

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 12noon

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

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **March 29, 2026 | 29 de marzo de 2026**

Palm Sunday of the LORD's Passion

Gospel - **Matthew 21:1-11** | Reading I - **Isaiah 50:4-7** | Psalm - **22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24** | Reading II - **Philippians 2:6-11** | Gospel - **Matthew 26:14-27:66**
Evangelio - **Mateo 21:1-11** | Primera Lectura - **Isaias 50:4-7** | Salmo - **21:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24** | Segunda Lectura - **Filipenses 2:6-11** | Evangelio - **Mateo 26:14-27:66**

SEEING CHRIST CLEARLY

We start today looking through the portals of Jerusalem, seeing crowds of people, cheering and waving palm branches in the air. The whole atmosphere is one of joy, triumph, and celebration. We can get distracted or enthralled by the scene, and not see clearly the features of Jesus as he enters. But our readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Philippians clarify his features for us. He is the Suffering Servant, meek and mute before his captors and persecutors; he is the very image of the unseen God, yet will not clutch at equality with God before he endures his final confrontation in humility. Isaiah and Paul help us "behold the Lamb of God" before we hear the story of his final and greatest confrontation. It is important that we see Christ clearly before we hear the account of his passion, for we - his Body through baptism, the church - now bear his face. We must, with him, enter into this time of trial so we can, also with him, enter into his final triumph. - Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

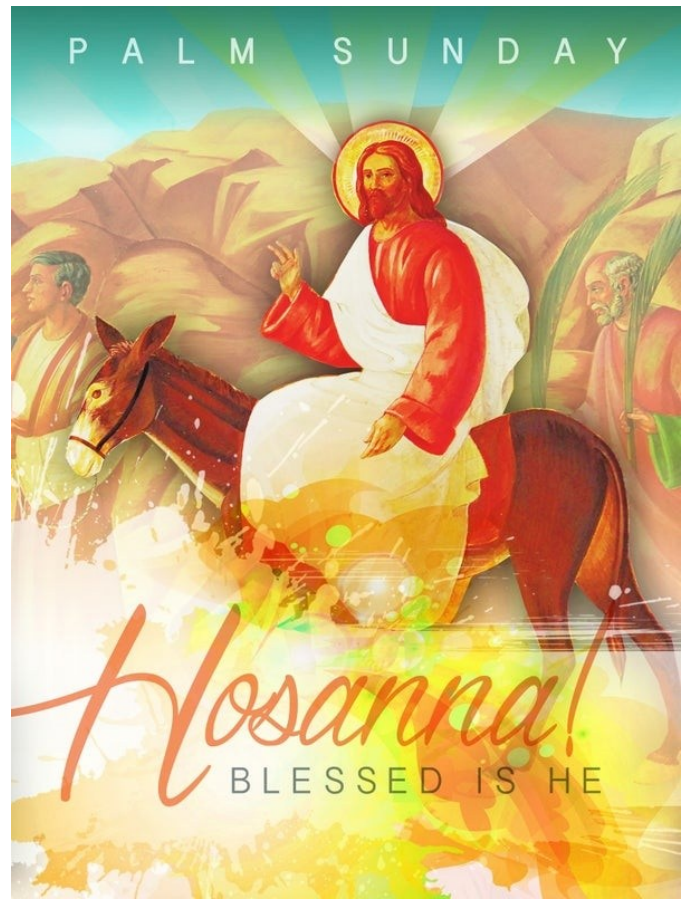
Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm: 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel/Evangelio: John 20:1-9



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection 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 evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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 29, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mt 21:1-11 | Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

