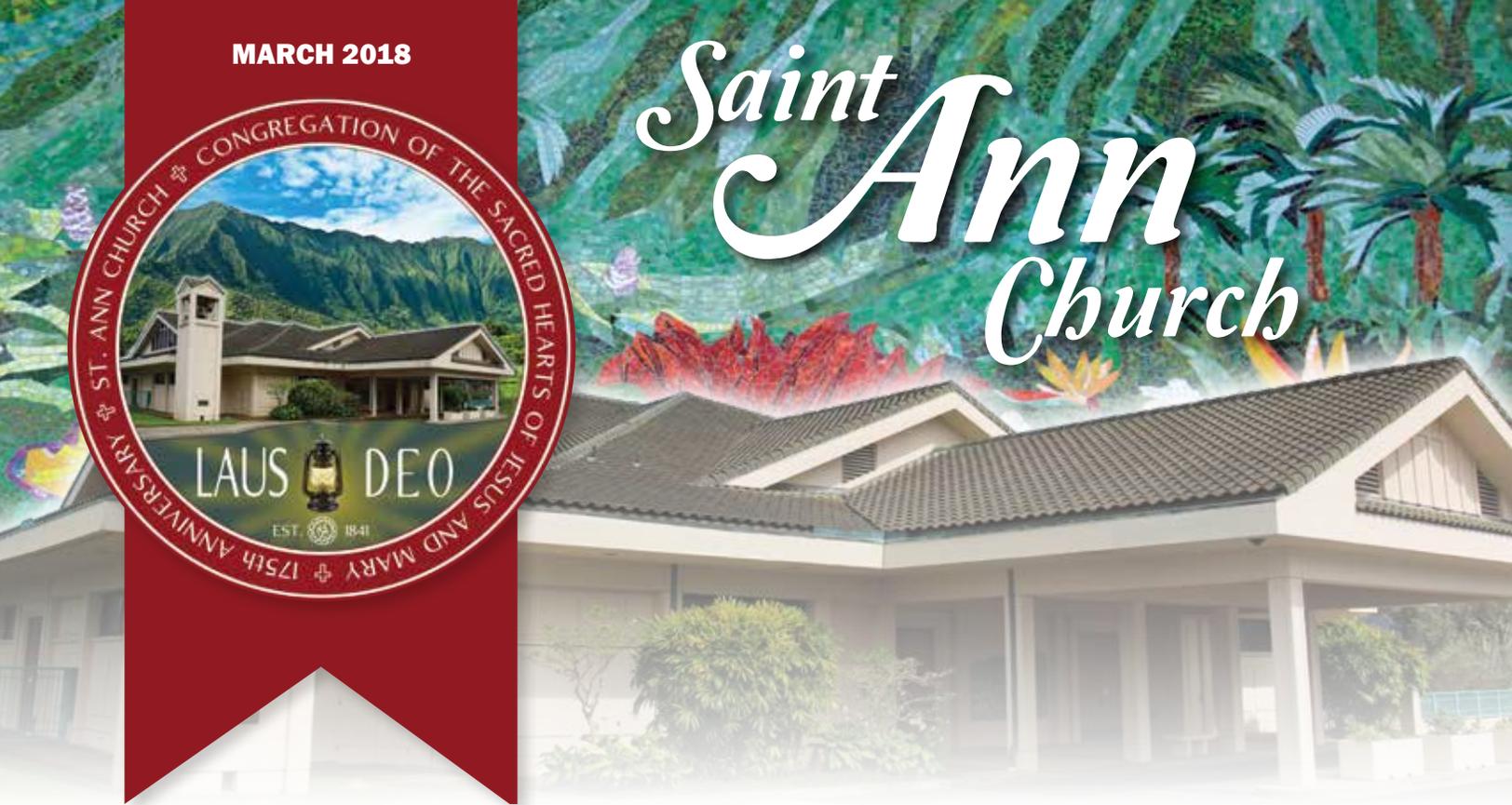
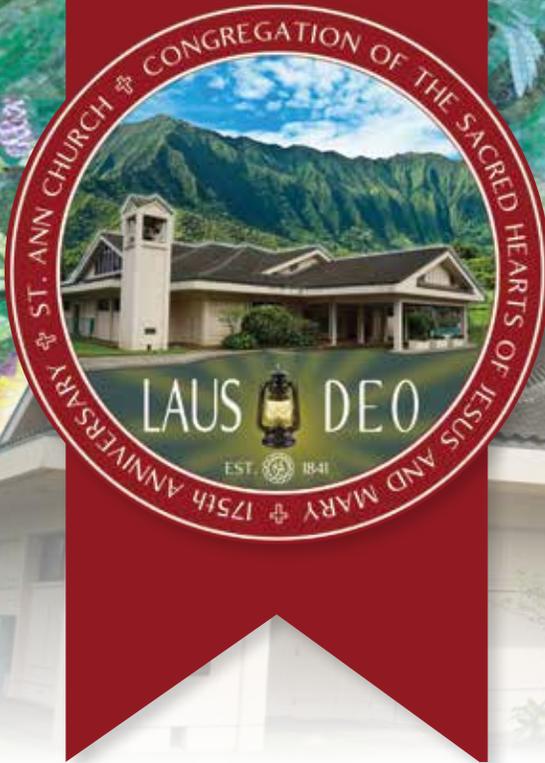


