

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 Wed 9:00am - 1:00pm

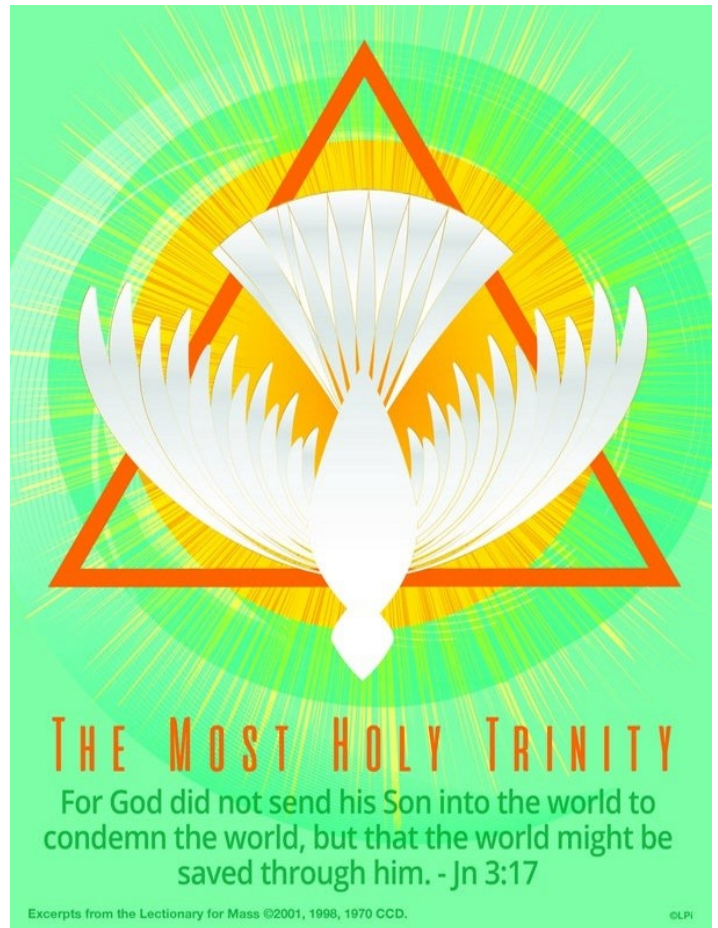
Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **May 31, 2026 | 31 de mayo de 2026**

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Reading I - Exodus 34, 4-6, 8-9 | Psalm - Daniel 3, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 | Reading II - 1 Corinthians 13, 11-13 | Gospel - John 3, 16-18
Reading I - Exodo 34, 4-6, 8-9 | Salmo - Daniel 3, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 | Segunda Lectura - 1 Corintios 13, 11-13 | Evangelio - Juan 3, 16-18

THE INEXPRESSIBLE MYSTERY

The God of the universe is mysterious. Science has not been able to solve the mystery of how the universe came into being or explain exactly what continues to give it creative energy and masterful design. No religion asserts that it has found words to name fully the ineffable mystery of God, for no matter what name we use, God always transcends our limited ability to understand. God is a mystery to be believed, not known. And yet, we Christians believe that our name for God best expresses that inexpressible mystery: God is the Most Holy Trinity of three persons united in a communion of love, pouring forth that creative, saving, sanctifying love into the world. Today's scriptures celebrate the mystery of the Trinity and give us clues for living that mystery in our lives. - Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Primera Lectura: Deuteronomio 8:2-3, 14-16

Psalm/Salmo: 147(147):12-13, 14-15, 19-20

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Segundo Lectura: 1 Corintios 10:16-17

Gospel/Evangelio: John (Juan) 3:16-18

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.