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

Pay attention to the prominence of Scripture in today's Mass. At Masses where there's a Procession or the Solemn Entrance, we'll hear the Gospel reading proclaiming Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. During our regular Liturgy of the Word, we'll also read through the lengthy account of Christ's passion (this year, from the Gospel of Matthew). Following the reading of the passion a brief homily may be given, but there may also be a period of silence rather than a homily. In so many ways, it seems that beginning with Palm Sunday (and all throughout Holy Week), the Church is inviting us to feast on God's Word in a deeper way than perhaps at any other time in the liturgical year. As disciples, our whole Christian life must be nourished not only by the sacraments, but by the Word of God. As Lent comes to a close, we can think back to our Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, where Jesus tells us that "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4) The events we hear about during this time are the climactic moments in the unfolding plan of our salvation. By reading the Gospel accounts, we're invited to *participate* in them through this liturgy which makes them present to us, here and now.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul's Letter to the Philippians speaks of Jesus' self-emptying love. Although he was God, Jesus took on our humanity and offered his life in humble obedience to the Father, accepting, willfully, even death on a cross. When we consider our efforts to lead others to know the Lord, we're invited to adopt his own way of reaching out to humanity. Do we enter into the lived experience of those we seek to evangelize? In what ways do we empty (humble) ourselves in order to draw near to them? Are we willing to set aside our plans, our agenda, our way of doing things, and willingly accept God's way of doing things? Following the example of our Lord, our own efforts at evangelization should be marked by humility and self-emptying love.

STUDY

One of the best ways we can participate in the celebration of these sacred days is to spend time reading the Scriptures for each day of Holy Week. Read the text, then sit in silence, allowing the words to wash over you. What moments or lines stand out to you? As you re-read the Gospel of Christ's passion, read the words knowing that Jesus has done all of this *for you*.



Life of Stewardship

We begin this Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. It is fitting that during this week we intensely focus our minds and hearts on the steps of our Savior as He laid down His very life for us. But let us also examine the seemingly small acts of stewardship by some who encountered Jesus during this most eventful week.

One occurred when Jesus gave instructions about the room where He would celebrate the Passover. Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him..." "In your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." While we do not know this man's name, we do know he agreed to this request - he shared the material gift of his home and the gift of hospitality. Because of his good stewardship, his own home became the site of the institution of the Eucharist!

There was also Simon the Cyrenian, who offered the gift of his physical strength, helping the Lord to carry His Cross. Consider, too, the actions of Joseph of Arimathea - he generously shared a material gift of the tomb that was his, and he gave the gift of service to our Lord by giving Him a proper burial. Then there were the "two Marys" who gave Jesus the gift of their time. Keeping watch in tender vigil after His death, they "remained sitting there, facing the tomb."

Each of these were simple acts of good stewardship, yet God used them in mighty ways. God invites each of us, too, to cooperate with Him in small ways through the sharing of our time, talent, and material gifts. Small gifts can become mighty deeds when placed in God's service.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants



Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper - April 2nd

Morning Prayer: 7am

Holy Mass: 6pm

All are welcome to stay for Adoration until midnight.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - April 3rd

Morning Prayer: 7am

Stations of the Cross: 12noon (SM), 3pm (IC)

Good Friday Liturgy: 6pm

Leis are welcome for Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil - April 4th

Morning Prayer: 7am

Blessing of the Easter Baskets: 10am

Easter Vigil of the Holy Night: 6pm

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord - April 5th

Mass: 7am - English/Ōlelo Hawai'i

9am - English

12:00pm - Español

4pm - English

Parish News

* NEW* Helping Children with Loss program

The "**Helping Children with Loss**" program **teaches adults** (parents, grandparents, teachers, daycare providers and others who have, love, or work with children) **how to help children to deal with loss.** You need to attend all 4 sessions as each class builds on each other. This program will be held on Wednesdays, **April 8 to 29, 2026 from 10am to 12:30pm. There is no charge.** To register, call **Suzanne Zaw**, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, at (808) 339-7980.

Use of Incense during the Triduum & Easter

To enhance the solemnity and beauty of our worship, incense will be used during the Sacred Paschal Triduum and on Easter Sunday. We recognize, however, that some parishioners may be sensitive to incense. For your comfort, seating on the lanai offers a well-ventilated space where you can fully participate in the liturgy while remaining at a comfortable distance from the incense. We look forward to celebrating these most holy days with you!