MARCH 2018

Saint Ann Church



FOCUSING ON FAMILY AND FAITH, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GIVE BACK TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

All the good works done by the Knights of Columbus are based upon their four core principles — Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. To be sure, charity and service are hallmarks of the Knights. In the past decade, worldwide, the Knights have donated \$1.475 billion to charity and given almost 700 million hours in support of the Church and charitable works.

And thanks to the efforts of Fr. (Venerable) Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Conn., the first Knights of Columbus Council was chartered by

the Connecticut State Legislature in 1882. From that one council, the Knights have grown from a few members to more than 15,000 councils and almost two million members in the United States and 16 other countries.

“Our council has over 50 members, and our council’s efforts help to support a variety of parish and school projects, service-oriented programs that span such areas as the homeless, veterans’ transition from active duty to the private sector and much more,” says Grand Knight Paul de Vos, who leads our St. Ann Council #14620. “Our council provides an opportunity for lay Catholic men to find a way to give back to their church and the community. With an emphasis on family and faith, members find their path to support the council and its many projects.”

In Hawai‘i, although the Church arrived more than a century ago, the Knights of Columbus have only been a presence since 1959 — the year we became the 50th state. However, the Knights’ presence and contributions to the Church are exemplary. There are now more than 2,000 Knights in 32 councils in Hawai‘i.



Award recipients from the K of C Free Throw Contest

continued on back cover





STEWARDSHIP *Becoming Fishers of Men*

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are

born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into

play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT ST. ANN

PENANCE SERVICE — TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 7 P.M.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS — FRIDAYS, 7 P.M.

HOLY THURSDAY, 7 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

EASTER VIGIL (MARCH 31), 8 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 1), 7 A.M., 8:45 A.M., AND 11:30 A.M.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

March — A Time to Take a Close Look at the Examples We Follow

Dear Parishioners,

This month of March is a significant time for us as Catholics. We are in the midst of Lent, and then we celebrate Holy Week, with Easter occurring just after the end of the month, on April 1. In addition, many may point to the month of March as a time we celebrate the Irish on March 17, the Feast of St. Patrick.

However, two days after that is the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19 — and for many in the world, that is more important. St. Joseph was, of course, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster father of Jesus Christ.

