

the parish news

1 KALIHI VALLEY

Our Lady of the Mount Parish

Our pastor **Father Edgar Brillantes** graciously welcomed to our parish **Father Falaniko Atonio**, administrator of **Our Lady of Sorrows Church** in Wahiawa. Father Falaniko presided at the solemn Samoan Mass which was well attended by 134 adults and 28 children. There were two deacons and one emcee, four altar servers, two musicians and two choirs (one on each side of the church). Father Falaniko has been appointed by the bishop to provide pastoral and spiritual ministry to the **Samoan communities in Hawaii**. At the conclusion of Mass, all the school-aged children and eight adults performed three dance numbers in front of the altar to the rhythm and tune of sacred church music. After Mass, the group congregated in the hall for fellowship. **Ropati Liua**, the parish Youth and Young Adult Minister, coordinated the event assisted by **Fran Kovaloff** and **Bella Miranda**. (From the parish bulletin; photo by Fran Kovaloff)



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2 EWA BEACH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Fifty-one candidates for Confirmation and First Communion and their parents attended our **First Reconciliation retreat** Nov. 16 at our parish. The retreat instructed the children and parents on the spirituality of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents and children explored each letter from the word "Reconciliation," what it stood for as well as church teachings explaining or describing each letter. With the help of the parents, the children nailed their sins to the Cross by reflecting on the Ten Commandments. By using their five fingers, the children also reviewed the steps in going to Confession. The last segment of the retreat enabled each child to sit down one-on-one with a catechist or parent-volunteer to go over the Confession steps but without disclosing their sins. The catechists who assisted the children were **Donna Alvaro, Joe Rayray** and **Eleanor Ragojo**. Our parent volunteers were **Liz Roberto, Tomi Tangonan** (pictured) and **Irene Villareal**. First Reconciliation was celebrated on Nov. 18, with **Father Jong Atinaja** and **Father Vincent Anh Vu**. Assisting in the Liturgy of the Word were choir coordinator **Teo Matsuda**, lector coordinator **Derek Salis**, and cantor **Timari Sejalbo**. ... Meanwhile, 40 teens attended our **Life Teen's Fall Retreat** at Camp Waianae Nov. 15-17. Retreat directors **John Barbasa, Dyllan Mamasig, Megan Ramones** and **Helene Rebamonte** led the group to reflect and pray on the retreat theme, "Steady our Souls." The retreat included eucharistic adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharist. (Reported by Julia Torres)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE



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3 NUUANU

St. Stephen Parish

It was a joyful reunion, a welcome home for **Carmelite Sister Pauline Therese**, pictured center, when she attended our 9:30 a.m. Mass and fellowship lunch on Oct. 20. Her parents **Paul and Laura Wong** and family have been longtime parishioners many years ago. Sister Pauline was a student at **Sacred Hearts Academy**, graduated from **Maryknoll High School** and San Jose State College with a bachelor's degree in secretarial administration. Sister Pauline (Paula Wong) joined the **Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles** on Jan. 21, 1974. Her first vow was taken on July 19, 1976. Perpetual vows were recited before family and community members on Sept. 8, 1982. In 2008, she was assigned to the American House of Studies at Domus Sanctae Mariae Guadalupe in Rome, Italy as secretary. Her office was at the Vatican. Sister Pauline lived in Rome for 10 years. During her stay in Rome she attended the canonizations of St. Damien and St. Marianne. Awesome! Sister Pauline came home to visit family and friends. She now resides in Culver City, California, and is assigned to a skilled nursing facility. (Reported by Ginny Jordan; photo by Marie Tokuda Wong)



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4 PEARL CITY

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

White Sunday was celebrated Oct. 13 at the 6:30 a.m. Mass. This year marks the fifth annual celebration of our traditional White Sunday — a dual celebration of faith and family by **Samoan church congregations and families** throughout ethnic Samoan expatriate communities. It is a special day designated for our Samoan parents and communities to acknowledge and celebrate our children during church services. In Samoa, the holiday is called **Lotu Tamaiti**, literally translated as **Children's Service or Prayer for**

the Children. In preparation for this celebration, the children work diligently for months, memorizing and learning various scriptural recitations (tauloto), biblical story re-enactments, creative dance performances and/or praise and worship. All in an attempt to express both their God-given talents and their love for God! The celebration begins in church and continues at home with a huge feast where the children remain the focus and are celebrated. The children look forward to this day because it is the one day they get to enjoy privileges normally reserved for our elders; mainly being the first to be served at meal times, to be catered to, and overall a day where they get a pass

on chores, or other routinely, designated responsibilities. (Reported by the OLGCSamoan Community; photo by Bernadette Cabe)

