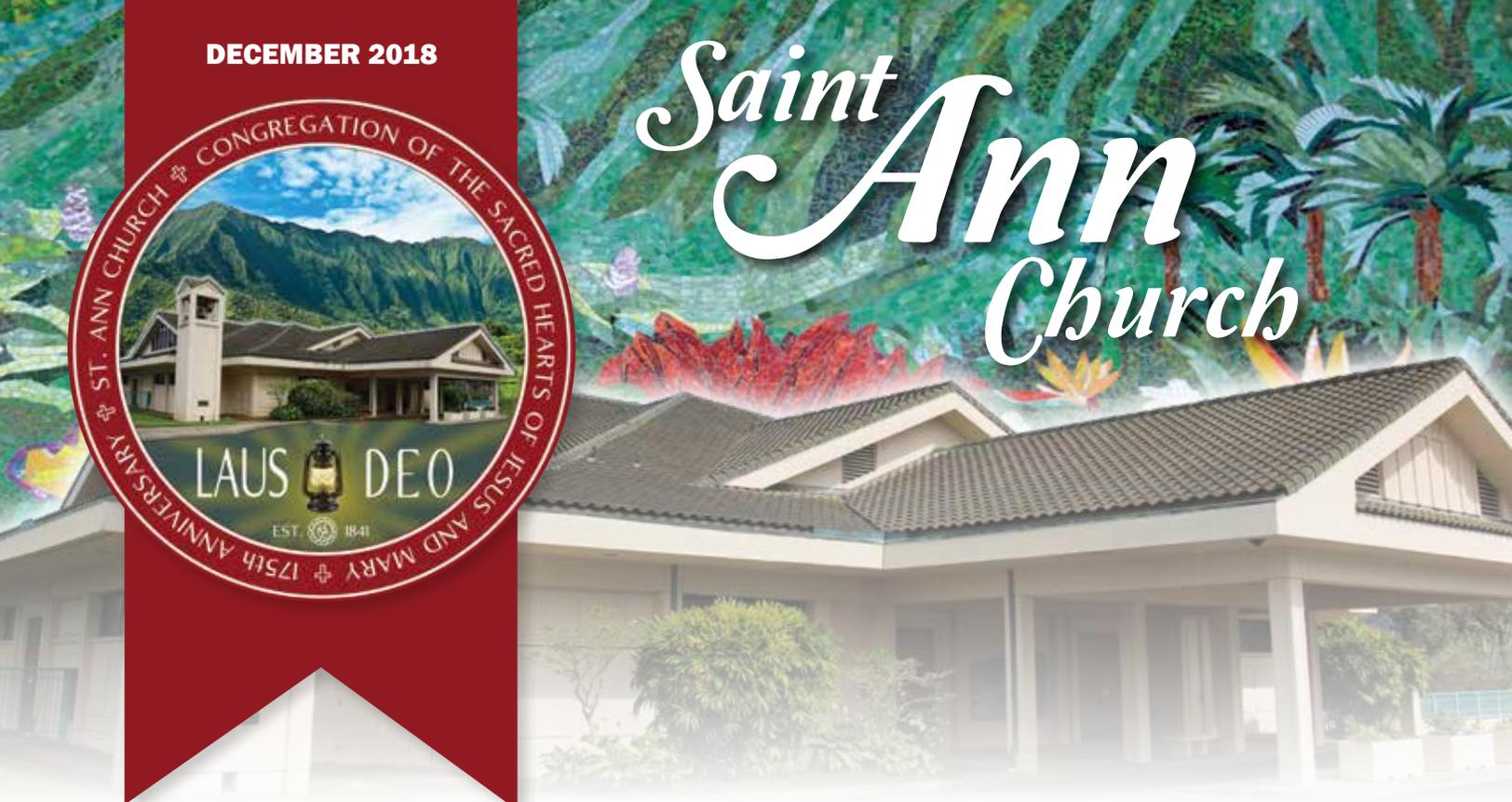
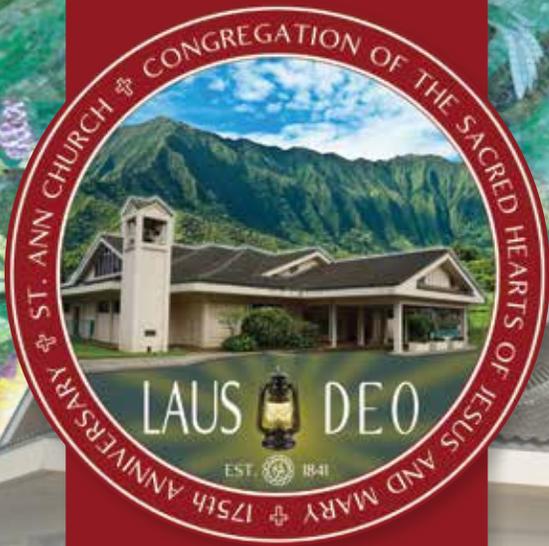


