

# the parish news

## 1 MAKAWAO

### St. Joseph Parish

Father Michael Tolentino led our **Synod on Synodality** meeting on Jan. 29. Pope Francis has asked every diocese in the world to conduct its own consultation process between Oct. 17, 2021, and February on the "synodal nature of our church." The key question: "**How can I, as a member of St. Joseph Church, be more effective in proclaiming the living Jesus Christ to the world?**" The following Scripture passages were read to help the leaders of the different parish ministries. 1 Corinthians: 12:4-6, 12, reader **Nanette Salcedo**. John 6:48-51, reader **David Sereda**. Matthew 25:31-40, reader **John Gorman**. Reflections were given by Father Michael and **Deacon Pat** for leaders to reflect on the question. Then leaders were given time to reflect on the Scriptures to answer the key question. We had great responses from our leaders and will submit it to bishop together with other responses from our parishioners before the deadline. Our meeting was coordinated by **Arsie Anderson** and **Helen Souza**. (Reported by Deacon Pat Constantino; photo by Helen Souza)



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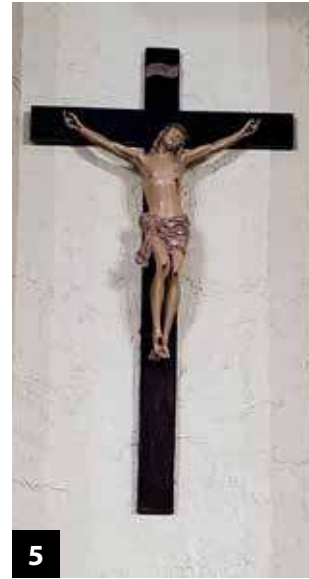


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EDITOR'S CHOICE



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## 2 EWA BEACH

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

The young adult community led by **Father Ed Barut, Deacon Eric Kim and seminarian Anthony Tran** at our parish gathered on Feb. 4-6, to attend the **SEEK 2022 Conference**. The theme of the conference was based on Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Young adults across the nation normally travel to the SEEK conference but because of the pandemic, the **FOCUS ministry** decided to hold their conference online for the second year. The pandemic has made it hard for young adults to gather but that did not stop our parish from gathering to listen, share and pray. Throughout the weekend the young adults participated in the keynotes, faith shared, and worshiped our Lord in adoration. It is with great joy that our young adult community continues to seek ways to set the world on fire. (Reported by Anthony Tran)



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from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This blessing is for everyone, both young and old alike. (Reported by Fran Kovaloff)

## 4 KAILUA

### St. John Vianney Parish

Our parish is proud that the deacon formation program of the Diocese of Honolulu recently invited **Donald Busekrus** to enter the aspirancy year of formation, a year of intense preparation and discernment of a diaconal vocation. Donald and his wife Alana are long-time parishioners, having raised their four daughters in our parish. ... Starting Feb. 5, our monthly **Anointing of the Sick** has been moved from the last Saturday of the month to the first Saturday. The sacrament will be given during the 8 a.m. Mass. ... Our monthly **Adoration** will continue to be held after that first Saturday of the month Mass. ... Our **parish faith formation committee** continues our **Year of the Holy Spirit** with monthly informative

flyers being distributed to parishioners. During January, the focus was on the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. For February, it will be on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of the Church. (Reported by Gary Wiseman)

## 5 KEKAHA

### St. Theresa Parish

Each day of this new year seems to be slipping away as quickly as the past years ... are we getting older? My, oh my! Yes! So, it's best that we take this upcoming **Lenten season** as another opportunity to grow ever closer to Jesus. We're all on that journey to eternity and what we do here on earth will either assure us of a place in Heaven, or not. We invite all of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ to come together on **Ash Wednesday, March 2**, as we celebrate the Eucharist with Mass at 6 p.m. at our parish church in Kekaha with the distribution of ashes, when we are once again reminded, "Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return," and, "Repent, and believe

in the Gospel!" Our parish will also have **Stations of the Cross** on the Fridays of Lent at 6 p.m. at St. Theresa Church. May God bless and guide us all on our Lenten journey and every day! (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte)

## 6 HAIKU

### St. Rita Parish

On Jan. 30, a beautiful Sunday morning, **Father Gary Colton** celebrated Mass here, where he was first assigned 40 years ago. It was a warm welcoming and lots of smiles coming from parishioners as Father arrived. Father Gary delivered a wonderful homily reflecting on the readings and the Gospel. Before Mass ended, a surprise announcement was made wishing Father Gary a **happy 80th birthday!** The parish sang "Happy Birthday" and a cake with candles was presented to him. It was indeed a delightful morning for Father and all in attendance! Pictured, from left, parishioners with Father Gary (all were there 40 years ago) **Agnes Groff, Esther Yap, Annette Scognamil-**

**lo, Diane Nifong and Donna Hart.** (Reported by Esther Yap)

## 7 KAHUKU

### St. Roch Parish

At a special meeting of our newly formed **Knights of Columbus** we were joined by guest advisor **Patrick Guzman**. Members were informed of the different positions available within the Knights of Columbus. Members nominated other members whom they thought would be good in those positions. The member could accept or decline. All the positions for officers and directors were filled. Thank you for accepting. The officers and directors will be commissioned during an upcoming Mass. Spouses of the members were invited. Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the spouses. On the second Sunday of each month our Knights will lead the rosary at our grotto at 6:30 p.m. All are welcomed to attend. ... We now have a **new parish council**, chosen by **Father Sebastian**, after recommendations made by members of the current parish council. We give our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing officers and members, for their years of service and devotion to their positions. We look forward to welcoming our new parish council members. They will also be commissioned during an upcoming Mass. ... We have introduced a new and very talented group for the parish **building committee**. They will be responsible for all building and preventative maintenance for our church buildings and grounds. We know they will do a great job. ... We have **eight couples** in our parish married over 50 years who will be honored as a group with gifts and a blessing during Mass, Saturday at St. Joachim and on Sunday at St. Roch. They are such wonderful examples to all newly married couples. Couples married less than 50 years will also receive a blessing afterward. ... On Feb. 26 our **religious education teachers and students** will have a **youth car wash** fundraiser in the church parking area, 8 a.m. to noon. Average sized car will cost \$5 to wash. Larger vehicles and trucks will be \$10. Please come by and have your car washed. ... The **Diocese of Honolulu Evangelization Task Force** continues to join us for praise and worship and a healing Mass the first Saturday of every month. It is such an uplifting evening. If you are ever in the area, you are welcome to attend. Service begins at 4:15 p.m. ... **Lenten season** is almost upon us. Individual families will lead the **Stations of the Cross** every Friday evening during Lent. ... At the end of March, we are planning a three-day retreat with **Father Herman Gomes** as our special speaker. The retreat will focus on the church's guidelines for the Lenten season and abstinence during this time. ... We continue to pray the COVID prayer. We pray for those who are suffering, those who have lost loved ones, and those who have passed due to the virus. (Reported by Sharin Au)