time reflecting on those who have manifested God's love to you. Who in your life has shown you God's compassionate love? What have you learned from them? Say a prayer in gratitude for the ways they have glorified God. Make it a point to reach out to thank them.

In today's second reading from the Book of Revelation, we hear that "God's dwelling is with the human race."

Though we know this, it can be easy to miss the many ways God is present to us in our day-to-day lives, particularly as we experience hardships. In those difficult moments, we can take comfort knowing that God promises to wipe every tear from our eyes. God is with us as we experience death, mourning, wailing, and pain. God promises us everlasting life. How can you call to mind God dwelling among us when you are struggling? We are called to share the promise of everlasting life with those around us. This week, how can you glorify God and lovingly open the door of faith to others?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 19 Glory to God

After Paul heals the crippled man at Lystra, the crowds mistake Paul and Barnabas for gods. Paul and Barnabas exclaim that they are, in fact, not gods, but humans proclaiming the Good News: that they “should turn from these idols to the living God.” Sometimes we can mistake God’s work in our lives for something that is not God; we may idolize ourselves, someone in our community, or something else entirely when we should be recognizing God’s goodness. Spend time in prayer reflecting on the ways God has bestowed goodness on you. *Today’s readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena

St. Bernardine, a Franciscan priest, was known for his exceptional preaching. He traveled on foot, preaching from town to town. Bernardine is credited for creating on a blazing sun the symbol that is synonymous with the Holy Name of Jesus: IHS (the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek). He died while traveling on foot to preach. *Today’s readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions

St. Christopher Magallanes and the twenty-five martyrs we honor today lived under an extremely anti-Catholic government in Mexico. Christopher Magallanes organized catechetical centers, schools, and orphanages in rural areas. The martyrs died serving as a part of the Cristero movement, dedicated to spreading the Good News even while it was a crime to be baptized or celebrate the Mass. Today, pray in gratitude for the ability to practice your faith. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

From a young age, St. Rita desired to become a nun. Her parents, however, arranged for her marriage to a man who proved to be abusive and unfaithful to her. After eighteen years of marriage, St. Rita’s husband died in a brawl. Shortly after, her two sons also died. While Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns, she was rejected three times because she was a widow. Eventually, the Augustinians welcomed her. She became known for her prayerfulness, care for sick nuns, and austerity. St. Rita of Cascia is the patron saint of difficult situations, mainly in the context of marriage. Today, join her in prayer by saying a prayer uplifting married couples to God in your community. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2–b3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

Friday, May 23 Love One Another

Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us. It is because we have been chosen and loved by God that we are called to love others (and have the strength to do so). Resolve to love those around you by performing acts of service. Choose one person to serve each day in the coming week. What act(s) of service might show your love for them? How can you share Christ’s love with them? *Today’s readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 24 Chosen

Jesus says that he has chosen us, we were created to follow him! Following Jesus will not always be easy: today we are reminded that “the world . . . hated [Jesus] first.” If we are persecuted or disliked for spreading the Good News, we must remember that Jesus is with us. Today, say a prayer in gratitude for Jesus’ companionship and guidance. Reflect on the ways he has been with you as you have discerned your role as his disciple. *Today’s readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*

REV. KONELIO FALETOI
Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
West Hawaii Vicariate

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
Parochial Vicar

**DEACON SÁNDOR
HERNÁNDEZ MORALES**
MEALI'INANI DUARTE-HERNÁNDEZ
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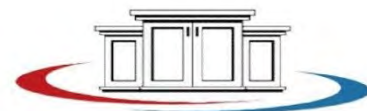
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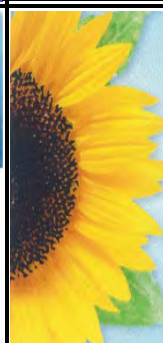
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