Saint Ann Church



Parish Adults Attend Successful Faith Formation Event

Faith formation is important for every member of our parish, regardless of one's age. Here at St. Ann, we provide several adult faith formation opportunities throughout the year to strengthen our faith and learn more about our Catholic beliefs.

"As we grow and mature in our human life, our spiritual life also needs nourishment," says Susan Slavish. "We need to know God more intimately, and we should be growing in trust and faith. The only way to do that is to get to know God and Jesus Christ better through study, whether it is reading and studying the Bible or through other forms of religious education and

formation. If we don't pursue that learning, our faith will grow stale and wilt for lack of nourishment."

This past Oct. 1, we invited speaker Karl Schultz to present his talk, "Adam and Eve: The Greatest Story Ever Told; Biblical Perspectives on Sexuality and Marriage." Mr. Schultz, the director of the Genesis Personal Development Center in Daytona Beach, Fla., is an author, speaker and retreat leader on personal and organizational development and biblical spirituality. He has presented programs across the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The talk presented various biblical perspectives relating to

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Faith Formation Event *continued from front cover*

a healthy, Catholic view of sexuality, marriage, and the relationship between men and women, beginning with the very first couple.

“The signature concept of the story of the creation of Adam and Eve was the dignity of the human person — the covenant between man and woman,” says Susan, recalling some of the talk’s key points. “Karl spoke of the Church’s respect for women — for example, the place the Blessed Mother has in the Church, and the designation of women as Doctors of the Church: St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Therese of Lisieux. He also spoke about the issue of ‘appetite’ related to the sin of Adam and Eve — it wasn’t so much the fact that they ate the fruit that was forbidden, which was wrong, it was more about the appetite to be in control, independent, like God, rather than dependent on the Creator.”

Susan also recalls some interesting tidbits regarding God’s messages for men and women in the Bible.

“God and/or angels often appear to men when they are asleep — for example, when Eve is created, Adam is in a deep sleep, and St. Joseph receives instruction from God twice when asleep,” she says.

“For women, such as Mary or the Samaritan woman at the well, the Lord or the angel comes to them during their waking hours.”

Overall, the event was a great success, with over 50 adults in attendance.

“The audience was interested and willing to stay later than our usual evening Adult Faith Formation events,” Susan says. “They seemed engaged with the speaker throughout.”

We are also looking forward to our Advent Adult Faith Formation Event, “Paint and Pray,” which will be held on Monday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Food Court. This special art class will be taught by Sherrie Pokipala.

“The use of holy images as focal points of reflection and prayer have a long history in our Catholic faith,” Trudy Rawlins says. “Almost from the beginning the Church has employed the arts as potent means of instruction and edification. This Advent, you will be able to create for yourself a beautiful work of art, while meditating on this Holy Season which leads to one of the greatest mysteries of the Church, the Incarnation — God becomes Man. In addition, you will be able to use the image of your creation to reflect on these mysteries for the whole season.”

