

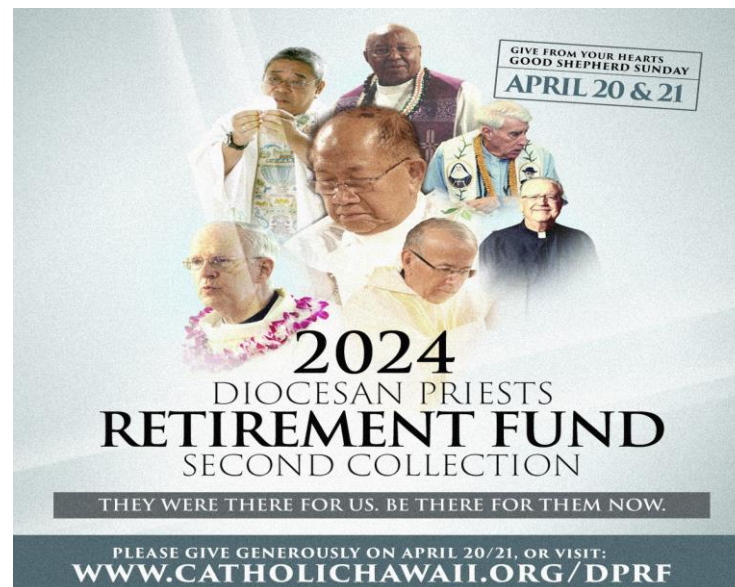
EASTER – A Joyful Season for Missionary Disciples

For those who exercise good stewardship of their Catholic faith, this April is the happiest, most joyful of months for it ushers in the great Easter season – a season of profound hope and joy. During the Easter season, which extends 50 days, from the Easter Vigil Mass of Saturday evening, March 30 to the Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday, on Saturday evening, May 19, Christian stewards are exhorted to celebrate and be joyful, for our Savior is with us.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (“The joy of the Gospel”), Pope Francis revealed that the best way to live out the joy of Easter is to become a genuine family of faith, an “evangelizing Church that comes out of herself.” He urged Catholics around the world to contemplate the mind of Jesus Christ and what it means to be the “light of Christ.” From there, Francis believed a spirituality of missionary discipleship could be cultivated that would “help the Church get out of herself” and reach out to those who live in darkness.

At the Easter Vigil, all the great symbols are there: darkness, light, fire, water. The Vigil begins in darkness; not a darkness to be ignored, but a darkness in which we realize where we would be without the light of Christ, a darkness that reveals much about our world, our own sinfulness, the darkness that sometimes envelopes our own lives and even shrouds our own hearts. But then, the great fire of the Vigil is lit, a fire which consumes the darkness, and the procession into the church reminds us of the light and strength provided by the community of the faithful and the saving light of Christ. We remember the waters of baptism during the Vigil as we renew our baptismal vows. The Vigil also brings into our community those newly baptized who proceed joyfully with us into April.

As missionary disciples who exercise stewardship of Jesus’ teaching, come into the glory of this April, join with those apostles whose hearts were on fire, and contemplate the words of the risen Lord: “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (Matt. 5:16). For missionary disciples, this charge should be enough to bring hope and joy. Indeed, April is the most glorious of months. Christ is risen! Alleluia!



Next week our Second Collection will be for the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund. This is a different collection from the Religious Retirement Fund that is done each December. Coinciding with next weekend’s Good Shepherd Sunday, we are asked to prayerfully consider giving generously to this collection that will directly support our priests who are in their retirement years. They have given their lives shepherding our communities, and we pray that they are adequately cared for in this next chapter of their lives.

Thank you for completing the 9 Day Novena to Divine Mercy



OLD HISTORICAL CHURCH



NEW CHURCH

ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH
Oldest Catholic Church on Kauai – est. 1841
3011 Hapa Road, Koloa, Hawaii 96756
Phone: (808) 742-1955
Fax: (808) 742-1845
Rectory: (808) 320-8758
Website: St-Raphael-kauai.org
Email: straphael@rcchawaii.org

BOTH CHURCHES – SAME ADDRESS

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Rizal Pedro Acosta, MS – Pastor
Office Secretary – Rose Dela Cruz

Parish Accounting Manager:
Michele Lum

Volunteer Accountant:
Mercedes Casticimo (as needed)

Volunteer Bookkeeper:
Marina Pascua

Volunteer - PDS
Laure Dietterle
Laurel Busse

Religious Education Director:
Allison Carveiro

Food Pantry:
Benymar Tapucol

Filipino Catholic Club:
Lydia Rebugio

Pastoral Council:
Paul Roberts - Chairperson

Finance Council:
Jacquelyn Contrades

Baptism: Submit application form and required papers to the Parish Office. Baptism class will be scheduled upon receipt of completed applications. Baptism are usually held on Sunday after the 9:30AM Mass.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Contact the Office for more information.

