

the parish news



EDITOR'S
CHOICE

1 HAWAII

Sacred Heart Parish

COVID-19 is certainly turning the world into a frenzy. Our lives were normal one day and overnight our world went into lockdown, stay home, especially if you are a kupuna. **Churches shut down, no attending Mass.** We amateurs attempted livestreaming. In spite of imperfections, people watched, people prayed. Then at the end of May we got the all clear to gather with social distancing, wearing masks, sanitizing. Thank God for St. Damien Hall. Put out the call — need help to clean and prep for Mass. Awesome turnout; blown away. Much aloha and thank you to **all the volunteers** who came to help on such short notice. After five weeks, clean church to return to church. That was another challenge. But we conquered. With all safety protocols in place, we are now back in church over a month now. All food pantries were deemed essential as many lost their jobs and must not go hungry. Kupuna told to stay home again. But that was impossible as they run the **food pantry**. We were told to get younger volunteers which we did, working alongside our kupuna. Our numbers went from over 200 needing help in a normal month to about 700 since the pandemic. And numbers have remained over 600 since April. Thank goodness for the many, many, many generous monetary donors. None of this would be possible if not for the **awesome volunteers**. This picture was taken on a day we distributed food bags. A quick get together for the photo. May we continue to be able to feed the hungry through this pandemic and as long as there is need for food. Pictured are **Andrew Stevens, Robert Glory Sr., Trevor Figueroa, Fred Figueroa, Lee Rivera, (kneeling) Dione Fernandez, Leslie Rivera, Steve Rothsein, Jim and Loretta Wickenden, Merlita Evanoff, Margaret Coultie, Leslie Nugent, Lorraine Clouty, Tracie Figueroa, Jean Demerger-Breese, Liz Bautista, Jenn Keawe and Father Eli.** Missing are **Linda Alejandro, Lehua Kim and George Rivera.** (Reported by Lee Rivera)

2 KAHUKU

St. Roch Parish

There have been so many changes here as I am sure it is at all parishes. We created a **COVID-19 task force**, assigned special ushers, physically distanced our seats, limited our capacity, provided seat coverings and hand sanitizer and required masks to be able to reopen our church several weeks ago. Prior, we were livestreaming since March and if you can't attend Mass now we are livestreaming our 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday and also livestreaming **Rosary and Adoration.** Our pastor, **Father Jun Postrano**, was transferred in the middle of this pandemic after helping us put a plan in place to keep everyone safe by follow-



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ing all the guidelines and regulations. He is now at **St. Mary's** in Hana, Maui. We had a surprise drive-by send-off at **St. Joachim Mission** as he headed to the airport. We welcomed our new priest **Father Sebastian Soosai** on July 1. He is working hard to continue with the stay safe plan. We pray this virus will soon be a thing of the past. We pray for all the families that have lost loved ones and all those that are ill. (Reported by Sharin Au)

3 EWA

Immaculate Conception Parish

"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15-16) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic happening around the world, including here in Hawaii, the **Knights of Columbus, Council 6734** have been assisting our parish **food pantry ministry** with the distribution of food to the needy. Since COVID-19 began, the number of families we assist every month has grown from 16 to about 80. We are now packaging an average of 300 bags. Many thanks to **Dami Espiritu, all our Volunteers, including the Knights**, who tirelessly help by

giving their stewardship of time and talent. The food pantry is now open 4:30-6:30 p.m. every first and third Friday of the month. Let us all continue to feed our fellow brothers and sisters! (Reported by Normand HJ Robert)

PAHOA

Sacred Heart Parish

A member of the **parish youth group, Sebastian Talbit**, completed his **Eagle Scout Project** by repainting the parking stall lines, parking bumpers and the handicapped stalls in the church parking lot. ... The **parish finance council** started a fundraiser by having parishioners make face masks and selling them at each of the Masses. Thanks to members, especially **Big Mike**, for getting the project rolling. ... The **parish food bank** is distributing **fresh veggies** to those in need each Friday morning. Help is being received from **Island Wide Food Bank.** (Reported by Richard Robbins)

4 HAIKU

St. Rita Parish

Ten weeks of church closures was a long time! We are grateful for the **online Masses** offered by the **bishop**

and island parishes, and still are for those who are at home. On May 30 the churches were allowed to reopen with guidelines of the CDC and the Diocese of Honolulu. It was a lot of work and preparation, but our church was ready to reopen for Masses. Wearing masks, social distancing signs and a hand sanitizer stand welcomed parishioners back to church. It was obviously the new norm and parishioners were glad to return to Mass. Pictured are parishioners waiting reverently in the pews to receive holy Communion from our pastor **Father Chacko Muthoottil.** (Reported by Esther Yap)

5 KEKAHA

St. Theresa Parish,

Our parish was blessed to have **eight candidates** receive the sacraments of **Confirmation and first holy Communion** on July 20 at our parish. **La Salette Father Edwin D. Conselva** presided in place of **Bishop Larry Silva** in administering the sacraments. The students participated in the readings and general intercessions and were most respectful and pious throughout the Mass. Our church was filled to capacity while maintaining the six-foot social distancing rule with

many family members and friends witnessing the commitment of these students to being disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank their many teachers that guided them along their two-year journey to this important day in their lives! Special mahalo to **Father Edwin, Charlene Lazaro** and religious education coordinator **Mary Ann McMillen.** (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte; photo by Charlene Lazaro)

6 LAHAINA

Maria Lanakila Parish

Parish life at Maria Lanakila and **Sacred Hearts Mission, Lahaina**, has been less than normal these past few months as you all know and experience yourselves. Due to the pandemic, we weren't able to have a huge send-off for our outgoing parish priest of 10 years, eight years as pastor, two years as associate. But that did not stop the **parish staff** from allowing parishioners to show their appreciation to **Missionaries of Faith Father Joseph Pathiyil.** After endless hours of planning, we had a **Drive Bye Parade** on June 26 with an additional twist of also welcoming our in-coming pastor, **Missionaries of Faith Father Kuriakose Nadooparambil** (who was Father Joseph's first associate pastor in 2010). Since Father Joseph's departure, **Missionaries of Faith Father Robert Ni Ni** joined our parish from Wisconsin as our associate pastor. Father Robert missed Father Kuriakose's installation Mass with our **Bishop Larry Silva** due to being in quarantine. COVID-19 has changed life as we know it, yet God remains with us. We are truly blessed in Lahaina. Pictured is our outgoing pastor on left, Father Joseph, with in-coming pastor, Father Kuriakose during the Drive Bye Parade. (Reported by Mary Rosenthal)

KAILUA

St. John Vianney Parish

Thankful we can attend Sunday Mass in person or chose to watch it on YouTube, we celebrated our parish's **58th anniversary** with a novena to our patron **St. John Vianney.** Our parish has continued its **series on Apologetics**, how to best defend and explain our Catholic faith and beliefs. For September our focus will be on **Confirmation**, a sacrament instituted by Christ and administered by the laying on of hands, anointing with chrism, and prayer. It is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong as one renews the promises made by their parents and godparents. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that is received at Confirmation are **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude (courage), knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.** These gifts give us strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ. (Reported by Earl Walker)