

# the parish news

**1 KAHULUI**

**Christ the King Parish**

On Sept. 11, an **eight-candle lighting ceremony** followed by a **Memorial Mass** honored all whose lives were lost that day 20 years ago. Special guest **Kumu Uluwehi Guerrero** opened the ceremony with an oli in tribute to those who died and those who were left suffering from their loss. Representing our pilots was retired Hawaiian Airlines pilot **Joe Gage**; representing the police, Maui Police Department, retired lieutenant **Greg Peros**; representing Maui County Fire Department from the Kihei unit **Captain Scott Martin**; representing the flight crew and passengers, Alaskan Airline crew member **Joselyn Kahanakula**; representing the Army National Guard, **Sergeant Ralph Algenn Magud-dayao**; representing the emergency medical service, Maui EMS team manager **Kurt Morimoto** and operations manager **Anna Arcias**; representing the nurses, retired registered nurse and instructor at the CNA Institute, **Lucy Porte**; and representing Maui County Sheriff Department, **Jeff Grimes**. During the ceremony, we paused for 15 seconds of silence after each representative in memory of the lost and injured. A big mahalo to all for making this celebration a memorable one! (Reported by Mildred S. Chargualaf; photo by Caroline Sadiri)



**2 EWA BEACH**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

As did other parishes across the nation, our parish celebrated **Catechetical Sunday** on Sept. 19 by commissioning catechists and catechist assistants at four weekend Masses. Pictured is the group commissioned at the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass. From left, catechist assistants **Tanner and Aiden Gouveia**, primary catechists **Joe Rayray, Priscila Rayray, Eleanor Ragojo, Consuelo Gouveia, Kariann Camacho and Joyce Ablog**. In his homilies, **Deacon Eric Kim** highlighted the vocation of catechist calling it very challenging because catechists teach values and lifestyles that are in contrast with the secular culture. He added that catechists prepare people to live lives parallel to the Gospel and to know who God is. He said catechists fight an uphill battle, but their noble effort on that hill leads to heaven. He

compared Jesus' formation of a small group of men to families at home, a small group of people, where formation and catechesis should begin. He stressed that parents are the first catechists and households are the foundation and center of Christian formation. Completing the roster of catechists are **Stephanie Belaski, Aurora Agcaoili, Terra Harding, Wayne Campos, Aileen Leonardo-Pila, Maridena Salayon-Richison, Kariann Camacho, Precy Cuizon, Susan Marbella, Donna Alvaro, Eleanor Ragojo, Remi Cabreara, Lyn Salis, Josey Choe, Connie Dichner and Mela Kim**. The other catechist assistants are **Carol Barredo, Emily**

**Wolleat-Leonardo, Joshua Wolleat-Leonardo, Dannika Pila, Noah Pila, Megan Camacho and Kealii Harding**. Worth mentioning is the presence of families serving in our religious education department: husband and wife **Joe and Priscila Rayray**, mother and daughter **Aurora Agcaoili and Joyce Ablog**, mother and sons **Consuelo Gouveia and Tanner and Aiden Gouveia**, mother and son **Terra Harding and Kealii Harding**, siblings **Kariann and Megan Camacho**, siblings **Stephanie Belaski and Mela Kim**, and the family of **Aileen Leonardo-Pila** with children **Emily, Joshua, Dannika and Noah**. (Reported by Julia Torres)

**3 KEKAHA**

**St. Theresa Parish**

Our parish celebrated the **175th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette** with a novena and rosary Sept. 10 to Sept. 18. On Sept. 19, the actual feast day of Our Lady of La Salette, we had a special floral procession following Holy Communion at our 8:30 a.m. Mass while the choir sang the beautiful hymn, "O, Mary, Queen of La Salette." To close out this special celebration, **Father Edwin D. Conselva** performed a special hula after Mass in honor of Mother Mary that was enjoyed by all in attendance! We are so thankful for

our Blessed Mother and her apparition at La Salette, France, and thank her for sending us the La Salette missionaries who have blessed our parish for over 30 years! Pictured is Father Edwin dancing to "O, Mary, Queen of La Salette." (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte)