Everything we know about Joseph comes to us from Holy Scripture. It might be said that, in order to understand him completely, we must read between the lines. The Catholic Church has designated the month of March as the month of St. Joseph. Yet, there is not a single example of Joseph saying something that can be quoted in the Bible. We can assume he was a man of few words — in turn, we may consider that he speaks to us through his actions. It is also clear that he was a humble man. Many point to him as an example of what a good father is and should be.

St. Joseph provides an example to all of us. Think of some of his strengths — he was obedient; he put his own needs aside to assure that Jesus and Mary were cared for; he surely trusted in God, even when God's will may not have made complete sense to him.

Those traits give each of us some idea of what we need to do in life. Do we only embrace those parts of our faith that make sense to us or that we find agreeable? Do we put the needs of others before our own? Our lives are filled with crosses and challenges, but do we trust in the Lord as Joseph did? Do our actions show us to be good Catholics and Christians? What kinds of examples are we setting?

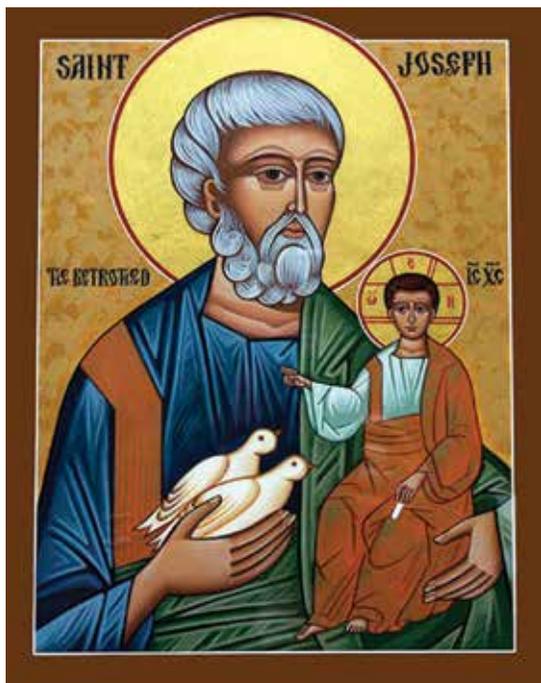
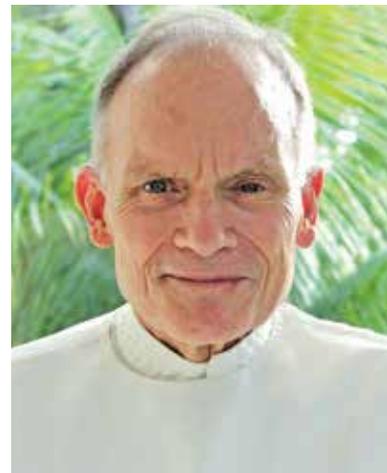
Lent and Easter are times for us to look closely at the answers to these questions. Joseph was a carpenter, a worker — and he obviously was not a man of wealth or prestige. By the time Jesus' public ministry begins, Joseph seems to disappear. Nevertheless, he was a man of royal origins. When St. Luke introduces him to us in Luke 1, he calls him "Joseph, of the house of David."

All of this leads us to know and believe that Joseph was someone we would classify as a "good steward." Who do we look up to? Do we seek to be like people like Joseph, or are our models more worldly and more successful in the eyes of others? St. Joseph is a wonderful example for us. We all need to be like him in many, many ways.

God bless you during this holy time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor





RCIA: *Walking Together on a Journey In*

One of the most beautiful things about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process is not only the profound impact it has on those entering the Church, but also the impact it has on those who are guiding our new faith family members on their journey.

“Especially for a cradle Catholic, when you see people and they’re missing something and the Catholic Church is appealing to them, it reinforces what the appeal should be to you,” says parishioner Tom Huber.

Tom and his wife, Gloria, have served as the parish RCIA coordinators for the past 31 years. The RCIA process is the way by which those who have

not received the Sacraments of Initiation are prepared and welcomed into the Church. Some of those who go through the process have never had any experience with religion, and will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Others will have been baptized at some point, either in a Catholic or other Christian Church, and will be fully initiated by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Eucharist.