5 PAUOA VALLEY

Blessed Sacrament Parish

We, the parishioners of our parish would like to thank our **Bishop Larry Silva** for taking the time from his busy schedule to do an **episcopal visit** with us on Nov. 2 and 3. We are grateful for his celebration of Masses at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass, the 7 a.m. Mass and the **Tridentine (Latin) Mass**. He met with the parish leadership on Saturday after the 5 p.m. Mass

and then with all parishioners after the Sunday 10 a.m. Latin Mass for a town hall meeting Both gatherings were fruitful as we shared things we like at our parish, challenges we face, and our hopes and dreams. We thank Bishop Silva for listening to us and having a portion of time for us to ask questions pertaining to our church and pertinent things of concern. **Jim Walsh** served as his faithful recorder. Prior to the meetings, all present enjoyed attendees' potluck menu dish shared resulting with a lavish spread of good nutrients. Maikai. With grateful hearts, we are blessed to have the Bishop Silva as our shepherd of the Diocese of Honolulu. (Reported by Elizabeth Lum)

6 KAPAA

St. Catherine Parish

We would like to thank all of the donors who make a Catholic education possible for many. **St. Catherine School students** participated in our annual **Adopt-a-Student Mass** here on Nov. 10. It is really special to see all of the students come to Sunday Mass in their formal school uniforms. They do a very professional and very sweet job being altar servers, lectors, singing the Responsorial Psalm, the Alleluia and more. A **pancake breakfast** followed. Parents and staff helped to cook a delicious meal. This coincided with **Veteran's Day weekend**. All veterans were served a free meal as a small token to say "thank you." We are all truly blessed to have donors, veterans and helpers of all kinds be a part of our parish community. Pictured is first grader **Eleanor Simczak** doing the first reading at the Adopt-a-Student Mass. (Reported by Elizabeth Sancho)

7 KAHULUI

Christ the King Parish

A **rosary for the veterans living and deceased** was held here Nov. 11. Starting with a procession, presenting Mother Mary with lei of aloha by **Joan Ai**, presenting U.S. flag belonging to **Harriet Sardinha's late husband Ervan** and lighting of the candles that represent each U.S. Military service: **Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard**. **Father Napoleon Andres, MS**, led invocations in honor of our veterans and blessed the veterans: First Mystery-**Cumming Mahoe III**; Second Mystery-**Virgilio Agcolico**; third Mystery-**Ozzie Nelson**; Fourth Mystery-**John Duarte**; Fifth Mystery-**Jeffrey Grimes**. Praise God for all who served. (Reported by Caroline Sadiric)

8 KEKAHA

St. Theresa Parish

Our parish is most thankful for all the many parishioners who give of their **time, talent and treasure** throughout the year! We hope that everyone had a wonderfully blessed Thanksgiving! ... As the month of December is fast approaching, our parish is getting ready to celebrate the annual **Misa de Gallo Novena** with daily Mass at 5 a.m. We invite everyone to be a part of this special nine-day Novena in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Christmas, while contemplating his second coming. ... Since this is the last issue of the "Parish News" until after the New Year, we extend our most abundant blessings to all our brothers and sisters for a most wonderful and blessed Advent and Christmas seasons. We ask God to bless all of us with his bounteous graces and cheer. **Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!** (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte)

9 MAKAKILO

St. Jude Parish

In celebration of **St. Jude Feast Day**, parishioners held a nine-day novena, had a special procession following Mass on Oct. 26, then on Sunday they were greeted by **Lion Dancers** after the 11 a.m. Mass. Games, entertainment and food was the order of the day! Everyone had fun! Pictured is **Father Vincent Vu** along with the two of the Lions! (Reported by Keahi Teson)



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10 AIEA

St. Elizabeth Parish

After a two-year hiatus, our **Spooktacular event** came back with a filled-to-capacity crowd! Little ones, big ones and all those in between arrived as ghosts, dinosaurs, superheroes and much more. Highlights of the evening were the haunted room, (created by **Life Teen**), where you could hear both screams and laughter. Then there was the introduction of **Trunk-or-Treat**, sponsored by our **St. Elizabeth School ohana**. The little ones shrieked with delight as they grabbed handfuls of candy from the decorated car trunks. Of course, shave-ice, popcorn and cotton candy were a big hit too, along with the prize drawings as we neared the end of the night's activities. The social committee sends a big mahalo to our ministries and school ohana for their support, and to those who came just to have fun! (Reported by **Bernie Teson**)

11 HAIKU

St. Rita Parish

Our ninth annual **parish Fall Sale** on Nov. 2 was an awesome and successful event! We were blessed with great weather, an abundance of rummage items, produce, plants, beautiful handmade crafts, scrumptious breads baked by St. Rita bakers, pickled items, jams and jellies. Also an array of silent auction items were donated by community merchants. Ono foods cooked by parishioners included kalua pork plate, gandule rice, chili and chow fun. Wonderful entertainment by **Jamie Park, Wayne Freitas and friends** welcomed all with local music. We thank the Maui community for coming and supporting our annual event. A big mahalo to our **hardworking parish volunteers** and all who donated items. Pictured are parishioners gathering for the morning prayer and blessing of the event by our pastor **Father Chacko Muthoottil**. (Reported by **Esther Yap**)

MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Parish

Our parish **Social Outreach Ministry** will hold a **rummage sale** on Dec. 1 from 7 a.m. to noon at the church gym. Proceeds will benefit the Social Outreach Ministry in serving the needy during the holiday season. Donated items of new and gently used items are being accepted. Contact the ministry ladies listed in the bulletin. Also, the ministry is requesting your **Foodland Maikai Rewards** for their holiday **Food Pantry** distribution. (Reported by **Donna Pico**)

KULIOUOU

Holy Trinity Parish

The pastor mailed out more than 40 invitations to parishioners "who could benefit" from the parish's **Catholics for Christmas** program for baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and who want to receive the sacrament of

confirmation this Christmas season. Preparation involves four one-hour sessions presented by the parish's two deacons. The program is open to any adult who is baptized but not yet confirmed. (From the parish bulletin)

HONOLULU

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

The pastor writes in the Nov. 10 parish bulletin: "After many months of preparation, consultation and prayer, Sts. Peter and Paul has now embarked on a **Capital Campaign** that must raise the necessary funds to purchase the property located at **771 Amana St.** (The property directly behind our church). As of today, we have received \$849,208 from you our parishioners, visitors and friends and we give our thanks to the Lord for helping us to get closer to our goal of \$1.2 million by December. As you walk to your car this weekend, imaging the possibilities of adding this property to our parish campus. There is a place there for everyone, with an opportunity for community services, hospitality and welcoming growth in ministry and home for our faith formation of children and families." (From the parish bulletin)

KALAHEO

Holy Cross Parish

We would like to acknowledge **Averiet Soto** whom **Bishop Silva** conferred to the ministry of acolyte, along with 12 other candidates for the permanent diaconate, on Oct. 13. Averiet and his wife, **Debra**, have been attending classes and formation for the past four years, and the ministry of acolyte is the last major step before ordination. Congratulations to Averiet, Debra and their family as they move toward his ordination in 2021. ... Parishioners helped fill the shelves of our **Food Pantry** this Thanksgiving by bringing non-perishable and canned food items to Masses on Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving Day. Thank you for the compassion and generosity shown by everyone. Mahalo! ... **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project** continues to be successful at our parish. The boxes were transported to the Shoebox Center on Kauai where they will be shipped to children all over the world. ... Just a reminder, our parish's **Advent Penance Service** is Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. Plan to attend our service or one of the services at other parishes on Kauai. Penance is a way to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. ... Our parish will display Christmas lights at our **first Festival of Lights** event. Parish ministries, organizations and families are invited to create a light display. The festival will be on display Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 21-22, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The displays will be along the lanai of the old Holy Cross School. Entertainment will be provided and dinner and other refreshments will be on sale by the **Youth Ministry**. Interested families and groups can contact **Mindy Santella** or the parish office for information. ... The **Misa de Gallo**

Novena and Masses are just around the corner, so remember to stock up on your sleep. **Misa de Gallo** begins at 5 a.m. each morning from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24 at Holy Cross Church. Fellowship and refreshments follow in the parish hall. ... On behalf of the parishioners of Holy Cross Parish, we hope everyone had a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. We pray, at this time of the year, that everyone is blessed with the spirit of Christmas and will share the love, mercy, grace and joy that the birth of Jesus brings to the world. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! (Reported by **Judy Cabating**)

WAIALUA

St. Michael Parish

The parish bulletin highlights parishioner **Sheila Pactol** as Disciple of the Month. Sheila, 79, is lector coordinator, finance chairperson and "whatever the Lord wants." She has been in the parish 38 years, active for 17 years. How did she get involved? "I was sitting in the back of

the church one day, when **Remy Erroc** approached me and asked me to read. I asked her, what do you mean? She explained what a lector was and then I said yes and ever since then I've been helping at St. Michael Church in various capacities." (From the parish bulletin)

12 KAHUKU

St. Roch Parish

So many **repairs and improvements** being made at our parish. We have a new wheelchair ramp, new windows and fans in the church, new stairs and flooring in our classrooms and a new drainage system in the church yard that has eliminated flooding. For the entire month of October, we had a house-to-house rosary every evening at the homes of many parishioners, followed by food and fellowship. It was our third year and our way of honoring the Blessed mother. Now we are preparing for **Simbang Gabi** beginning Dec 19 up to Dec 24. (Reported by **Sharin Au**)

KAILUA

St. John Vianney Parish

Our parish continues its series on **Apologetics**, how to best defend and explain our Catholic faith and beliefs. The focus for December is on the **Body and Blood of Christ**. The Catholic Church believes that the Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ, and always has from its very beginnings. Until the Reformation, all Christianity accepted the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Unfortunately, a recent poll suggested that a majority of U.S. Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Our **Faith Formation Committee** decided that we should do more to educate our parishioners on this important, but complex teaching. All month long we will explain how the bread and wine by the words of consecration at Mass becomes the Body and Blood of Christ. This miracle is called transubstantiation, and our goal is that more will come to understand this central fact of our beliefs. (Reported by **Earl Walker**)



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