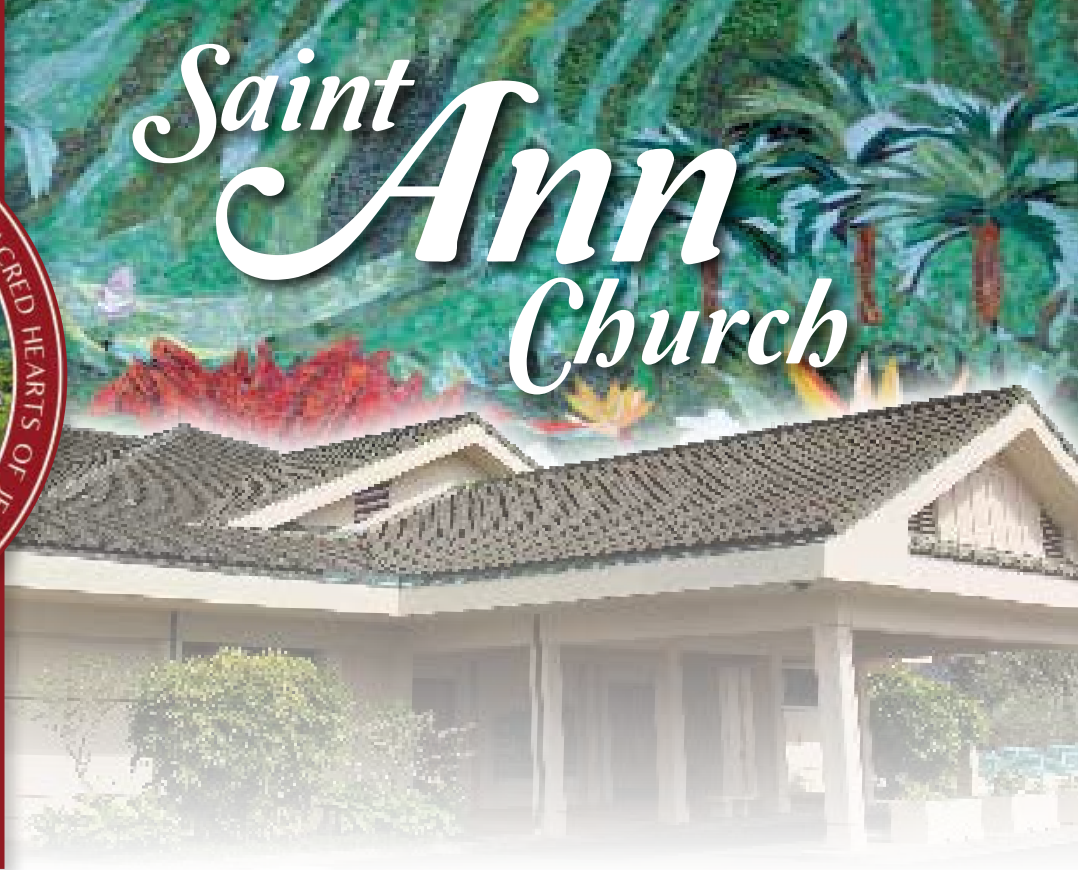
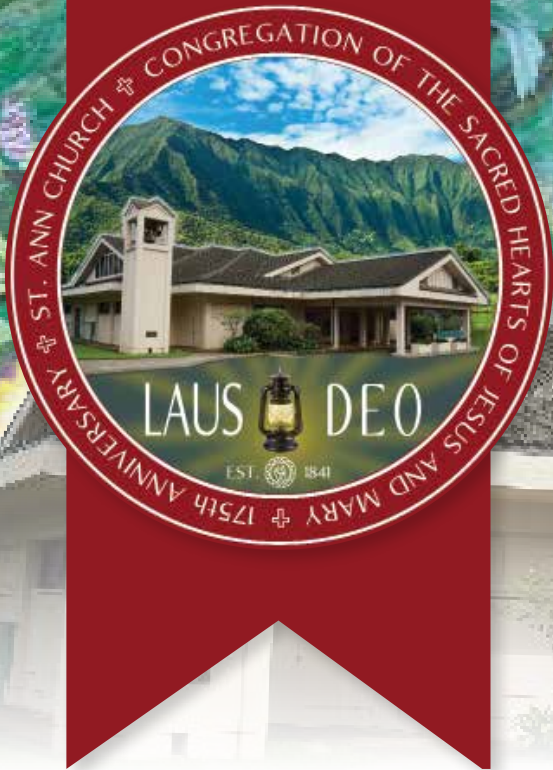


NOVEMBER 2017

Saint Ann Church



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ST. ANN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Join us Dec. 2 to Celebrate with Our Parish Community

Sunday, Dec. 3, is the First Sunday of Advent – so it is certainly appropriate that on the day prior, our community gathers for our annual Christmas Festival!

