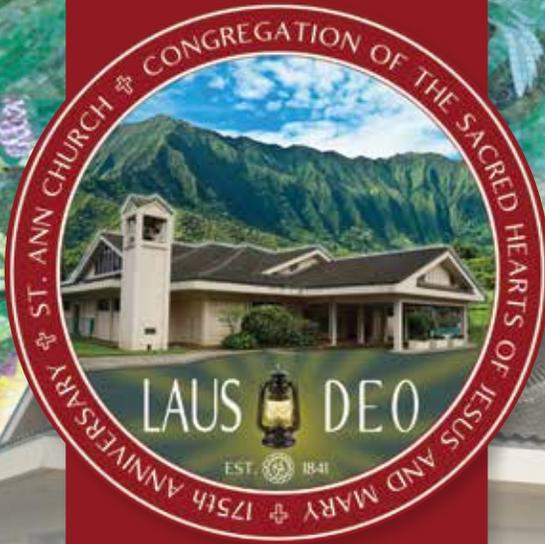


SEPTEMBER 2018

Saint Ann Church



EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR AT ST. ANN SCHOOL *Faculty, Staff and Students Ready for New Academic Year*

As summer break comes to a close, there's an excitement in the air — it might be a new backpack or pair of shoes. Maybe it's the anticipation about meeting a new teacher, or perhaps it's looking forward to being reunited with friends.

For the children at St. Ann School, the start of the new school year also brings an opportunity to grow academically and spiritually, as the school fulfills its mission to help students incorporate their faith into daily life. From the beginning of the day until the final bell rings, they are encouraged to go deeper, both in their knowledge, and in their faith.

This year, our theme — Jesus, Our Rock, Pillars of Faith — will focus on the first Pillar of the *Catechism*, the Creed.

“Jesus is our Rock — He's our foundation for who we are and for what we do, and once you have a strong foundation you can do anything with it,” says our Principal, Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown. “This year, we'll start with ‘Pillar One: Creed,’ asking, ‘What are our beliefs?’ We'll focus on the Nicene and Apostles' Creed with the students.”

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Students at St. Ann School have the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually.





Excitement in the Air at St. Ann School

continued from front cover

Along with our theme, we look forward to several exciting events at the start of the school year, including our Back to School Mass and blessing of the school, which will take place at 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 12. The Mass will take place at the church, and all are welcome to attend and pray with our students. We will also have the annual celebration of our kupuna on Sept. 12, with grandparents especially invited to come to campus, join us for Mass, share an activity with their students, and have lunch with us.

All students and parents also had the opportunity to build skills this year as we hosted the American Heart Association for a hands-on CPR training for all our first through eighth-grade students on Aug. 31.

Our curriculum will also be expanding and improving this year.

“Our faculty continues to work on curriculum and building our math and science programs, as well as our language arts and writing programs,” says Mrs. Thronas-Brown, explaining that standardized testing will now take place in April instead of October. “We’re hoping to see a huge difference in standardized testing.”

We are also happy to welcome new teachers in our fourth and sixth-grade classrooms, and we also hope interested and qualified people will consider joining the staff of our extended day program.

Mrs. Thronas-Brown is thankful for the support of parishioners for our school and hopes that they will pray for us as we begin a new school year. “

“Our parishioners are awesome,” she says. “They support us financially and they support us by praying for us in everything we do. Any event that we have on campus, they make



St. Ann School provides a place for children to learn in a Christ-centered environment, with teachers, staff and a parish who cares for them.

donations of all kinds — they talk to their families, and market and promote the school. We have parishioners on our school board who help us get the word out about the school. Anything I ask, they do.”

She also hopes that the new school year will be filled with learning, growth and a deeper experience of God’s love for the students at St. Ann School.

“I’d really love for them to grow in their faith, really knowing God loves them and being able to trust God and put God first,” Mrs. Thronas-Brown says. “If they can learn that early, they’ll have such a better life with God in it.”