**4 KAHUKU**

**St. Roch Parish**

Our classrooms are being cleaned and prepared for our **new religious education year**. Lights are being fixed and air conditioner units are being installed. On Sept. 19 the religious education teachers were commissioned by **Father Sebastian Soosai** at the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Following the Mass, the teachers met with the parents and snacks were served. Classes will begin on Sept. 26. ... We continue to beautify and **enjoy our grotto**. We set up a shade tent in the back, where we are growing plants and flowers to be used inside our church. Several parishioners have volunteered to care for the grotto by watering it daily. Everyone is invited to pray, meditate and relax at our grotto. Chairs are available. ... We have installed solar lighting on 12-foot poles throughout our church property. It was quite dark prior to the installation. The new lighting makes it very inviting to come into our churchyard and visit our grotto in the evening. ... In remembrance of **All Souls Day**, we are updating the church book of all our deceased parishioners so we can honor them with Mass intentions and prayers. A form needs to be completed and returned to the church office. ... On Sept. 18 our parishioners delivered a **delicious hot meal** to many **homebound seniors**. We were joined by the **Mormon Church** from Laie who prepared the meals. It was a successful joint effort which we plan to continue once a month. Thank you to all that participated. ... On the morning of Sept. 18, we had **convaledication of marriage Mass** celebrated by Father Sebastian for a young military couple at **St. Joachim Church in Punaluu**. The **Taira family** provided the music. It was a beautiful ceremony at our mission church. We hope to have more weddings at this beautiful location on the beach. ... After an 18-month break, **yoga classes** have started up again every Tuesday at 6 p.m. If more than 10 attend, we exercise in our churchyard. ... We are looking forward to **Thanksgiving**,

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which is just around the corner. We hope to plan a **take-out dinner** for homebound parishioners or any parishioner needing a hot meal. ... We need volunteers to join the bereavement ministries **After Care Program**. Volunteers will be visiting parishioners who are grieving, offering to fix a meal, lending a listening ear and an open heart and just being available to support them during their difficult times. We will also have a **support group meeting** once a month in the church hall. ... Father Sebastian meets regularly with the heads of our ministries, the **parish council** and **finance committee** to help our church continue to flourish. ... **Priesthood Sunday** is the day set aside to show appreciation for all priests. Thank you, Father, for guiding our parishioners. ... We continue to pray the COVID prayer for all those suffering from the virus, all those who have lost loved ones and all those who have passed. Stay safe. (Reported by Sharin Au)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE



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**5 KAPOLEI**

**St. Jude Parish**

The **St. Jude Knights of Columbus Council 12733**, on Sept. 11, after the 5 p.m. Mass, presented **Brayden Danielson** with a \$1,000 scholarship from the Knights' Billy E. Ingals scholarship program. Making the presentation were, pictured from left, **Ross Meyer**, community director **Roman-Michael Motas**, Brayden and grand knight **Lito Alvarez**. Brayden also won the Catholic essay contest. Following the scholarship presentation, Alvarez presented a \$500 check to **Keahi Teson** for the **St. Jude Food Pantry**. Earlier that day, the Knights' Hawaii State Council, led by family director **Josh Kapika** and the Knights at **St. Michael, Waiialua**, led us in a 9/11 prayer service. (Reported by Angelito Alvarez)

**6 MAKAWAO**

**St. Joseph Parish**

We are welcoming back parishioners at our parish. After a stewardship workshop with **Bishop Larry Silva** and **Msgr. Gary Secor**, the stewardship committee, led by **Arsie Anderson** and **Father Michael Tolentino**, held signs and distributed packs of cookies and religious cards at every Mass to thank parish families for braving this pandemic and staying safe and strong! Thank you and God bless our families! (Reported by Patrick Constantino; photo by Helen Souza)

**7 KAILUA**

**St. John Vianney Parish**

Our parish held its **Youth Ministry Fair** on the evening of Sept. 4 after our **youth-led Mass**. The event highlighted parish ministries in which children of all ages could serve. Fo-

cus primarily on the liturgy, they include **altar servers, music, lectors, hospitality and environment**. The event also highlighted our **religious education and youth ministry** programs. Although we see children as altar servers, there are many more opportunities in which they can — and are willing — to serve. Involving children in parish ministries recognizes their ability and heart to serve God and gives them the chance to do just that from an early age. For those unable to attend the fair, ministry leaders prepared videos for families looking to get involved in parish life. "Encouraging our children and youth to become active members in our parish ministries, we not only recognize their eagerness to serve but also their love for God and our church," said **Steffanie Beissel**, our director of religious education. "Involving the children encourages the entire family to be active in the parish. Child and youth involvement also means parent involvement as most of our children and youth rely on their parents to bring them to church," she said. (Reported by Earl Walker)