The Hubers love being part of this journey and serving those who hope to become Catholic.

“I enjoy helping people find their way to God and completing their Sacraments.” Tom says. “I

enjoy teaching and it’s a great opportunity to keep up on my own knowledge and spiritual life.”

The RCIA sessions meet weekly on Wednesday nights. Session sharings include fundamentals of Catholic belief, the Creed, the Trinity, liturgy and the Sacraments, prayer and Scripture, and more.

“It is a multi-month process of inquiry, conversion to Christ, formation and finally, intense Lenten preparation for receipt of the sacraments, usually at the Easter Vigil Mass each year,” Tom says. “The purpose of the process is conversion. People have to go from thinking about becoming Catholic to being committed to becoming a Christian and a Catholic.”

There are a number of ways that parishioners can serve those who are going through the RCIA process — from serving on the RCIA team, to setting up for the meetings or preparing refreshments, or serving as a sponsor or godparent for someone preparing to receive sacraments.

“Many people have expressed an admiration and appreciation of the work of the RCIA team, yet they feel that they are not prepared or capable to engage in that ministry — they are short-changing themselves,” Tom says. “No special experience or training is required to join the team.”

For many who serve in this way, they find that being involved with the RCIA program is not only a way to help others,



RCIA team members and sponsors journey with those who are seeking to receive Sacraments of Initiation.

to the Faith

but to grow in faith themselves.

“Volunteers often express appreciation for what they have learned in the process of preparing for and participating in RCIA sessions and accompanying searchers,” Tom says. “It is not a one-way street.”

Most importantly, parishioners can commit to praying for those who are considering becoming Catholic or completing their Sacraments of Initiation.

Tom hopes that those who are curious about the faith will come and see what the RCIA process is all about.

“Do you wonder?” Tom asks. “Have you been thinking? Come and see. Come and find out.”

He also encourages parishioners who may know someone who is interested in learning more about becoming Catholic to be attentive to their questions and willing to share their own faith.

“Maybe you know of a person who has signaled in some way a search for improvement of his or her spiritual life, or even has specifically shown an interest in the Catholic Church,” Tom says. “One of your obligations as a baptized and practicing Catholic is to encourage and help people to learn about our faith and, hopefully, to commit to a life as a follower of Jesus Christ as a member of His Church. Each of us must be an evangelist as best we can.”



The RCIA process gives those who are interested in learning more about becoming Catholic the opportunity to learn about the faith.



Sharing their faith with those preparing to enter the Church is also an opportunity for parishioners to grow and deepen their own faith.

If you would like more information on the RCIA process, or if you are interested in serving, please contact the Coordinators of RCIA, Tom and Gloria Huber, at 808-235-1437 or hubert001@hawaii.rr.com. You can also call the Rectory Office at 808-247-3092, ext. 111.



EARLY LEARNING CENTER HELPS CHILDREN UNDERSTAND AND EMBRACE OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Though we tend to think of stewardship strictly in terms of adulthood, the reality is that our stewardship journey begins long before. From the moment the sacred waters of Baptism were poured over our heads, we each became part of God's family. And, just like in any earthly family, it became part of our role to find ways to give back to our heavenly household. This is why, explains Early Learning Center teacher Ms. Kelsey Thurman, it's so important that we instill the faith in our young ones from the very beginning, helping them "form good habits" and grow in their understanding of stewardship.

