

the parish news

1 EWA BEACH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Laverne Suster, co-chair of our **Food Pantry Ministry**, released its report for the year 2024 as follows: The "Ask and You Shall Receive" table at our monthly distribution was established to provide non-food items such as clothing, baby equipment, supplies, diapers, cooking utensils, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, humidifiers, toys, hygiene supplies, etc. We received a grant for a new industrial refrigerator. OLPH passed the annual inspection by Hawaii Food Bank in September. Many volunteers aided in the turn-over to the new **Neighbor Connector Online System**, organizations that contributed food and goods from their own drives to OLPH Food Pantry, including **Kaimiloa Elementary School, Hawaii Technology Academy, Ewa Beach Little League, Ewa Beach Lions Club, James Campbell High School** and the **United States Marines**. On average, the parish Food Pantry serves over 600 people every month, about 360-plus households. The numbers are expanding. We have been distributing to more than 125 new households in the past two months. Our Food Pantry distributed well over 50 tons of food in 2024 from the Hawaii Food Bank. Donations from parishioners almost doubled the number. Surprisingly, the No. 1 non-food item requested has been diapers. Our monthly distribution is well supported by the **OLPH Knights of Columbus**, volunteers and parish staff. Posing with OLPH pastor, **Father Ed Barut**, (in white shirt) are some members of the ministry. (Reported by *Julia Torres*; photo by *Laverne Suster*)



EDITOR'S CHOICE

2 PAHOA

Sacred Heart Parish

Our parish **five-year plan** provides for quarterly hospitality events to build friendship among parishioners. This quarter the event was a **St. Valentine's Day** dinner dance in Avery Hall. Pictured here, four of the human pillars of parish stewardship took advantage of the photo booth at the event: back row, **Maila Naiga, Ilyn Narciso, Sharen Chaves**; front, **Donna Baquial**. These cherished women all participate in hospitality, prayer, formation and service ministries at Sacred Heart. (Reported by *Janan Malinowski*)



3 WAIMANALO

St. George Parish

Our parish's **Religious Education youth** attend **Eucharistic adoration** monthly. On the first Sunday of each month, preschoolers through high schoolers are given the opportunity to be in the real presence of Jesus. This means that the youth are learning and practicing a different form of prayer, building a personal relationship with Jesus through adoration, and seeing another way in which going to church is meaningful. The youth have been committed to monthly Eucharistic adoration for the last two years and will continue this effort to know and love Jesus more. (Reported by *Vicky DeSilva*)

Community Center with delicious dinner, entertainment and fun. Several of the original founders of the club were honored and recognized. Simultaneously, **Father Efen Tomas** with a group of Christ the King pilgrims celebrated the Sinulog in Cebu, Philippines, where it all originated more than 500 years ago when Christianity was introduced in the Philippines. ... Congratulations to **Father Anil Varghese, MS** (12 years) and **Deacon Ken Bissen** (18 years) on their anniversaries. Parishioners celebrated with a potluck and entertainment. ... Parishioners joined the 75 participants at the vicariate March for Life on Jan. 25. The march culminated at Christ the King Church with songs, speeches and refreshments. The marchers were delighted to be joined by **Msgr. Terry Watanabe** and **Father Anton Nyo** of Queen of the Angels Church, Kula. (Reported by *Lucy Peros*; photo by *Audie Pascual*)

4 KAHULUI

Christ the King Parish

From Jan. 10-19, we celebrated the **Sto. Nino (Child Jesus) novena** with Mass in readings and singing in the Visayan dialect. Each of the nine novena nights was followed by a potluck dinner. The **Sto. Nino Club of Maui** is marking its 63rd year. The club's president is **Theresa Milapira**. The culmination of the event was a Fiesta (Sinulog) Festival, which started with a procession to the church with participants carrying their own Sto. Nino images and placing them in front of the altar before the Mass. The celebration continued at the Wailuku