Registration for the Advent class is limited and required, and will cost \$20 for materials.

All parish adults are invited to attend! For more information, please contact

Alika Sheldon at 808-292-6442 or email slp79akamai@msn.com.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, Dec. 11

7 p.m. in the Church

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, Dec. 24

7 p.m. — Children’s Mass

9:30 p.m. — Mass

Midnight — Mass

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, Dec. 25

8:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

no 7 a.m. Mass

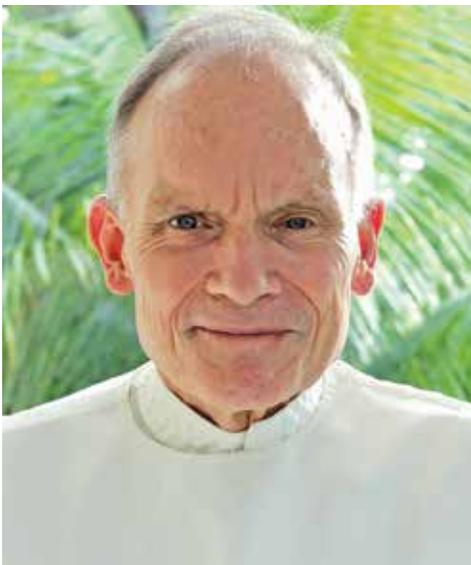


A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Stewardship Possibilities are Endless at Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

When I think of December, the first thing that comes to mind is Christmas. While that may seem to be the obvious topic, there really are a number of other possibilities. I could think of *Advent*, a season of preparation. I could think of the *Immaculate Conception*, as we celebrate God's gift to the world in Mary. I could think of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, whose popularity has spread far beyond the Hispanic community. Because December marks the end of the year, I might also be developing my resolutions for the New Year!



But instead, I think about Christmas. It is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Babe in the manger in Bethlehem, who is the eternal Son of God made man.

The basic truth of Christmas — celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah, God Incarnate — is plenty of reason for us all to rejoice and worship. But we've piled such an additional load onto our Christmas observance that worship may be lost in the shuffle.

Think about what weight Christmas has to bear. We have to put up the decorations, or make travel plans to visit relatives. There is also the Christmas dinner to plan and cook. And then, we still have Christmas presents to buy. No wonder the Christmas Mass becomes an afterthought!

Yet, we still have a wonderful opportunity this season — an opportunity to combine our Christmas activities with our stewardship commitments. Treasure, although challenging, is the simplest. Shouldn't the most expensive Christmas present we give be the one to Jesus, Whose birthday we're celebrating? Risen and glorified, He needs nothing we have. But His Body, the Church, continues Jesus' mission here on earth and always needs additional resources.

Time and Talent may be a little more complicated, but can't we spend a little more of our time in worship and prayer? Maybe you can attend Mass each day of the Christmas Octave. Have your family gather for prayers together in the morning or at dinner, in preparation for Christmas Day throughout the Christmas season.

And there are so many opportunities to share our Talent! Sing in the choir for the Christmas Masses. Help decorate the Church. Cook or bake for someone who is shut-in. Invite someone who will be alone to share Christmas dinner with your family. Offer to work in a soup kitchen. The possibilities are endless.

With a little planning, we can make this hectic time one of real blessing both for ourselves and others. Pray for me that I can keep Christmas properly, and I'll pray for you. And by the way, have a merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor





PARISH YOUTH OF ALL AGES PREPARE TRANSITION TO THE ORIGINAL

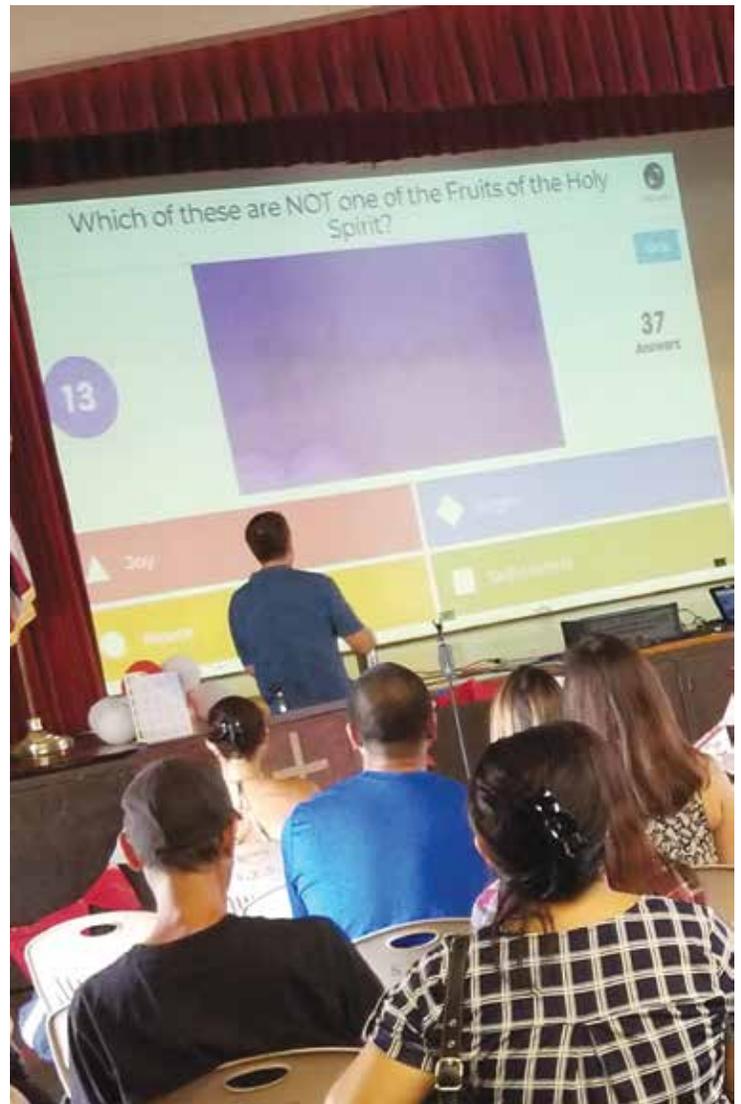
Starting in June 2016, Bishop Larry Silva called for our diocese to restore the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — to their original order. In recent decades, most American Catholics have been accustomed to receiving the Sacrament of Baptism shortly after birth, First Holy Communion in the second grade, and Confirmation in eighth grade or in high school. However, many dioceses have begun to transition the sacraments to the more traditional “original” order, in which children receive Confirmation around the same time as their First Communion. Here at St. Ann, we are currently in the second year of our transition.

“All of our sacraments will be restored to the original order by June 2019,” says Director of Religious Education Bob Noguchi. “We’ve been so used to having the sacraments in a certain order for so long, but the diocese wants parents to know that this is how the sacraments were originally intended to be. This will put them back into their proper place.”

One of the goals of restoring the original order is to change the way in which we look at the Sacrament of Confirmation, and how we can apply that charge as soldiers of Christ to our lives. Since most recently our youth have received the Sacrament of Confirmation as teenagers, some may wonder, are second-graders too young for this sacrament?

“Faith is an ongoing thing throughout our lives, so why not empower children to receive the graces of Confirmation earlier in their lives?” Bob says. “They already have the capacity to understand enough to receive Communion, so why not this sacrament as well?”

“In the past, Confirmation, was seen as a sacrament where the kids fully understand and are ready to say ‘yes’ to the faith,” he adds. “But really, Confirmation is more about strengthening the faith they are given, and the Holy Spirit being strengthened within them. The hope is that now the children, at a much younger age, will have



The Sept. 16 parent session began with a fun online game that tested attendees’ knowledge on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

the strength of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and they don’t have to wait until high school to receive this strengthening of the gift given to them at Baptism.”