Children's Rosary

Join us **after the 9am Mass on Sunday, March 29** as our children lead one decade of the Rosary in prayerful devotion. Parents are invited to pray alongside them - a beautiful way to grow in faith as a family. Prayer requests may be placed at the grotto. "Count Your Blessings" boxes are available for children to add intentions throughout the month. We gather on the last Sunday of each month and will pray together for all the intentions collected.

Immigration Ministry Seminar

Come to our Immigration Ministry Seminar on **Sunday, March 29 at 1:00pm** in the Grace Parish Center! Attorney Evita will discuss federal immigration laws in an informational one-hour seminar. If you, or someone you know from any country in the world, are here in the USA without legal status and are not sure where to begin the process to become legal, this is a must attend.

Marriage Retreat - Saturday, April 11

Deacon Jerome Bettencourt has generously offered to lead this retreat for married couples who wish to have their marriage blessed and validated and also couples already married in the Church seeking ongoing faith formation. The retreat will focus on the Catholic understanding of marriage as a sacrament and offers guided reflections to strengthen communication and unity. The retreat will begin with the 7am Mass. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please register by Tuesday, April 8 by calling the parish office at 808-326-7771.

St. Michael Statue Brick Garden

Phase 1 has been installed and we are almost ready to place an order for Phase 2. Order forms and information available after Mass at the coffee station, at the kiosk, or at the Parish Office during the week. Three brick sizes are offered, each with your choice of engraving. Let your legacy become part of our parish grounds. Together, let's build something beautiful for generations to come.

Stewardship of Treasure

March 16th - March 22nd, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,410.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 13,470.85
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,924.70

We are grateful that our construction debt for the Grace Parish Center has been paid off. Our weekly second collection will be for our Building Repairs & Maintenance. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity!

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

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2026 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$14,082.75

The Diocesan Assessment covers shared staff and administrative resources from the Diocese supporting every parish. The new "Annual Appeal" assessment starting in January provides funds for collaborative Catholic ministries and services that extend beyond the capacity of any single parish.

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.

AARP Offering Free Tax Help

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is available free to taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those ages 50 and older. West Hawaii has two sites offering service from **February 4 until April 10**. Hale Halawai, located at 75-5600 Ali'i Drive is open on a walk-in basis on **Thursdays from 8am until 12 noon**.

Yano Hall located at 82-6156 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook is open for walk-in and appointments (808-765-9141) on **Wednesdays from 10am until 4pm**.

Hawaii Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Our **Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal** is an exciting opportunity for our parish community to come together and *Share God's Gifts* in support of the vital ministries that strengthen our Church across the islands. Make your gift online using the QR code or use the envelopes in the kiosks. Your generosity supports Catholic schools and faith formation programs, outreach to individuals and families in need, evangelization efforts, and the formation of seminarians preparing for the priesthood.



Faith Formation

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

No Class on Sunday, March 29 or April 5. Next class is April 12.

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

We will have Youth Ministry this Sunday, March 29th. Candidates receiving Sacraments will practice on April 12th with

the morning Faith Formation class from 10:15 to 11:50am. No class that evening.

Palm Sunday of the LORD's Passion

Just prior to this week's Passion narrative in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a small, striking story describing a woman's scandalous action toward Jesus: "A woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on his head" (Matthew 26:7). The ointment was pure nard, worth more than 300 denarii. A year's wages. Maybe a dowry, maybe a family inheritance. In any case, she breaks it. She does not measure or ration. She pours it all out, irreversibly, over Jesus. Why does this image begin Holy Week?

Because what she does with the jar, Jesus will soon do with his life. The jar must be broken so the fragrance can be released. Jesus' body will be broken so his priceless divine and human love can be poured out. She gives everything, just as he is about to give everything. And He sees it: "She has done a good thing for me" (Matthew 26:10). Her act is lavish, impractical, scandalous in its apparent wastefulness. And he loves it. It is what Holy Week is all about.

What jar are you still holding onto? Your time? Your comfort? Your plan for how life should go? Don't just wave palms today. Let yourself be broken open so your love, too, can be poured out.

Lenten Challenge: Offer something costly to Jesus this Holy Week - not out of guilt, but love. Your attention. Your forgiveness. Your time. Break the jar. Trust that nothing poured out for him is ever wasted.