"This is where it all starts for them," Ms. Thurman says. "Just like how they learn things like shapes, washing their hands and going to the bathroom, learning the faith within that early learning environment helps it stick with them throughout their life — almost like a good habit. It allows them from their earliest ages to learn the difference between right and wrong, and to do things like saying grace before meals. And hopefully, they can bring some of that home to their family members, too, helping us all grow together." Available for the

"There is so much happening in this world, but the children help me step back and focus on living my life to the fullest each day. The Lenten season, I think, will bring me even closer to God, because the children will come to me and share all of the little things that they've been doing at home. They'll say, 'Oh, I didn't eat candy today,' or 'I didn't play with this toy.' And I can't help but think if they can do this, then it's not going to be as hard for me to do it, too."
— Ms. Kelsey Thurman



Some of the Early Learning Center's kindergartners during their morning prayers.

youngest members of our faith community, St. Ann Early Learning Center works to incorporate the beauty of our Catholic faith into every aspect of a child's learning experience. Through regular phrases such as "sharing is caring" and "love each other," teachers work to instill Christian values into their young charges in a way that is both relatable and understandable.

"We truly base everything that we do here around religion," Ms. Thurman says. "We try to maintain a family-oriented environment that truly embodies our Christian faith — to show the children that no matter what race or ethnicity we come from, we are all one family."

During Lent, for example, the children participate in weekly prayer services which include a child's version of the Stations of the Cross. Students also attend a special service for Ash Wednesday and receive focused instruction on the true meaning of Lent during their regular religious instruction.

"We'll talk about what a sacrifice is, for example, and things that they can do as kids to enter into this season," Ms. Thurman says. "They don't have to necessarily give up something, but they can be more focused on being loving at home to their siblings or

continued on page 7

Early Learning Center continued from page 6

more obedient to their parents.”

This, in turn, helps the children more fully enter into the Sunday liturgy, Ms. Thurman says, because they’re learning about the reason behind the season as well as practical lessons on how to behave and listen during church.

“I think having these lessons and experiences at school really helps the children because we are teaching them how they are supposed to sit, how to listen, why they are listening, and why it’s important,” she says. “I think that helps them bring the faith home, incorporating it into their own life. I’ve seen my own son who is in the 3-year-old program come home and say, ‘Oh, we need to pray before we eat.’ That’s just a little way that shows me he’s beginning to get it.”

And as the children’s understanding of faith and their sense of stewardship grows, their teachers and parents can’t help but be enriched, as well. Their open hearts and eagerness to practice what they’ve learned help remind us all to slow down a bit, focusing more fully on this penitential season.

“There is so much happening in this world, but the children help me step back and focus on living my life to the fullest each day,” Ms. Thurman says. “The Lenten season, I think, will bring me even closer to God, because the children will come to me and share all of the little things that they’ve been doing at home. They’ll say, ‘Oh, I didn’t eat candy today,’ or ‘I didn’t play with this toy.’ And I can’t help but think if they can do this, then it’s not going to be as hard for me to do it, too.”



Children during their weekly prayer service.



Ms. Thurman and her 2-year-old class celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi by blessing their stuffed animals.

For more information on the Early Learning Center or to register for the 2018-2019 school year, please contact school administrator Carla Castro at 808-247-3092, ext. 130.



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 58040
PERMIT NO. 3

Saint Ann Church

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

Knights of Columbus continued from front cover

St. Ann's Knights of Columbus serves the parish and school as well as the local community in a number of ways. Examples of the organization's service include:

1. Services to the youth of our parish and community
2. Helping with parish care and maintenance
3. Events at the school
4. Youth leadership and religious education events
5. Veterans' transitional housing
6. Faith events

Among the special events The Knights sponsor or coordinate include the Basketball Free Throw Contest, Mothers' Day Breakfast, Christmas Festival, Lenten Fish Fry, HAHC committee projects, and the Blood Bank Drive.

"Our council is particularly grateful for the service opportunities provided by our parish and school," Paul says. "I am proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus. I think the feeling of being involved in and supporting the Church, and especially our St. Ann Parish, is most satisfying. If you're a male 18 years or older, and interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for you and your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. These are just some of the reasons to become a Knight."

*Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month.
For more information, or if interested in becoming a member, please contact
Paul de Vos at 808-216-1934 or Ryan Brown at ryan@adragency.com.*



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.