Up until recently, our Youth Ministry program has primarily focused on preparing for Confirmation. In preparation for the restoration of the order of the sacraments, we have taken the time to develop and strengthen our Youth Ministry

TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION DURING ANAL ORDER OF SACRAMENTS

program to make it more comprehensive.

“There is a lot more catechesis involved in our youth gatherings, and we are really working to make it engaging for the kids,” Bob says. “In our country, statistically, about 83-84 percent of our students who are confirmed at high school age will leave the Catholic Church within about seven years. That’s a really scary statistic! That is something that we are trying to address, and why our comprehensive Youth Ministry program is really about engaging the kids in the life of the parish.”

During this second transitional year, children in the second grade all the way up to high school will be confirmed in June.

“This is our year of catching up — it’s huge!” Bob says. “This is a big year in which everyone’s classroom catechesis will be aimed directly at Confirmation and the Holy Spirit. Once we get past this busy year, our official year for Confirmation will be second grade, and it will be included with First Holy Communion and Reconciliation in the curriculum.”

In addition to class curriculum, Confirmation preparation will also include parent sessions, sponsor sessions, retreats for the children, and retreats for children and sponsors.

“Instead of just second grade or high school, we have kids of all grades in a sacrament prep year right now,” Bob says. “We really want to have the parents involved and aware. It’s a really busy time, but it’s great!”

Confirmation, as well as First Holy Communion for the second-graders, will take place the weekend of June 8-9, 2019. On June 8, high school students — primarily those in ninth and 10th grades — will receive Confirmation at the

“The hope is that now the children, at a much younger age, will have the strength of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and they don’t have to wait for until high school to receive this strengthening of the gift given to them at Baptism.” — Bob Noguchi, Director of Religious Education



Parents gather at the Sept. 16 session for Confirmation.

6 p.m. Mass. On June 9, second-graders and others receiving First Holy Communion will receive both sacraments at the 7 a.m. Mass; third and fourth-graders will be confirmed at the 8:45 a.m. Mass; fifth and sixth-graders will be confirmed at the 11:30 a.m. Mass; and seventh and eighth-graders will be confirmed at the 5 p.m. Mass.

Please pray for our parish youth as they prepare to receive this special sacrament! As a reminder, our next upcoming parent session for Confirmation will take place on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. in the church. For more information, please contact the parish office at 808-247-3092.



LET US FIND THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES *to Share and Encounter Christ this Season*

We all know classic stories of Christmas spirit instilling new life and bringing about a deeper sense of joy and gratitude — Dr. Seuss’ Grinch, whose heart grows three times its size; or Buddy the elf, who brings Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear; or even the cold and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge, who awoke on Christmas morning a changed man, sharing in joy and treating all with kindness. We certainly enjoy hearing these stories every year. But sometimes, even as Christians, it is so easy to forget the source of these lessons — the birth of Christ, the first Christmas itself. And there are so many role models from this ancient story that remind us how to embrace this season as Catholic stewards.

Let’s start with the innkeeper, the first character Mary and Joseph encounter before Jesus even enters the world. He does what he can — there is no room, just a stable. He has little, but what little he has he gives away freely. And unknowingly, the Christ Child enters into this world in the midst of one man’s humble offering. What a beautiful example of stewardship! Is there some small thing into which you could invite Jesus? Perhaps there is a new parishioner you could invite over for dinner, or a new mom for whom you could prepare a meal. In whatever way you might reach out, be sure to make a place at the table for your new guest and allow yourself to encounter Christ in them.

Next in this story, we meet the shepherds — the first people to meet Jesus, to see their Savior face to face. Even in their poverty, they simply bring Jesus their very selves, this gift of their presence and eagerness to encounter Him. Consider visiting a nursing home to be with those who might not have company during this Christmas season. Or have a neighbor over who you haven’t seen in a while. Sometimes, we forget that just taking time to be present to another person can be a gift of self.