- Father John Muir, ©LPI

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent - Accountable

Easter is only a week away, and churches everywhere in the West are beginning the holiest of weeks. For a moment, even the secular world will bow to religious observances: closings on Good Friday, Easter baskets filled with treats, and television specials featuring Biblical figures. You and I will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we have died and risen with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we have prepared well for this Holy Week observance, or we are left lamenting that maybe next year will be when we get back on track.

The question before us is: "To whom are we accountable?" Did our Lenten observance only have to do with us? Does it matter to anyone if we really took this time seriously or not?

Both faith and community are gifts from God to us. The Church exists so we may live out that faith and respond to God's call, being strengthened by the grace imparted through the sacraments and the community in which we find ourselves. If we are accountable to no one, then the community is simply an option on a Sunday morning, much like golf or household chores. If we are not accountable to God, then our faith is simply something we look to periodically when we are sad or frightened.

However, if we are accountable to each other and to

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 6:00-7:30pm

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 6:00-7:00pm
(Last Wed. of each month) 7:00-8:00pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm
(First & Third Thursday - Grace Parish Center)

FRIDAY

- Women of the Word 12:00-1:00pm

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

- Gift Shop Open 7:30am-11am
- 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.stmichaclkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

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

Jesus Christ, then we must answer for our stewardship gifts of faith and community. The Body of Christ is counting on us. Without a strong sense of accountability, we think our actions only affect us. In the end, we are connected to each other through Christ in such a manner that no one ever stands alone.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Humanity of Holy Week

We have all sold Jesus out, at one point or another. Some of us have done it more than once, and we've done it for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver.

We have all denied Christ, and we have done it more than three times and under much less pressure than Peter, who feared for his life when he shouted, "I do not know the man!"

We have all struck the face of God - out of anger? Fear? Confusion? All of the above? - screaming, in agony, "Prophecy for me!"

At one point or another, we have all looked at our Lord beaten and betrayed, and we have all said, as Pilate did: "What shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

And we have all hung on the cross chosen for us, crying out in bewilderment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Holy Week is a week where we see humanity, in all its vulnerability and ignorance. We see it in the "villains" of the piece, like Judas, and in the morally neutral characters like Pilate and the Jews who have been misled about Jesus. We even see it in the "good guys" like Peter.

In this, the holiest week of the year, we see ourselves at our very worst. The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide - by the pridefulness of Adam and Eve, yes, but also by every poor choice you and I have ever made.

Every "I don't know the man!" Every Prophecy!" Every "What shall I do with Jesus?"

These cries echo forth from the depths of this chasm.

But this week - this Holy Week - a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand. - Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPI

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

This week, we see things that break our heart - God betrayed. This week, we see things that shake our faith - God bleeding on a cross. This week, this Holy Week, with all its difficult moments, can change us, if we let it. Are we ready? - ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

- 4pm - Happy 18th Wedding Anniversary Blessing to Steve & Merry Lopez & Helene Dembski, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

- 7am - Manuel D. Afaga, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Anthony "Tony" Silva, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Brenda & Don Nelson for Healing

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH

- 7am - Tamia "Mimi" Kalele, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Jack Derzay, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

- 7am - Puninaniokalani Smith, deceased, Birthday Remembrance and Kara Ursua, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Kaiehitu Kimitete Aukai, Birthday Blessings

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST

- 7am - Priscilla Panilo, deceased, Birthday Blessings

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

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.



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



Mahalo for your support!