May 31, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Most Holy Trinity

Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 | 2 Cor 13:11-13 | Jn 3:16-18

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

In today's first reading, we hear how Moses, obedient to God's command, ascends Mount Sinai early in the morning. Up at the summit, the Lord appears to Moses in a cloud and shares his name with Moses: "LORD" (in Hebrew, the tetragrammaton, the unspeakably holy divine name). But God doesn't only reveal the name that Moses should call him by; he also reveals what kind of God he is: "The Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Moses bows down in worship and entreats the Lord to "receive us as your own." Today's Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity reminds us that we have a God who wants us to not only know his name, but to know his inner self. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are - indeed - the God who is rich in mercy. And anyone who believes in this God will not perish but will have eternal life. May we bow our hearts in worship of the Lord this day, grateful for the gift we have of belonging to the people he calls his own.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our second reading contains a detail that might come as a surprise to our 21st-century ears: "Greet one another with a holy kiss." This gesture in the New Testament era was an outward sign of the communion and love that existed in the early Church - a communion that we're also called to today. The communion that exists in the Church is meant to point the world back to its source: God himself. Part of the witness we're called to offer the world as Christian believers is the love we share among one another. The Church is to be a sacrament or "sign and instrument ... of ... union with God" and unity with "the whole human race." (*Lumen Gentium* 1) The bonds of love that exist among Christians is about more than just having a tight-knit community; it's about showing the world that we're called to a loving relationship with God and with one another.

WITNESS

This week, consider how you can strengthen the bonds of friendship you have with your fellow Christians, so that united together in love and peace, you can bear witness to the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Consider participating in a fellowship (social) event being put on by your parish or invite someone you see regularly at Church out for coffee or brunch after Mass.



By Max Füst - Dorotheum, Public Domain

Life of Stewardship

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity - the central mystery of our faith.

Though the Trinity is a profound mystery, it also reveals something very practical for us as Christian stewards. The Trinity is a communion of Persons who give themselves completely to one another. This self-giving love is at the heart of the stewardship way of life.

In our Gospel, we hear, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." God gives Himself to us out of love. We are called to respond in the same way - by giving ourselves back to Him and to others.

The more we give of ourselves in love, the more we experience "the grace of the Lord, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" within us.

This Triune God invites us into a deeper relationship with Him - one that grows as we live a life of gratitude and self-gift through the stewardship way of life.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Parish News

ASAP (Assistance and Support After Pregnancy)

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing Baby Bottles after our weekend Masses for their annual ASAP fundraiser. All monies collected will go to support mothers & children in need through Family Support Services Hawaii. Please assist by putting your daily change in the bottle. We will collect the bottles on Fathers Day, June 21st. If you prefer, **please make checks out to St. Michael's Church and note for ASAP.**

Children's Rosary

Join us at the grotto **after the 9am Mass on Sunday, May 31st** as our children lead one decade of the Rosary in prayerful devotion.

Immigration Ministry Seminar

Come to our Immigration Ministry Seminar on **Sunday, May 31st at 1:00pm** in the Grace Parish Center! Attorney Evita will discuss federal immigration laws in an informational one-hour seminar.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join our ministry on **Sunday, June 7 at 2:45 pm at St. Michael's** to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet along with a reading from the Diary of Saint Faustina: Divine Mercy in My Soul. We will also pray the Consecration Prayer to God Our Father. Contact **Romana** through the office for more info.

Welcome to the Newly Baptized!

Please welcome the newest members to our Parish Community:

Eden Yahir Santiago Martinez baptized 5/3

Amy Sofia Mendez Sanchez baptized 5/17

Maria Guadalupe Villicaña Vidales baptized 5/23

Freya Ahsoka Hilario baptized 5/24

Regina Garza Adame & Emmanuel Garza Magana baptized 5/31

Let us keep these children and their families in our prayers as they begin their life in Christ.

St. Michael Statue Brick Garden

As we await the arrival of our **Phase 2 bricks**, we want to let everyone know that we are now opening **the final phase** of our St. Michael Statue Brick Garden.

If you've been thinking about placing a brick, **this is the last opportunity** to be part of this beautiful project. Information and order forms are available after Mass at the **coffee station**, at the **kiosk**, or from the **Parish Office** during the week. We offer **three brick sizes**, each with your choice of engraving.