If you would like more information about St. Ann School, or to register your child(ren) for the upcoming school year, please visit www.saintannahawaii.org/st--ann---school.html, or call the school and Early Learning Center office at 808-247-3092, ext. 102.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Christ Becomes One With Us Through the Eucharist

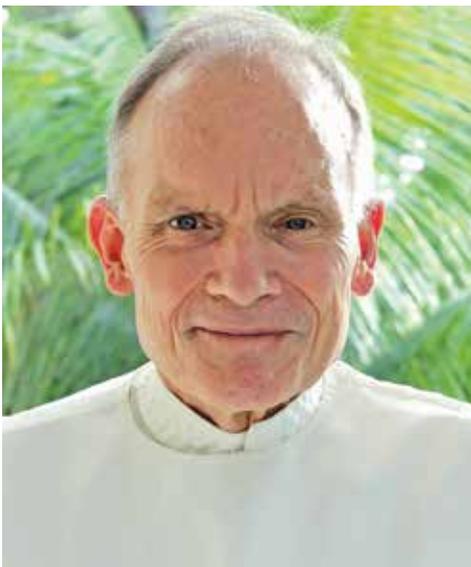
Dear Parishioners,

Any of us who are old enough to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, had to have been marked by that experience. As I reflect on this solemn date in our country's history, I also faithfully reflect upon our celebration of the Eucharist. As Catholics, we are offered the Eucharist to keep it alive by consciously being bread broken and wine poured out for others each day of our lives. We are called to become what we receive.

Throughout the calendar year, certain dates are commemorated to inspire us to remember and honor those who may have been lost. These kinds of days — like 9/11 — are testimony to the reality that we, as human beings, are consciously connected to one another. There are unfortunately some who would have us believe that we are independent, separated from those around us.

For us as Catholics, the reception of the Eucharist is the most intimate union with God Himself on this earth. It is through the Body of Christ that we are unified to God and one another, and reminds us that we are invited to be bread broken and wine poured out for our world.

We gather as a community around the table of the Eucharist. We receive the gift of Christ's Body and Blood so that we may become the embodiment of God's love among us. As we receive Christ, we should recommit ourselves to following in Jesus' footsteps and reaching out to those around us with mercy, encouragement and compassion. By doing that, we reaffirm our identity as disciples and our Baptismal commitment to be His body and blood given for others.



Unfortunately to some, the Eucharist has been diluted to the point that it is viewed as merely a ritual or a symbol. As Catholics, we know that it is Christ's real presence among us — we are to accept that gift and personally become Christ's presence everywhere we go and in everything we do.

The very word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." When we live a Eucharistic life, it has everything to do with gratitude. Let us be thankful for the Eucharist and thankful for one another, and let us demonstrate

that through the love that pours out of us.

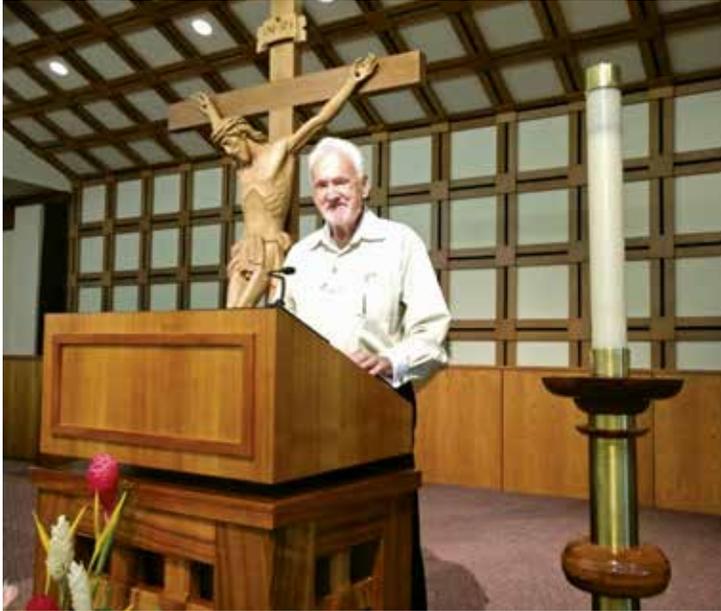
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor





St. Ann Lectors Serve as



At St. Ann, our lectors proclaim the Word of God to the faith community at each daily and weekend liturgy.



Many lectors begin preparing days before and draw upon different resources, such as reflections from Bishop Robert Barron and the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to understand the content more deeply.

For Margaret Johnson, the Mass has always been the time and place when the Lord has the greatest access to her, and the Liturgy of the Word is an integral part of how He reaches her.

“I am deeply touched by Him during the Mass, and lectoring further intensifies the experience for me,” Margaret says. “It is also very humbling to be allowed to be an instrument of the Lord in His reaching out to touch His people with His living Word.”