Escaping from Pain

This Week's Readings at Mass

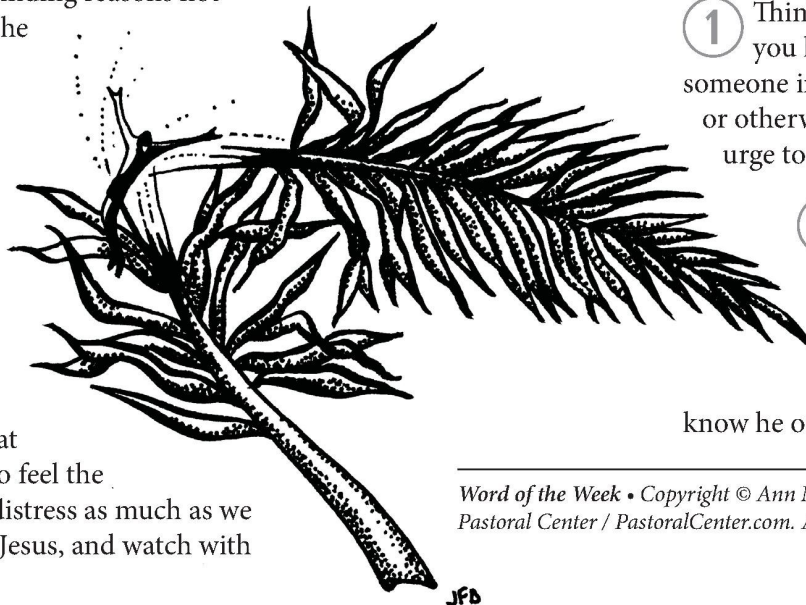
- ▶ Matthew 21:1-11 • Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- ▶ Isaiah 50:4-7 • Salvation only through the Lord's servant
- ▶ Philippians 2:6-11 • Jesus, compassionate high priest
- ▶ Matthew 26:14-27:66 • The passion of Jesus



On Palm Sunday, we hear two Gospel readings. The first tells us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second is the full Passion account. In between are readings from Isaiah and Philippians, reminding us of Jesus' humility and willingness to be the suffering servant of God. The combination of scriptures moves us from rejoicing and praising Jesus along with the people waving their palms on the roadside to the disturbing events that lead to his arrest, trial, and death. These scripture passages are an emotional roller coaster ride.

The entire Passion story is difficult to read and hear because it is challenging to be with people who are in pain, especially when they are people we know and love. Even if we have the desire to stay present and remain loyal, Peter, James, and John remind us that sometimes the pain is just too great and we escape from it. Jesus' three friends escaped the discomfort of being with Jesus in his agony by sleeping. Others of us avoid pain in other ways, perhaps with food, alcohol or drugs, exercise, forms of entertainment or technology use, overworking, etc. Sometimes our escape is simply by finding reasons not to spend time with the person in pain.

St. Ignatius wrote a program of prayer called The Spiritual Exercises. He urges all those who are praying the Exercises to stay present to Jesus during his Passion. He suggests that we allow ourselves to feel the agony, sorrow, and distress as much as we can, to remain with Jesus, and watch with



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Sheepish Question:
What am I afraid of?

him as he asked his friends to do in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We cannot be physically present to Jesus in his suffering now, but surely there are people in our lives who are suffering with whom we can remain awake. It might be a form of agony for us to watch and to share in another's pain, but when we do it for others, we do it for Jesus.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Think about an experience you have had of being with someone in their pain: physical or otherwise. Did you have any urge to run away or escape it?
- 2 Think of someone in your life now who is suffering. How might you make yourself available so that person will know he or she is not alone?

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Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.

II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*.

5. *On the foundation of the Apostles. The Church in her hierarchical dimension*"



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We will continue our catecheses on the [Documents of the Second Vatican Council](#), commenting on the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen gentium](#) on the Church ([LG](#)). After presenting her as the People of God, today we will consider her hierarchical form.

The Catholic Church is founded on the Apostles, whom Christ appointed as the living pillars of His mystical Body, and possesses a hierarchical structure that works in the service of the unity, mission and sanctification of all her members. This sacred Order is permanently founded on the Apostles (cf. *Eph* 2:20; *Rev* 21:14), as authoritative witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (cf. *Acts* 1:22; *1 Cor* 15:7) and sent by the Lord Himself on mission into the world (cf. *Mk* 16:15; *Mt* 28:19). Since the Apostles are called to faithfully preserve the Master's salvific teaching (cf. *2 Tim* 1:13–14), they hand on their ministry to men who, until Christ's return, continue to sanctify, guide and instruct the Church "through their successors in pastoral office" ([Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 857](#)).