5 KAILUA

St. John Vianney Parish

Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, also called Shrove Tuesday, and is traditionally the last opportunity for merrymaking and indulgence in food and drink before the fasting of

Lent. On March 1 we will celebrate by transforming the parish hall into a street in the famous French Quarter of New Orleans with three sidewalk cafes. Revelers can watch the festivities from **Cafe Du Monde, Brennan's** or **Antoine's** restaurants. Each will have a stage where performers will entertain you. Genuine, delicious, mouth-watering, French-Louisiana food will be served at **Cafe Louisiane** and thirst-quenching drinks will be available at **Pat O'Brien's** pub. Activities for the young (and the young at heart) will include face painting, street dancing and live entertainment. The evening will culminate with the **Mardi Gras Parade of Celebrities**. Festive marchers will be cheered on as they snake their way throughout the hall to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In!" The parade ends underneath a gigantic balloon drop of hundreds of green, gold and purple balloons. (green for faith, gold for power and purple for justice). The band will continue playing for those who wish to dance in the street. As they say in the French Quarter "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" Let the good times roll! (Reported by *Earl Walker*)

6 HAIKU

St. Rita Parish

After the final blessing on Feb. 2, feast of the Presentation of the Lord, **Father Robert Ni Ni**, invited parishioners to come forward for the **St. Blaise blessing of the throat**. Pictured is **Mahealani** receiving the blessing, followed by **David Rickard** (dad), **Isabella** (sister), second row, **Julie**, and **Ali Bonilla**. The candles are crossed against the throat, and the following prayer said: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Afterward Father Robert departed for Keanae to celebrate Mass and bless the throats of parishioners of **St. Gabriel Mission**. (Reported by *Esther Yap*)

7 KAHUKU

St. Roch Parish

Parishioners participated in a novena and rosary Feb. 2-10 in honor of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. This event was coordinated by **Lydia Daquioag** our Divine Mercy head. On Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a

Mass was celebrated in the morning with a rosary and fellowship in the evening. Everyone, including our new pastor **Father Bong Diaz**, wore white and joined together for a picture at our grotto. (picture). At a Feb. 6 meeting, parish ministry heads introduced themselves to Father Bong. Each leader gave a brief description of their ministry. On Feb. 14, we had a fun-filled potluck **Valentine party** coordinated by **Allen and Edith Guzman** and assisted by **Gloria Garo**. We shared lots of laughs, games, and prizes. Alan and Edith gave a beautiful red rose and a box of Valentine candy to everyone who attended. **Francis and Lydia Daquioag** were chosen as our Valentine king and queen after winning one of the games. They were officially crowned by Father Bong. Lydia also won the best dressed award. Thank you, Edith and Alan, for planning this special event. ... On March 4, parishioners will bring their palms of last year to the church and they will be burned to prepare the ashes for **Ash Wednesday**. Our Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 9 a.m. on March 5. On March 29 we are planning an all-day Lenten prayer retreat on the beautiful grounds of **St. Joaquin Church** for **ministry leaders** and all the volunteers of our parish. Father Bong will speak on many topics including the power of prayer. Praying together will keep us grounded and put everything in perspective. Lunch will be included. The retreat will conclude with Mass at 5 p.m. ... We are planning an upcoming meeting with ministry leaders for altar servers, lectors, sacristans, extraordinary ministers, music and banners and anyone who will be involved in preparing and participating during the Lenten season, Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Our Lenten and Easter schedules will be discussed and confirmed. ... We would like to thank **Rodney Au** for giving his time to power wash the grotto and walkways and surrounding areas at St. Joaquin Church. Great job. We are looking for volunteers with spare time to help with anything needed in and around the church, from becoming ministry members, garden helpers, cleaners, or any general help. Submit your name to the parish secretary. During this season let us remember this thought by Catherine Doherty, "Lent is a time of going deeply into ourselves. What is it that stands between us and God, between our brothers and sisters, between us and life, the life of the Spirit. Let us tear it out without hesitation." (Reported by *Sharin Au*)