At St. Ann, our lectors proclaim the Word of God to the faith community at each daily and weekend liturgy.

“We have been given a really important responsibility,” says Paul de Vos. “If you take the time to prepare and ask the Holy Spirit for help to deliver the reading and for the people to hear and understand the reading, that makes the difference.”

In July, our parish’s lectors received a survey asking them to reflect on why they became lectors and what serving in this way means to them. Several lectors shared that it was an honor to proclaim the Word and to have this opportunity to model stewardship for their children or their grandchildren.

“Proclaiming God’s Word offered me a more intimate relationship with God and with the liturgy each week,” says Alike Sheldon. “It was a way for me to prepare myself for Sunday Mass beforehand so that I could come to a better understanding of His message for me.”

Any parishioner who is in good standing with the Church is welcome to become a lector and attend the New Lector Orientation Workshop offered several times a year. After participating in the workshop, new lectors are scheduled and lector approximately once a month at the same Mass time.

Two lectors are needed for each of the Sunday Masses, and lectors are also needed at the 7 a.m. daily Mass. Youth lectors proclaim the Word on the last Sunday of every month at the 8:45 a.m. Mass.

“Being a lector helps me feel like an integral part of the Eucharistic Sacrifice and celebration,” says Sue Slavish. “It also allows me to provide a link between the previous day’s readings and the subsequent day’s readings, to continue

Instruments of the Lord

the Scripture story being related.”

Each lector receives a guide book to help prepare to proclaim the Word. They also receive an email reminder that contains an audio link to a recording of another lector proclaiming the reading.

“In preparation, I review the workbook to help understand the readings and what they are saying,” says Michael Baylog. “Then I close the book and let it sink in. When I go up to lector, I ask God to be with me.”

Many lectors begin preparing days before and draw upon different resources, such as reflections from Bishop Robert Barron and the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to understand the content more deeply.

“Personally, for me to be a good lector, I need to practice the readings,” says Valerie Lau. “But more importantly, I need to pray for God’s guidance and blessings so I can deliver His message and teachings as He intended.”

Check the bulletin for the next Lector Orientation Workshop, and come find out more about how to serve in this liturgical ministry, and transform your relationship to the Mass and Scripture.

“Being a lector has made me so open not only in delivering, but also in receiving the Word,” says Diane Wong. “It has given me a deeper understanding of Scripture, and I am able to partake in the fullness of Mass.”



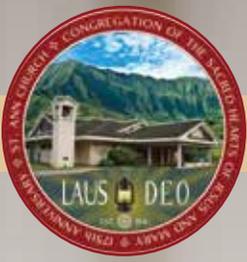
Our lectors serve as instruments of the Lord during the Liturgy.



Several of our lectors shared that it was an honor to proclaim the Word and to have this opportunity to model stewardship.

For more information about serving as a lector at St. Ann, please contact Lector coordinators Bernie and Dave Reeves regarding Sunday lector training at dave.bernie@gmail.com or 808-348-7370.

For questions regarding lectoring at daily Masses and lector scheduling, please reach out to Barbara Honda at bhonda@saintannahawaii.org or through the parish office at 808-247-3092. For questions regarding serving as a youth lector, contact Pono Wong through the parish office.



THE BLESSINGS OF THE *Catholic Mass*

It is ironic that today, with all of the freedom of religion that we enjoy in the United States, many of us wonder why we must go to Mass on Sunday.

However, if we really understood what the Mass is and how we participate in the celebration, we would instead be asking why we are, as sinful human beings, blessed with the opportunity to participate in the holy Mass. If we simply understood and recognized that God's infinite goodness allows us to do so, we would be eager to go to Mass on Sunday and every other day of the week.

It is true, however, that all Catholics are obliged to "Keep holy the Lord's Day" by sharing in the Mass. But why are we obliged?

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the center of our faith. It is "the summit toward which all activity of the Church is directed" and it is "the font from which all her power flows" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 10). It does not exhaust the activity of the Church, but is most certainly her greatest work.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is literally represented to the Father during Mass, and Christ allows us to join with Him in offering that sacrifice. Imagine our Lord and Savior dying on the cross for us right up the street. Imagine knowing that Mary is sitting at the foot of the cross with St. John, witnessing her Son giving Himself to the Father for the sake of all of us. Would we not run to be there? Would we not desire to share in His sacrifice, just as Mary did?