“For 30 years, St. Ann has celebrated a Christmas Festival,” says parishioner Daniel Pires, who serves as chairman of the event. “It assists the church financially, but perhaps more important, it is a time for us as a community to come together and celebrate who and what we are while enjoying the beginning of the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas.”

This year’s Christmas Festival promises to be one of the best ones ever! As in the past, it will be packed with baked goods, a country store, entertainment, international cuisine, Keikiland, Mrs. Santa (our arts and crafts group), plants, quilts, winter greens, and much more.

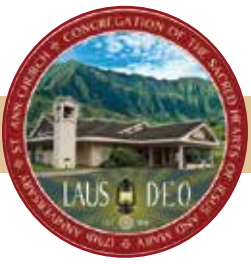
“I have been involved with this Festival for the last 15 years, and it is one of the high points of our parish life, for sure,” Daniel says. “There



have been years when we have been able to provide the parish with more than \$20,000. This year, we are also adding a theme, ‘Together We Can Make a Difference,’ because that is so true of the people of St. Ann and how they come together for this and other parish efforts. To

continued on page 2





St. Ann Christmas Festival *continued from front cover*

properly carry out the Festival requires many volunteers and donations, and our people never seem to disappoint.”

The Christmas Festival will begin on Saturday morning, Dec. 2, and continue until 2 p.m. that day.

“I am not certain how many booths we will finally have, but certainly more than 10,” Daniel says. “The food is always popular as we make an effort to reflect and honor the many ethnic groups which make up our community – Filipinos, Japanese, Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, and, of course Americans. I have personal roots in Portugal, and one of the most popular items we offer each year is *malassadas*, what we call Portuguese donuts. They will be delicious as always.”

Another popular area is Keikiland, intended to offer games and activities for children. Of course, Hey Mr. Postman will be back as well. Packages have already begun arriving from places like Estonia, Half Moon Bay, California, Olympia, Florida, and even from Memphis, Tenn. Many more will be here and available by the time the Festival occurs.

“It has been my experience that this day is enjoyed by adults and children alike,” Daniel says. “It is our volunteers and our sense of community which make it so special. The day of the event, somewhere between 50 and 100 people will be working, but that is only an indication of the many more who work throughout the year to make this a success. The Food Court and the campus are transformed. The proceeds of the Festival go in large part toward the education of our children in Christian values.”

Our St. Ann Christmas Festival is indeed a time for us to show that “Together We Can Make a Difference.” Make sure it is on your calendar and that your plans include it – it is guaranteed to be a good time!



If you would like more information about the upcoming Christmas Festival, please contact the parish office at 808-247-3092.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

November is a Time for Thanksgiving

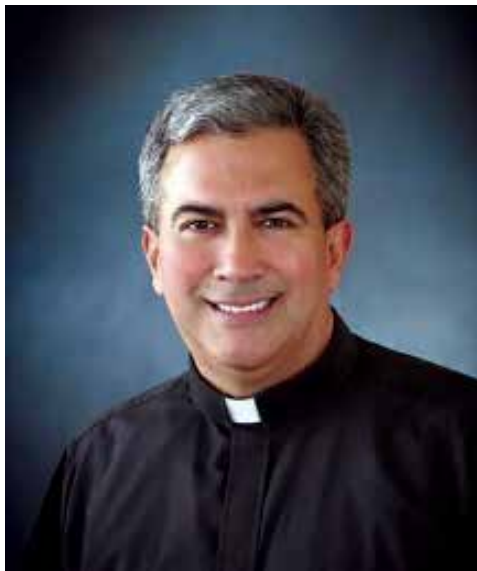
Dear Parishioners,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

Most of us have people in our lives who have had a profound impact on us – people we can consider our own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our lives.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863, and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been



added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God,” Lincoln said. In other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3. From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Herman Gomes, S.S.C.
Fr. Herman Gomes,
Pastor



Activities Enrich Our E



The celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's blessing of the animals is observed by our Early Learning Center students in October – with stuffed animals!