Let your legacy become part of our parish grounds as we complete this final phase. Together, let's build something beautiful for generations to come.

Neo Catechumenal Way Catechesis (Mon, Wed, Fri)

An Announcement of Joy! There is no doubt that in the Church we have all the right words and actions to accompany our beautiful liturgical celebrations, but there is a danger that for many, they remain just words, and celebrations lacking any experience of joy while passively watching others act, speak or sing. The previous catecheses have laid the groundwork for a beautiful celebration of conversion where the Good Shepherd comes searching for the lost sheep. Now we can truly cry out "O Lord, how wonderful is the mercy of your grace! How boundless the tenderness of your love! To ransom a slave, you sacrificed your Son." You are invited to our Catechesis Series every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until June 10. We meet at 6pm in the Grace Parish Center. All are welcome!

Hawaii Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

The **Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal** invites you to share your blessings and strengthen the ministries that nurture faith and serve those in need throughout our state. Your support of the CMAA is more than a donation - it is an act of hope, compassion and faith in action. With your generosity, we can *Share God's Gifts* and bring His love to those who need it most. Please consider making your gift online using the QR code or use the envelopes provided in the kiosks. Thank you for your faith, your support, and for making a difference in the life and mission of our Catholic Church.



Young Adults Ministry

Our Young Adults Ministry will be taking a break during June and July. We'll resume our regular gatherings on starting on August 6. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer break.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Our Charismatic Prayer Group will be taking their summer break until September 8. If anyone would like the Charismatic Prayer Group to pray for any prayers or join our zoom meetings, the Charismatic prayer group will still meet remotely every Saturday at 10am. You may join with this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87394089816?pwd=XzNahvyboT5T3yTiYIMtrZB7gFBscb.1>.

Akamai Aging - A Free Speaker Series on Zoom

Come and listen to a variety of speakers to learn helpful strategies and resources to support healthy aging in your own home. We are blessed with the opportunity to join in on this series via zoom in the Grace Parish Center.

Stewardship of Treasure

May 18th - 24th, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 3,735.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 9,474.94
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 4,762.19

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 OF MAY 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.

- *Q and A with a Financial Advisor - June 5: 11- 12Noon*
- *Sleep and Mental Health - June 19: 10:30 -11:30am*
- *Meaning and Purpose as We Age - July 17: 10:30 -11:30am*
- *Palliative Care and Hospice - July 24:10 -11am*
- *When You Can't Go It Alone - July 31:11 - 12Noon*

Faith Formation

Kids' Bulletin

For families with children, please take a copy of the "Kids' Bulletin" home with you. The Kids' Bulletin is a great resource for kids who would like to have some fun while learning about the readings from the Sunday Mass each week. Bulletins are available in English and Spanish and can also be found online at www.thekidsbulletin.com.

Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

I was 16 years old on a youth group retreat in the mountains. One night, I opened my heart to the message being proclaimed: that God so loved the world that He sent His Son for us. Later, I lay under the pine trees and looked up at the countless stars. They seemed different. No longer cold, distant balls of chemical reactions, they appeared as an expression of God's love, as if He were giving those stars directly to me. The truth of God sending His Son changed how I saw the whole universe.

That is what today's Gospel reveals: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." (John 3:16) The universe is not just a whirl of impersonal forces or empty space. At its heart is a gift: the Father eternally giving the Son, not to condemn, but to bring life.

This is not abstract doctrine but deeply personal. God gives His Son for you and me. Each human life is precious enough to be caught up in that eternal gift.

It is in the Mass where we encounter this most directly,⁴

In the Word proclaimed, in the assembly gathered, in the priest, and above all in the Eucharist, the Father once again gives His Son. What looks like bread and wine is the drama of the Trinity, laboring to love us here and now.

The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve but the blazing Truth at the center of everything: the Father gives the Son for you and me. Lord, help us to see this more clearly.