Believe it or not, the sacrifice of Calvary is really, truly happening at our parish, every time the Mass is offered.

Our participation in Mass gives us the strength and the graces we need to live our lives as Christ's

disciples. So, what does this mean for us?

This means we have a front row seat to the sacrifice of Calvary. Given such a gift, how can we not accept it?

We also have a chance to join in Jesus' sacrifice by offering our own prayers and petitions. As an example, what better gift could we give deceased loved ones than the offering of prayers for their souls in purgatory?

Most importantly, we have the opportunity to *receive* the Eucharist, followed by quiet time, when we offer sincere thanks and allow God's graces to fill us. Think of all you are missing when you do not properly prepare yourself to receive the Holy Eucharist.

We ought to joyfully head to Church each Sunday, eager to give God glory in the greatest way we can! Attending and actively participating in Mass every Sunday is our obligation as Catholics. But we should not allow the fact that our attendance is "required" to stop us from going. Nor should we allow our laziness to overshadow the amazing privilege and the many blessings that lay before us in the Mass.

The pope and the bishops direct us to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy every Sunday because they know there is no better way to keep holy the Lord's day — giving God thanks for all He has done for us in the most powerful way possible. They know that, through the Mass, we gain the graces necessary to live our lives in this world.

Our ability to participate in the Mass is a wonderful gift, not a great burden. May Christ enlighten our minds and hearts to clearly see the wonders of the celebration, and give us great enthusiasm and eagerness to participate.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Looking to St. Ann Volunteers for Help with Housing

Our homes often serve as the backdrop for our lives. They are the places we spend both our best and worst days. But when a home is unsafe or no longer fits the situation of the family that lives there, it can become a burden rather than a backdrop. That's where Honolulu Habitat for Humanity steps in to help.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to "put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope" — upholding the belief that everyone deserves a safe place to live in dignity. The worldwide, nonprofit housing organization seeks to eliminate substandard housing by bringing members of the community together to build, revitalize and preserve the homes of low-income individuals and their families.

Dave and Bernie Reeves are St. Ann parishioners who organize volunteers to help further Habitat for Humanity's mission. The Reeves say Habitat will build a house for and help provide low-interest loans for people who are within 30 to 60 percent of the average median income for Honolulu. In addition, the nonprofit

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A Prayer of Gratitude for a New Home

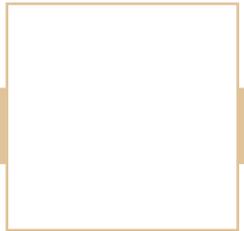
*Dear heavenly Father, we thank
You for guiding us to this new home
and for Your constant hand of
blessing on us and on our family.*

*We pray that Your peace and
love will be poured out in great
abundance on our home, and that
You would be ever present with us,
within its walls*

*Protect us we pray, from all the
evil and dangers of this world and
guard and guide us along the future
path that You would have us take.*

*May Your constant love stream
through the windows of our new
home and into the hearts of all
that live or visit here and may the
warmth of Your grace and Your
perfect peace be our ever present
comfort in time of need.*

*Thank You for all Your loving
kindness and grace towards us as
we dedicate this home to You and
pray that in Your grace, You would
use it to Your praise and glory, in
Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*



Saint Ann Church

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Habitat for Humanity *continued from page 7*

will provide renovations on houses like roofing, building ramps and painting, so that people who own that home will be able to remain there as long as possible.

Families and individuals who are chosen to receive a house or home improvement — partner families, as they're called — work alongside other volunteers and Habitat staff to build their house. This helps ensure that the cost of the house is much lower than that of a purchased house.

Two days each year, volunteers from St. Ann lend their time to a Habitat build to make sure the group's mission continues.

"We started in 2013," Bernie says. "We average

20 volunteers each build day for the construction and six volunteers to prepare lunch. St. Ann build days give volunteers a chance to work hard, meet other parishioners, enjoy a wonderful meal and have a lot of fun."

According to Honolulu Habitat for Humanity's website, volunteers not only get the unique opportunity to volunteer for a mission but can also pick up construction and repair skills along the way.

Parishioners who are interested in participating in an upcoming build day can sign up on Commitment Sunday and should watch the bulletin for updates on how to sign up.

For more information about volunteer opportunities with Habitat for Humanity, please visit www.honoluluhabitat.org/volunteering.

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.