These students at the Early Learning Center are focused on saying the Rosary.

The St. Francis of Assisi Blessing, a Halloween Parade, and a Thanksgiving “Pow Wow” all add up to exciting and fun activities for our students in the Early Learning Center.

And don't forget our parents! They'll have a great time, too, as our ELC works closely in partnership with them.

“It's very important that we keep a partnership with our families,” says Cindy Achong, ELC Director. “They are invited to every event we have throughout the whole school. It's all about having a connection with our families.”

“There is a committee in place, made up of teachers and aides, who will talk to the ELC children about who St. Francis was and what he represents,” Mrs. Achong says.

After the teachers are done reading an age-appropriate story about St. Francis, Fr. Herman Gomes will also tell the children about St. Francis and teach them a song. This year he taught them the song, *Rise and Shine give God the Glory, Glory*. The children absolutely loved it!

“The parents and children will gather in the garden court and Father will bless everyone and the animals,” Mrs. Achong says. “We have so many allergies that we don't use live animals. The children bring in their favorite stuffed animals. Father will also go to the classrooms and bless each area after the blessing of the animals. It's a very special event!”

And then there's Halloween!

The teachers begin planning early in October what costumes the children will make for that day. Each age level will have different costumes that the children will craft out of paper bags.

“Then, when the costumes are ready, on October 31st, the parents are invited to participate in our annual Halloween parade.” Mrs. Achong says, “The

If you would like more information about the Early Learning Center or St. Ann

Early Learning Center

parade starts at the ELC, and continues through the grade school classrooms, library, school offices, business office, food court, and finally the rectory, where Father gives out treats, before they return to the ELC.

Matters of our faith are also celebrated in October at the Early Learning Center. With October being the month of the Rosary, Mrs. Achong takes care to include even the youngest of our students in celebrating the Rosary.

“We will gather as an ELC for morning flag pledge and prayer,” she says. “In the month of October, I will lead the Rosary. It is important that we teach our little ones on their level how to pray the Rosary.”

In celebration of Thanksgiving, our ELC holds an annual Pow Wow that teaches the children the beauty of sharing.

The morning of the Pow Wow, our students and families gather for Mass. After Mass, everyone returns to the ELC, where students have been asked to bring in one fruit to share.

Our thanksgiving committee will read a story about the first Thanksgiving.

Following the story, Joseph Ahuna and members of his family will perform Native American dances and songs for the children — a presentation he has done for several years.

“He’ll talk about the background of the Native Americans and their culture,” Mrs. Achong says. “After he’s done, we have sharing of the fruit. Each child will choose the fruit they want, and then they will go back to the class and partake in the sharing of their fruit. It’s all about sharing, especially during Thanksgiving when we give thanks to God for everything. This teaches the children a very important lesson of being thankful, sharing and caring for others.”



The Early Learning Center students learn about sharing, and this little student is ready to enjoy a cup of fruit.



During October, our Early Learning Center students say the Rosary each morning.

*ion about enrolling a child in the
School, please call 808-247-3092.*



“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS” *Evangelization, the Church, and Our Commitments as Stewards*

According to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus’ parting words to us before He ascended to heaven after His resurrection included these instructions: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is, quite frankly, a call to evangelization. Clearly, evangelization is not new to the Church – it is traced to that call from Jesus Christ, a call to His apostles and followers of that time, and that call continues today in relation to us and our lives as Catholics. “Evangelization” has become a bit of a “catchphrase” in today’s Church. Of course, it is not a new idea, nor is it a new call.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis’ absolute first publication – officially an apostolic exhortation – was titled *Evangelii Gaudium*, which means “The Joy of the Gospel.” In that document, the pope had much to say about evangelization, including this: “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” (120).

Nevertheless, the idea of evangelization is nothing new. Pope St. John Paul II issued an encyclical in December 1990 titled *Redemptoris Missio* – “The Mission of the Redeemer” – in which he called for the church to renew its efforts in evangelization. This has become known as the “new evangelization,” but within, what Pope St. John Paul II says is that the Church “must renew her missionary commitment.” He adds, “Faith is strengthened when it is shared and given to others” (2).