- Father John Muir, ©LPI

Treasures From Our Tradition

It is often heard that today's observance is an "idea feast," and that it is somewhat difficult to grasp its meaning. Other great solemnities, such as Christmas and Easter, have an easily grasped core. Yet, even though the Trinity is at the heart of our faith, firmly declared in the Creed since the Council of Nicea in 325, we are used to having people shrug and say, "Well, it's a mystery."

Perhaps it is more helpful to think of this as a "relationship feast," since it unveils our deepest identity. Dorothy Day was a great social reformer, pacifist, and ardent lover of the Trinity. When people told her that she would certainly be canonized one day (the process is indeed underway), she protested dismissively by remarking that people were raising a fuss just because she was not afraid to talk about God. She loved the Trinity, and treasured the traditional icon for the feast, also known as "The Hospitality of Abraham," depicting the three angelic beings seated at a table tilted toward the viewer and laden with bread and wine. For her, the Trinity revealed the heart of the Catholic life, three C's if you will: community, communication, and communion. That was not an "idea" for her, but what it means to be created in the image of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Everyday Stewardship-Uncovering the Layers

After years working for the Church, I can honestly say that even though I feel closer to God, I still cannot fully grasp all that is God. The complexity of God has been the source of many volumes by many writers and theologians. The crazy reality of growing in a relationship with God is that the more you get to know God, the more complex God becomes.

But I think that is true of human relationships as well. I feel like I can really peg a person one way or another after only meeting him or her a few times, but my wife and children continue to perplex me. Getting to know someone means you begin to uncover the layers of personality, feeling, and emotion that make up each human being. For those who see God as only a force or a light, God is simply defined. But for those who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, the God we find in relationship has many layers as well.

But that which we do know for certain about God comes to us primarily from the person of Jesus. He called us to a way of life by not only teaching us about how to live, but by showing us the example of his life. Our God is defined by generosity, sacrifice, compassion, and,

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
(meetings resume on Tuesday, 9/8)

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
(1st & 3rd Thursday-meetings resume on 8/6)

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.
Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email
baptism.stmichaalkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

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

of course, love. The more we incorporate these characteristics into our own life, the more we bear witness to the true nature of God. Then others can see a God that is a little less complex because they understand him through you and me. Our life will speak more than all the volumes written by all the theologians. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments- The Gift of Not Understanding

I once listened to Bishop Daniel Flores - a renowned scholar and prelate - give a 70-minute talk on the Trinitarian nature of God. In those 70 minutes, Bishop Flores said a lot of eloquent things. But what that really landed with me was not any group of words, but a single gesture.

Defining hypostasis, the term we use for the "the reciprocal dynamic relations that constitute distinct identities within the Godhead" (yes, I am using his words because I could never, in a million years, trust my own) Bishop Flores said "the Father and the Son are true God, but the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father. How not? Different hypostasis."

And here his eyes grew wide; he turned his head and opened his hands, drawing back as if from a spooked horse. The implication was clear: Any further than this, I dare not go. I've never felt so seen.

Sometimes, I make the mistake of thinking that I am unique in my inability to understand the great mysteries. Sometimes, I despair that I am not a "better Catholic" - one who will rush headfirst into the crosshairs of a hard question, confident in the words that come immediately to my lips.

But when I saw Bishop Flores flinch at the thought of defining how, exactly, the Son is not the Father, and vice versa, I remembered that only fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

This Sunday, friends, take heart: our failure to understand is not a poverty. It is a gift. It propels us constantly back to the wellspring of our glorious Faith - to Scripture, to Tradition, to the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit which sustains each and every one of us who dare to believe.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPI

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Salvation is a gift God dearly wishes us to accept. It is not a yardstick against which He measures our worth. He has made it so simple. So, will we accept? - ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

- 4pm - Alejandro "Peter" Ganir, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MAY 31ST

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

- 7am - Zachary Kanuha, 1st Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Tony Pasco, Birthday Blessings
- 4pm - Joe Reynolds, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, JUNE 1ST

- 7am - Fanny Gouveia, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Leah Gomes, Peace & God's Grace

TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND

- 7am - Danny J. Minan, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - John Patrick Moses, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH

- 7am - Birthday Blessings for Hialoa Morimoto, and In memory of Ronald Branco & Kaohu Morimoto, May they Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Felix Herrera, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH

- 7am - Francisco Urgino, deceased, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Trinh Bui, Birthday Blessings

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

- 7am - Chad Serion, 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.