8 NUUANU

St. Stephen Parish

The 92nd anniversary celebration of our parish was held Dec. 1 with **Bishop Larry Silva** presiding. Nuuanu valley with its cool Pali trade winds and lush green mountains is home to St. Stephen Church. In early 1932, architect **Mr. Williams** was contracted to design and build a small concrete church named St. Stephen by Bishop Stephen Alencastre and blessed by the bishop on Nov. 6, 1932. St. Stephen was the church's first martyr and one of its first deacons. **Sacred Hearts Father Patrick Logan** was the first pastor. In November 1942, **Sacred Hearts Father Alphonsus Bouwmeister** was appointed pastor by **Bishop James Sweeney**. The first diocesan priest was **Father Joseph Turk**. Our present church was built in September 1968 and blessed by **Bishop John J. Scanlan**. Other diocesan pastors include **Msgr. Raymond Nishigaya, Msgr. Alan Nagai, Father Khanh Pham-Nguyen, Father Mario Raquepo** and our current pastor **Father Adondee Arellano**. The theme for this celebration was "A Taste of Saint Stephen's." Mass at 10 a.m. was followed by fellowship in the parish hall. Nine ethnic groups prepared five dishes at their tables. Everyone went table to table to taste

the food. Each ethnic group prepared a group talent like singing, dancing, and the dragon dance to add to the festivities. Big mahalo to **Arlette Aki** and **Patti Silva** and their committees for planning this celebration. (Reported by Ginny Jordan; photo by Nadine Cho)

9 MOUNTAIN VIEW St. Theresa Parish

On Feb. 2, at 7:30 a.m. at **Holy Rosary Church**, Keaau, Hawaii, our parish began the **Jubilee Year of Hope celebration**. Before the Mass, an introduction written by our pastor **Father Samuel Loterte** was read and reenacted by parishioners. Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word "yobel" which means goat horn. The Hebrews used the yobel to announce the beginning of the Jubilee Year to conduct spiritual reset as written in Leviticus 25:12, "For it is Jubilee, it shall be holy to you." The word hope in the Old Testament is "tikvah" which is translated as a rope or cord. It is a feeling of being connected to a good future. It also means patient waiting. In the New Testament, the word for hope is "elpis." It can be used to describe a confident expectation of the future. The symbol for Christian hope is the anchor. Our unwavering faith in Christ is an anchor that keeps a ship secure in stormy seas, representing stability and safety amid life's challenges. Two weeks prior to the event, catechists **Ceraida Amar**, **Leah Pitoy** and **Joyce Padamada** explained to the religious education students and other youths about the jubilee year. They learned that they too are pilgrims of hope and that the Jubilee is commemorated every 25 years. The children created Jubilee Year banners. The celebration began with the blessing of candles. A yobel announcing the opening of the celebration was played by **Tai Hess** using a euphonium instead of a goat horn. **Joel Foronda** and **Nathan Mattos** processed to the altar carrying a big cross attached to a rope (tikvah) followed by the religious education students wearing their ethnic costumes holding their banners and holding onto the rope. The anchor at the end of the rope was carried by **Leah Pitoy**. Other parishioners with costumes followed holding lighted candles in a newly carved bamboo



stalk holder made by **Danie Villena**. At the end of the procession, a banner carried by **Ronald Bento** and **Roland De Leon** folded like a Torah was opened revealing the pope's picture opening the Holy Door and showed to the congregation. The banner illustrated the parish activities of hospitality, prayer, formation and service. Before the presentation of gifts, the Blessed Mother was crowned by **Rose Sagucio** assisted by **Shari Anna Castasus 2023 Flores De Mayo Maria Elena** followed with a bouquet of roses offering by **Chanelle Cabaccang**, 2024 Maria