This apostolic succession, founded on the Gospel and in the Tradition, is explored further in Chapter III of [Lumen gentium](#), entitled "*On the hierarchical structure of the Church and in particular on the Episcopate*". The Council teaches that the hierarchical structure is not a human construct, functional to the internal organization of the Church as a social body (cf. [LG](#), 8), but a divine institution whose purpose is to perpetuate the mission given by Christ to the Apostles until the end of time.

The fact that this theme is addressed in Chapter III, after the first two chapters have considered the very essence of the Church (cf. *Acta Synodalia* III/1, 209–210), does not imply that the hierarchical constitution is a subsequent element with respect to the People of God: as the Decree [Ad gentes](#) notes, "the Apostles were the first budding-forth of the New Israel, and at the same time the beginning of the sacred hierarchy" (no. 5), inasmuch as they were the community of those redeemed by Christ's Paschal Mystery, established as a means of salvation for the world.

To understand the Council's intention, it is advisable to read carefully the title of Chapter III of [Lumen gentium](#), which explains the fundamental structure of the Church, received from God the Father through the Son and brought to fulfilment by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Council Fathers did not want to present the institutional elements of the Church, as the noun "constitution" might imply if understood in the modern sense. The Document concentrates instead on the "ministerial or hierarchical priesthood", which differs "in essence and not only in degree" from the common priesthood of the faithful, recalling that the latter are "nonetheless interrelated: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ" ([LG](#), 10). The Council thus addresses the ministry conferred upon men endowed with *sacra potestas*, sacred power (cf. [LG](#), 18) for service in the Church: it focuses in particular on the episcopate ([LG](#), 18–27), then on the priesthood ([LG](#), 28) and the diaconate ([LG](#), 29) as degrees of the one sacrament of Holy Orders.

By the adjective "hierarchical", therefore, the Council intends to indicate the sacred origin of the apostolic ministry in the action of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as well as its internal relationships. The Bishops, first and foremost, and through them the priests and deacons, have received tasks (in Latin *munera*), which lead them to the service of "all those who belong to the People of God", so that, "working toward a common goal freely and in an orderly way, [they] may arrive at salvation" ([LG](#), 18).

[Lumen gentium](#) repeatedly and effectively recalls the collegial and communal nature of this apostolic mission, reaffirming that the "duty which the Lord committed to the shepherds of His people is a

true service, which in sacred literature is significantly called 'diakonia' or ministry" ([LG](#), 24). We can therefore understand why [Saint Paul VI](#) presented the hierarchy as a reality "born of the charity of Christ, to fulfil, spread and ensure the intact and fruitful transmission of the wealth of faith, examples, precepts and charisms bequeathed by Christ to His Church" (*Address*, 14 September 1964, in *Acta Synodalia* III/1, 147).

Dear sisters, dear brothers, let us pray to the Lord that He may send to His Church ministers who are ardent with evangelical charity, dedicated to the good of all the baptized, and courageous missionaries in every part of the world.

Special greetings

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those coming from England, Ireland, Tanzania, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. I greet in particular the students of the University of Dallas Rome Program. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to imitate Our Blessed Mother in her total "yes" to the Lord, and so open our hearts to his will for our lives. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our ongoing catechesis on the [Second Vatican Council](#), today we reflect on the teachings of the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen Gentium](#) concerning the hierarchical structure of the Church. In this regard, it is helpful to bear in mind that the Church is not something we invented, but is a divine institution established by Jesus himself. Christ appointed the apostles, placing Peter at their head, and sent them out to continue his salvific mission until his return in glory. To perpetuate this same mission, ministers were invested with sacred power to be the successors of the Apostles as Bishops, in whose ministry priests and deacons likewise participate through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sharing in the ministry of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, they are consecrated to serve the faithful, build up the Church and ensure the fruitful transmission of the faith. Let us therefore ask the Lord to continue to bless his Church with shepherds after his own heart.

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<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260325-udienza-generale.html>



The **HOLY SEE**

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

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