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



Mahalo for your support!

God Is For Everyone

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9 • Renewal of the tablets
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 • Farewell
- ▶ John 3:16-18 • Belief in the Son sent by the Father

On this feast of the Most Holy Trinity, otherwise known as Trinity Sunday, each reading points to different aspects of God's identity. The first reading recounts the glimpse of the creator God whom Moses encountered on Mount Sinai: a "merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Paul's Letter to the Corinthians reminds us of the gifts that each person of the Trinity has to offer us: "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit." In the Gospel reading, John tells us of a God who loves us so much that he allowed his Son to leave his side and come into our world to experience human life.

The Gospel passage begins with the famous verse referenced on placards in the crowds at popular sporting events: John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Martin Luther, the force behind the Protestant Reformation, called this verse "the Gospel in miniature."



Note that John's view of God's love and desire for salvation extends to the entire world. God so loved *all of humanity* that he sent his only Son, *not* "God so loved the Jews," or the "early Jewish-Christians," or the "Christians" who came after the Resurrection. This was

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Sheepish Question:
What can I do each day to embrace God's love and understand salvation in Jesus?

a new way of thinking for many believers in Jesus' time who were locked into a mindset of an "in group" and an "out group." Even today, many religious traditions can be very exclusive. If you are in the "out group" there isn't much chance of working your way into the "in group" except through exacting work.

This passage suggests differently. God wants all people to be saved, and God will welcome all who live in the light (as John goes on to explain a few verses later). God didn't send Jesus to condemn anyone, but some people choose against Jesus and God, thereby "condemning" themselves. God doesn't act as a judge; individuals choose for themselves to accept or reject God.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What does verse 3:16 mean to you: "For God so loved the world...?"
- 2 Which way of thinking do you tend to lean toward—believing that God is our judge or that we choose our own eternal destiny by how we choose to live our lives? Please explain.

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Catechesis. The Documents of the Vatican Council II.

III. Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

2. *The reform of the liturgy: tradition and development.*



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In the Encyclical [Mediator Dei](#), the [Venerable Pius XII](#) writes that “the Church is without question a living organism, and as an organism, in respect of the sacred liturgy also, she grows, matures, develops, adapts and accommodates herself to temporal needs and circumstances, provided only that the integrity of her doctrine be safeguarded” ([no. 59](#)).

In full accordance with this principle, the [Second Vatican Council](#), in the Introduction to the Constitution [Sacrosanctum Concilium](#) ([SC](#)), recognizes “particularly cogent reasons for undertaking the reform and promotion of the liturgy” ([no. 1](#)). The Council assembly was gathered, in fact, with the desire to “impart an ever increasing vigour to the Christian life of the faithful; to adapt more suitably to the needs of our own times those institutions which are subject to change; to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ; to strengthen whatever can help to call the whole of mankind into the household of the Church” ([ibid.](#)).

At that moment in history, there was a strong sense of the need for a renewal of the ritual forms through which, for centuries, the Church had glorified God and sanctified the Christian people. Thanks to the Liturgical Movement, the conviction had matured—later expressed by [Saint John Paul II](#)—that “a very close and organic bond exists between the renewal of the liturgy and the renewal of the whole life of the Church. The Church not only acts but also expresses herself in the liturgy, lives by the liturgy and draws from the liturgy the strength for her life” (Letter [Dominicae Cenae](#), 13).

To encourage the access of the faithful to the richness of the gifts of grace dispensed by the sacred liturgy, the Constitution [Sacrosanctum Concilium](#) thus indicates, with a very effective phrase, the direction to take: “That sound tradition may be retained, and yet the way remain open to legitimate progress” ([SC](#), 23).