Marriage: Contact the Parish Office for more information at least six months before wedding.

RCIA: Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office for scheduling the visit.

Funerals: Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.



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Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM (Old Church) **Wednesday:** 7:00 AM (Old Church) followed by Novena

Saturday: 5:00 PM (New Church) **Sunday:** 7:00 AM (New Church) 9:30 AM (New Church)

Reconciliation: 30 Minutes before Mass on the weekends in the Parish Office

Sacrament of the Sick: Call the Parish Office at (808) 742-1955 to schedule an appointment

April Birthdays

Tante Butac 15
Richard Liberato 17
Perfecto Labrador 18
Natalie Tadije 19



May God richly bless you and grant the wishes of your heart!

VICARIATE OF KAUAI EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

WHEN: JUNE 8, 2024
WHERE: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
MASS AT 8:00 AM FOLLOWED BY A LIVE STREAMING FROM MAUI – PRESENTED BY FR. RAFAEL CAPO. THERE WILL BE NO 7 AM MASS AT ICP. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN.



Captured this beautiful sunset during the Stations-of-the-Cross



A Stewardship Moment

An underlying lesson from all three readings this weekend is that the Risen Christ has wiped away our sins, not only for individuals, but throughout the world and its history. The terrible power of sin has now been reversed and our coming to perfection through the love of God is part of the Easter experience. As stewards of God's love we are called to participate in Christ's redemptive activity. The stewardship questions for us are many: How do we resist injustice at home or in the workplace? How do we confront violence in our language and attitudes? How do we bring Christ to others?



Stewards of Treasure
Weekly Collections, April 7, 2024

Collection	\$ 2,961.00
Rice Bowls	\$ 362.10
Good Friday	\$ 90.00
Votive Candles	\$ 526.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 176.00
Gift Shop	\$ 912.50
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 200.00
Filipino Catholic Club Membership Dues	\$ 24.00
Second Collection for Ohana in Christ	\$ 267.60
Online Church Offering	\$ 1,397.70
Online Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 100.00

MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



*We will have a Special Collection on April 27 & 28. This collection is to help advance the cause for Canonization of Servant of God Joseph Dutton Layman. Thank you.

*St. Raphael Parish will be having an Appreciation Luncheon for all volunteers & members of all ministries on Sunday, April 21 at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Please call the Parish Office if you are attending by April 15. Mahalo.

* St. Raphael Church's drive thru Food Pantry distribution will be on Thursday, April 18 from 4:30PM to 6PM.

*Our Gift Shop is open after mass on weekends. Weekday schedule is 8 am to 2 pm. Thank you.



St. Raphael's Church Online giving is tested and secured and a convenient way to give your weekly offerings or donations anytime from the comfort of your own home, or from any place with internet access. For more information, please visit our website at: st-raphael-kauai.org



MAHALO for celebrating with us this weekend. You may be visiting, new to our community, or live on this beautiful Island. We hope you enjoyed your time at St. Raphael Church and considered St. Raphael Church your "home" away from home.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19

Peter preaches that Jesus has been raised from the dead and calls upon the people to repent.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 4:2,4,7-8,9

A prayer seeking God's favor

Second Reading

1 John 2:1-5a

Those who know God keep his commandments.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:35-48

Jesus appears again to his disciples and shares a meal with them.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

National Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist. Jesus **living** in the Eucharist, come and live in me. Jesus' **healing** in the Eucharist, come and heal me. Jesus **sacrificing yourself** in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me. Jesus **rising** in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me. Jesus **loving** in the Eucharist, come and love in me. Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Our Lady of Peace, Mother of the Eucharist, Pray for us.



You alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.

— Psalm 4:9