Yet, it would seem that some Catholics resist this call to evangelization, perhaps recalling images of street preachers, television evangelists or

door-to-door groups saying “repent” or talking about the “wages of sin.” Or, we may feel that evangelization is the role of saints or missionaries or Catholic priests. The truth is that evangelization is born from a love of people and a desire that everyone comes to know the love of Christ and the blessings of living as part of His Kingdom.

Over a decade before Pope St. John Paul II addressed this issue, Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation in 1975 titled *Evangelii Nuntiandi* – “Evangelization in the Modern World” – in which the pope said, “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing of all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church” (14).

So, what does this mean to us as faithful stewards? Obviously, each of us is called to be an evangelist. That does not mean we go door-to-door or stand on street corners proclaiming our faith. Our own mission statement has a strong flavor of evangelization, especially because of our effort to embrace stewardship as a way of life. In recent years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued two pastoral letters – one called *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy of Catholic Evangelization*, and the other titled *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. The connection between stewardship, evangelization and discipleship is obvious, it would seem.

Pope Francis also said in his first official statement *Evangelii Gaudium* the following: “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ” (10). That is who we are, or who we should be.

Annual Food Drive

Brightening the Holidays for Those in Need

This month, our Annual Food Drive is in full swing! An initiative of Project Share, the Food Drive has been a St. Ann tradition for over 30 years. Through the Food Drive, we can take an active role in providing holiday meals to those in need in our community.

“Project Share has been a program in our parish for many years,” says Project Share supervisor Sharon Matos. “Although we distribute food to the needy and homeless five days a week, during the holidays – particularly Thanksgiving and Christmas – extra effort to assist is given.”

Beginning Nov. 5, the food drive will run until Dec. 16. The entire St. Ann student body – including both the school and the Early Learning Center – are encouraged to make donations. St. Ann parishioners also have the opportunity to donate items to the drive. Items collected for the drive go towards making Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families and individuals in need.

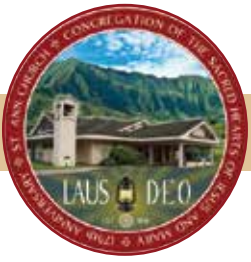
“We collect enough food to make approximately 75 baskets,” Sharon says. “In addition, there are parishioners who will purchase a complete dinner and deliver it to the family’s residence. During the Thanksgiving Mass, each class from the 2-year-olds up to the eighth-graders has a representative go up to the altar with a basket of food. How can one not grow in faith when seeing all these children learning to give and share with the less fortunate?”

Donations also go toward supermarket gift cards for these families and individuals, so that they can purchase their own holiday meals. Overall, the drive gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the holidays in the spirit of stewardship.

“The success of our Food Drive comes from the generosity of our school families and parishioners,” Sharon says. “We also rely on volunteers to help put the baskets together. As part of stewardship, the parish is committed to giving back to the community. Seeing the amount of food collected by the parish and schools is unbelievable. We have such a generous parish.”



*If you would like more information about the Food Drive,
please contact the parish office at 808-247-3092.*



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Saint Ann Church

46-129 Haiku Road | Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-247-3092 | www.saintannahawaii.org

DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD!

Our Stewardship Renewal is happening now! Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more we will all flourish and grow!

Talent (cont.)
 = Currently Involved = Interested in Joining
 ↓ Clearly write the first name of family member on the line.
OUTREACH MINISTRIES
 Christmas Giving Tree
 Family Promise
 Habitat for Humanity
 Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee
 Institute for Human Services (IHS)
 Project Share
ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES
 Ana Malia Young Ladies Institute
 Boys Scouts of America
 IGNITE
 Knights of Columbus (Council #14620)
FORMATION
 Adult Faith Formation
 Catholic Scripture Study
 Religious Education Catechists
 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - Catechist
 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - Participant
 Youth Ministry

Talent (cont.)
PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:
The purpose of St. Ann parish is to be a community of Catholics responsibly committed in word and action to the proclamation and celebration of the Gospel.
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 46-129 Haiku Rd. | Kaneohe, HI 96744
 808-247-3092 | www.saintannahawaii.org

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
2017 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL
Stewardship
*Not A Program
 Not a Fundraising Campaign
 Not an Empty Buzzword
 A Way of Life*

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
Saturday: Vigil: 6 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** 7: 00 a.m. | **Confession:** Saturday, 4 p.m.