[Pope Benedict XVI](#) grasped in this declaration of intent the “reform programme” of the Council Fathers, “a balance between the great liturgical tradition of the past and that of the future”, noting that “tradition and progress are often clumsily opposed”, whereas “actually, the two concepts merge: tradition is a living reality, which therefore includes in itself the principle of development, of progress. It is as if to say that the river of tradition also carries its source in itself and flows towards the outlet” ([Address to participants in the Congress promoted by the Pontifical Athenaeum of Saint Anselm on the 50th anniversary of foundation](#), 6 May 2011).

[The Council](#) affirms the legitimacy of this progress, rooted in authentic Tradition, distinguishing within the liturgy “immutable elements, divinely instituted” from “elements subject to change [which] not only may but ought to be changed with the passage of time if they have suffered from the intrusion of anything out of harmony with the inner nature of the liturgy or have become unsuited to it” ([SC](#), 21). Changes of this type have taken place constantly over the centuries in order to enable the faithful to participate fruitfully, through ritual actions, in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, the foundation of the Christian faith. The Church’s worship has thus been “embodied” in the cultural forms of each age and has been able to influence them and even transform them. The liturgy has thus been, for centuries, a driving force for evangelization. Today, this energy must be renewed in continuity with the authentic and living Catholic tradition, that is, in accordance with a dynamic aimed at introducing believers to the fullness of the truth.

It is therefore understandable why the Council Fathers recommended that the revision of the rites, when “the good of the Church genuinely and certainly requires them”, must be carried out taking care

that “any new forms adopted should in some way grow organically from forms already existing” ([SC](#), 23). For the good of the entire Church, every reform must always be preceded by careful “theological, historical and pastoral” investigation (*ibid.*). The Council Magisterium, in this way, thus calls for the avoidance of confusion amongst the faithful, discouraging anyone from adding, removing or altering anything in liturgical matters on their own initiative (cf. [SC](#), 22). The progress evoked in the [Conciliar Constitution](#) in no way compromises ecclesial communion: rather, it seeks to confirm and foster it.

I therefore urge all those called to prepare the celebration of the divine mysteries, in particular priests who exercise the ministry of liturgical presidency, to always uphold that respect for the texts and regulations of the liturgy which springs from an inner attitude of openness and trust in God, manifesting humility before His greatness and sincere fidelity to ecclesial communion.

Appeal:

I am following with concern the war in Ukraine, which has intensified significantly in recent days. I wish to express my solidarity with all those suffering as a result of the recent attacks, which have also targeted civilians.

War does not solve problems; it exacerbates them. It does not build security; it multiplies suffering and hatred. Where missiles and drones fall, hopes are crushed, homes and places of worship are destroyed, and innocent lives are cut short.

I entrust all peoples stricken by war to the protection of the Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace.

Special greetings:

I greet the English speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, in particular the groups from England, Ireland, Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Canada and the United States of America. May the peace of God guard your minds and your hearts that you may know the love of Jesus Christ and joyfully share it with others. God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in today’s reflection on [Sacrosanctum Concilium](#), we consider the liturgy through the lens of tradition and of development. [Pope Pius XII](#) called the Church a “living organism” which needs to grow, mature and adapt to circumstances. Indeed, desiring that Christian life should thrive and grow, the [Second Vatican Council](#) recognized that it was time to adjust some adaptable elements in the liturgy for the health and vitality of the Church, to fortify and rejuvenate Christians, and to foster unity and evangelize men and women. [The Council](#) affirmed that legitimate progress in the liturgy must also preserve sound tradition, and that certain elements of the liturgy can not change because they are divinely instituted. In a particular way, I encourage everyone to respect the texts and norms of the liturgy with openness, humility, trust in God’s greatness and with sincere fidelity to ecclesial communion.

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<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260527-udienza-generale.html>



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