Elena along with the 2023 and 2024 Princesses **Aliyah Oshita**, **Zaydee Amar** and **Webrei Pamo**. **Pope Francis** said the **Blessed Virgin Mary** is a supreme witness to hope and that Mary's life shows that hope is a gift of grace. As pilgrims of hope, we journey with our Mother Mary. The Holy Rosary Church liturgy planning committee consisting of **Craig Carvalho**, music director, **Leah Pitoy** (prayer), **Yvonne Wong**, **Juliet Stubbert** (hospitality), **Joyce Cabalse** (prayer), **Ceraida Amar** (formation), **Danie** (service) and **Linda Villena** (stewardship) and Father Samuel Loterte or-

ganized the Jubilee Year celebration. (Reported by Linda Villena)

10 KAPAA St. Catherine Parish

On Feb. 2, we hosted a **Ministry Fair** to augment the stewardship effort by increasing levels of participation, involvement and awareness within our parish community. It was a celebration of the work of the church. All ministries, programs and services were showcased — each having their own tables, booth and space. This was an occasion in which

all parishioners were able to meet people and gather information about various ministries within the parish. This event allowed parishioners to ask questions and brought them to a greater awareness of all the opportunities the parish has to offer. (Reported by Sister Rachel Marius, MSMHC)

11 EWA Immaculate Conception Parish

Grand Knight Robert Thomas of Immaculate Conception Church **Knights of Columbus Council 6734**, along with **state Silver Rose coordinator Jose Rafael Nater-Rodriguez**, will present the **Our Lady of Guadalupe "Silver Rose"** to our parish in Ewa on March 9 at noon in a prayer service. We pray that Immaculate Conception parishioners, including the many children in parish religious education, will participate in the "Silver Rose" service. Here is a brief history of the Knights of Columbus "Silver Rose." In 1960, to honor the blessing of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Mexican people, the Columbian Squires, a youth organization of the Knights, wanted to give something back to her. The group of young men in **Knights of Columbus Council 2312** in Monterrey, Mexico, came up with the idea of running a rose to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey, Mexico. The rose was chosen to commemorate Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses, an important part of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The first rose was a natural rose blessed by **Bishop John C. Cody** of London, flown to New York and taken by **Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart** to Dallas, Texas. After a few more stops it was given to the Squires from Monterrey, Mexico, at the International Bridge in Laredo. They ran the rose from the International Bridge to the basilica in Mexico, on Dec. 12, 1960. The story lives on with a silver rose. After the March 9 service in Ewa, we hope and pray that the catechists will tell the story of the "Silver Rose" to their students, that it was started by children their age and that, no matter how old you are, if you love the Lord, anything can happen. The Knights Council 6734 prays that other councils and parishes will request a visit from the "Silver Rose." (Reported by Normand HJ Robert)

Cremation Niche Columbaria

Considering Cremation, or have a family members' urn at home? Explore the option of placing your loved one's urn in our parish cremation columbaria niches—a final resting place on sacred ground within our parish community, united by faith and the hope of Resurrection. Embrace the peace and reverence of these sacred spaces while honoring your loved ones. Your reservation of a niche not only provides a meaningful resting place but also supports our Parish and the broader diocesan community. **Secure your niche today to ensure a cherished memorial within our parish columbaria.**

HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED? WANT TO PLAN-IN-ADVANCE?

SPACE IS LIMITED

Call and reserve yours today!

ASK ABOUT OUR 0% FINANCE OPTIONS

AVAILABLE LOCATIONS: Resurrection of the Lord, Waipahu, Oahu | St. Ann, Kaneohe, Oahu
 St. John Apostle and Evangelist, Mililani, Oahu | Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City, Oahu
 St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Wailuku, Maui | St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church, Kihei, Maui
 St. Michael, Waiialua, Oahu | Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Lihue, Kauai

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Duane Pavao, Director of Cemeteries (808) 783-6778 | dpavao@cfcsmmission.org
www.hawaiicatholiccemeteries.org

HAWAII
 CATHOLIC CEMETERIES



SCAN TO
 LEARN MORE
 ABOUT OUR
 COLUMBARIA
 PROJECT