**8 HAWI**

**Sacred Heart Parish**

We have been blessed with the leadership of **Father Eli Escanilla** since August 2015. When I met Father for the first time, he asked me if I was Filipino and I said, "Yes, Father, but born and raised in Hawaii." I told him that on my bucket list was to go to the Philippines. His reply was, "We go," and I said, "Father?" Six months after his arrival, I was blessed to journey to the **Philippines for a pilgrimage**. ... Since becoming our parish administrator, through the help of generous donors, he has made **many improvements** to our parish. His first big improvement was a complete renovation of the rectory, while he lived in the small room next to the garage. The whole roof of St. Damien Hall was replaced and ceiling fans were added to the hall. The inside of Father C. Schmidt Hall had a complete makeover, the garage has been repaired where needed and painted. Currently, the inside and outside of our church is being repaired and painted. ... Every small parish needs ways to

raise money. He created a **fundraising committee** that runs quarterly fundraisers. He asked us to share our recyclables too. We average \$100 every month. ... He also shared the Philippine culture in ways our parish never experienced before. The biggest and most colorful tradition he encouraged was the **Santo Nino island-wide celebration** at our parish. Also, outdoor stations of the cross, outdoor rosaries and potlucks for every occasion. Recently **Bingo**, which is now on hold because of COVID. ... Father Eli has also created a **beautiful garden** growing vegetables to share with whoever needs or wants. We appreciate all that Father has done and continues to do for our parish. Salamat po Father Eli and God bless you with many more years of service. (Reported by Lee Rivera)

**9 WAHIAWA**

**Our Lady of Sorrows Parish**

Under the leadership of **James "Duke" Aiona Jr.**, our parish launched an interactive program called **TMIY (That Man Is You)**. This program is designed to transform

men, marriages and families into a fully alive vision of becoming a man after God's own heart. By addressing the pressures and temptations men face in modern culture, this program seeks to form men capable of transforming homes and in society. It fosters the traits needed for fulfilling leadership roles at home and society. The program started on Sept. 15 and continues every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Attendees discover the main obstacles to living as authentic men and how to overcome them. Another benefit is the wonderful renewal God offers men and their families through the church. ... Another important event here is the celebration of the **solemn feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows**. In compliance with COVID regulations, goody bags were distributed after each Mass. Grateful thanks to the **stewardship committee** and **pastoral council** under the leadership of **Keith and Iwalani Kaneshiro** who made it possible to have a simple and joyous celebration. Pictured are Duke Aiona and Max Velasco promoting the TMIY program with a banner. (Reported by Pacita Baron)

**10 PAHOA**

**Sacred Heart Parish**

The parishioners would like to express their gratitude to **Victor Bestamente** for his tireless sharing of his time and talent over the last **70 years**. Victor, 86 years of age, began taking care of the parish grounds under the leadership of **Father John McGinn** during the mid-1950s. He continues driving his used truck to the church ground carrying his personal equipment he uses to manure the parish grounds. His pride is exhibited in his work. The cemetery and church grounds shine as examples of his dedication. Victor is truly an example of a caring individual who inspires all of us at Pahoia Sacred Heart. (Reported by Richard J. Robbins)

**11 HAIKU**

**St. Rita Parish**

On **Catechetical Sunday**, Sept. 19, our pastor **Father Chacko Muthoottil** blessed our teachers for this religious education school year 2021-22: **Donna Hart, Rita Bauldry** and religious education director **Christine Matheis**. It has been a challenge to plan classes faced with the concerns of COVID-19. Classes will resume with provisions for splitting the group and using the church for additional space for classes. Pictured are the teachers and students with their rosaries. Students were taught the significance of the powerful prayer of the rosary. The class session ended with the introductory prayers and a decade of the rosary. (Reported by Esther Yap)

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