

CENTENNIAL INAUGURAL BANQUET CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

BY ALMIE LONZAGA | FEBRUARY 20, 2026



A Joyful Beginning to a Historic Celebration

Holy Rosary Church formally opened its yearlong centennial celebration on February 14, 2026, with the Inaugural Centennial Banquet, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the church's 1926 groundbreaking. The evening started with a special Mass celebrated by Fr. William Kunisch, who offered prayers of thanksgiving for all those who built, nurtured, and sustained the parish over the last century. His message invited the community to enter this centennial year with gratitude for the past and renewed commitment for the years ahead.

Honoring Those Who Served

The anticipated mass was concelebrated by our previous pastor, Fr. Gary Colton, and our present pastor, Fr. Jose Macoy, together with the presence of deacons Christopher Ribucan and Patrick Constantino. Their attendance served as a heartfelt reminder of the clergy who have

faithfully guided Holy Rosary's sacramental and pastoral life through the decades. Parishioners enjoyed reconnecting with them and recalling ministries, milestones, and traditions that continue to enrich parish life today.



Equally moving was the presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose dedication to Catholic education shaped the lives of many parish families. Their return rekindled warm memories of the Holy Rosary Church elementary school—an institution that served the community with devotion until its closing in 1962. Their fellowship serves as a moment of remembrance for all those who helped build and sustain our parish throughout the decades.



Gathering in Fellowship

Following the liturgy, over 200 parishioners and guests came together for the banquet, filling the church grounds with a warm spirit of belonging. Families representing multiple generations shared stories, memories, and reflections on how Holy Rosary has shaped their lives and the wider Paia community. The celebration also welcomed members from other Catholic parishes in

the Maui Vicariate, whose presence expressed the unity of the local Church and strengthened the bonds of fellowship across our island faith communities. The gathering marked a beautiful beginning to a year of celebration.



A Meal Shared in Community

Guests enjoyed a beautifully prepared buffet meal, highlighted by a wide selection of pupus that welcomed everyone with generous hospitality. Before the main course, a fresh, vibrant salad was served with a personal touch, adding warmth and care to the dining experience. The banquet also featured an impressive teppanyaki-style buffet line, where guests watched as many of the food selections were cooked fresh right in front of them, adding excitement, aroma, and a memorable culinary experience to the evening. The parish offers sincere gratitude to Chef Crisanto Gutierrez, whose skill, thoughtfulness, and generosity, together with his team, helped make the banquet meal a memorable centerpiece of the evening. The thoughtful presentation and abundance of food created an atmosphere of togetherness that set a wonderful tone for the centennial year.



Music, Memories, and Joy

Live music throughout the evening enriched the atmosphere with a spirit of celebration. Parishioners and guests exchanged stories, reconnected with old friends, and reflected on the many blessings Holy Rosary has received over the past century. Laughter, conversation, and shared gratitude filled the air. Many shared their appreciation for the evening, noting how well the event was organized, how delicious the dinner was, and how thoughtful details made the celebration feel especially memorable.

Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

The success of the Inaugural Centennial Banquet was made possible in part through the generous support of Holy Rosary's major sponsors: Mahi Pono, The Grassmaster, Kekuhaup'i'o and Cindy Akana, and Diamond B Ranch. In recognition of their partnership and contributions, all major sponsors and donors are found in the Centennial Souvenir Book. Their generosity helped create a beautiful and meaningful start to this once-in-a-century celebration, and the parish is deeply grateful.

Gratitude for Dedicated Volunteers

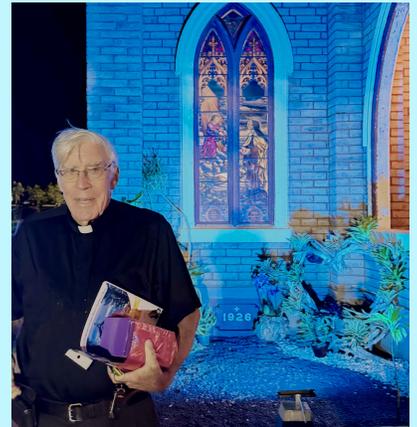
The parish extends heartfelt appreciation to Banquet Chairman Vergel Lonzaga, whose leadership and dedication ensured a smooth and well-organized event. His work brought together many hands and hearts in service to the parish. Holy Rosary also offers sincere thanks to the Centennial Committee and to the many parish volunteers whose planning, setup, décor, hospitality, and clean-up made the celebration possible. Their quiet, faithful service reflected the best of our parish's spirit.

Special thanks are also extended to the volunteer servers, including the dedicated groups from Job Corps and the Baldwin High School Key Club. Their gracious service, professionalism, and willingness to assist contributed greatly to the warm hospitality experienced by all who attended.

Looking Ahead with Faith and Hope

As Holy Rosary Church continues its centennial year—**A Century of Faithfulness Through Mary's Fullness of Grace**—the Inaugural Centennial Banquet stands as a joyful and inspiring beginning. It reflects the parish's rich history and the countless individuals whose faith, sacrifice, and love have shaped Holy Rosary over the past hundred years.

May the memories created at this celebration inspire the parish throughout the year and guide Holy Rosary with hope into the next hundred years of faith and service.



(808) 579-9551



954 Baldwin Ave., Paia, HI 96779



www.holyrosarypaia.org

HOLY ROSARY
CHURCH