And then there are the Wise Men. Though they are better off perhaps than the shepherds or the innkeeper with their offerings, they still chose to give their very best gifts, not out of excess or what was left over. Though such finery would not usually be seen in Bethlehem, the Wise Men went out from the comfort of their homes to encounter the newborn King. Consider starting a coat or sock drive to give to those in need in the community. Spend time serving in the local soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Go where the giving is not glamorous.

None of these characters is better than the other — in fact, without even one, the story of the birth of Christ would not be the same at all. In turn, we all have something to offer, a way that we can allow the Lord to enter into our lives during this season, or to bring Him to others that we encounter. However we may choose to give this season, let us give with the same generous spirit as those who welcomed the Christ Child on that first Christmas.



A UNIQUE FORM OF EVANGELIZATION: *The Rosary Makers Guild*

Parishioner Debra Corrales has long incorporated rosary making into her religious education instruction, seeing it as a good way for children to get “hands-on experience” while also learning about and being transformed by the prayers.

“The Rosary is really a teaching tool on the life, death, resurrection and ministry of Jesus Christ,” Debra says. “The important facets of our faith are learned by studying and meditating on these mysteries.”

Yet, it wasn’t until last October that the lesson suddenly expanded when Debra’s seventh-grade students chose rosary making as both a tool for evangelization and a service project. Thanks to the young people’s enthusiasm, it soon grew from a class project to a full-fledged ministry open to all St. Ann parishioners.

“It started out as a lesson that my mom and I would teach in Sunday school, and the students took a special liking to it,” says Kat Garcia, Debra’s daughter and teacher’s aide. “Their purpose was to make rosaries for themselves. Now, we like to use the rosaries we make for use within our parish and the St. Ann School, but we also send them out to different parts of the world.”

“The students shared it with the parish Youth Ministry, composed of young people from seventh grade and up, and the excitement just started to grow,” Debra adds.

Now officially known as Our Lady’s Rosary Makers Guild at St. Ann, this new parish ministry works to spread a greater awareness of and appreciation for the powerful prayer of the Rosary. Ministry members gather the last Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon in the food court to pray and work together, learn how to make rosaries, or pick up supplies in order to work at home.

Ultimately, the goal is to evangelize others through Our Lady’s intercession, and in sharing rosaries with St. Ann parishioners, local community members and special ministries chosen from all around the world. This is accomplished through both the loving care

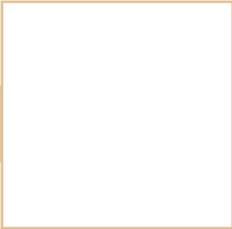
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Debra Corrales and her daughter, Kat Garcia



The Rosary Guild’s first meeting



Saint Ann Church

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The Rosary Makers Guild *continued from page 7*

placed into the rosary making itself, as well as through the actual gifting of and education on the Rosary which later takes place.

“We are all called to discipleship, to be evangelists,” Debra says. “Making and distributing rosaries, along with teaching others how to make and say the Rosary, is a method of living out that calling.”

“The physical act of making a rosary requires time and effort, and is a true testament to the thought and love that goes into making them,” Kat adds. “We pray and think of the recipients of the rosaries as we make them. Through our making of such a special sacramental, we are living our responsibility to our parish and the missions that we support — the responsibility of

loving them, caring for them and answering the need for the rosaries.”

Emphasizing that this is Our Lady’s ministry, both Kat and Debra feel blessed to have been part of bringing this ministry to life within the parish. It has greatly strengthened their own devotion to the Blessed Mother and has allowed them to become even more connected with the parish community as old and young are uniquely brought together.

“I have been able to meet really great people that are interested in this ministry,” Kat says. “The range of people that are interested in helping and in taking the time to make rosaries is such a blessing.”

Individuals and families are encouraged to join the Rosary Makers Guild at one of their monthly meetings. No prior knowledge is needed and volunteers have the freedom to work within the group or to take supplies home and work on their own. For more information, please contact Kat Garcia at either kgarcia@saintannahawaii.org or 808-294-4430.

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.