



St. Joseph Parish School

Parent Newsletter February 9, 2025

www.stjosephwaipahu.org



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Leave me, Lord! I am a sinful man."

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings to you on this 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time!

Just four days ago, I celebrated my 26th Anniversary of priestly ordination, an occasion that filled my heart with gratitude and reflection. I am reminded of the profound words of Simon Peter in today's Gospel: "Leave me, Lord! I am a sinful man."

These words resonate not only with my own journey but also with the themes of today's readings: Isaiah's prophetic call, Paul's reflection on the resurrection, and the miraculous catch of fish in Luke's Gospel.

The First Reading, from Prophet Isaiah (6:1-8), reveals a powerful moment of encounter between the prophet and the Divine. Isaiah stands before the Lord in the temple, overwhelmed by God's holiness and his own unworthiness. "Woe is me! I am a man of unclean lips," he cries out.

Yet, despite our unworthiness, God purifies and calls Isaiah to a greater purpose. This illuminates the duality of God's recognition of our sinfulness and His relentless desire to use us for His glory. In my own life, I often feel like Isaiah, realizing my inadequacies, yet feeling the unmistakable call to serve.

In the Second Reading, from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:1-11), we encounter Paul, who acknowledges his past as a persecutor of the Church. He describes himself as the least of the apostles, a man unworthy of the grace he received.

Paul's transformation serves as a testament that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy. Just as I have often reflected on my own sinfulness, Paul's words remind us that our past does not define us. Rather, it is through God's grace that we find our purpose and strength. It's not about our worthiness but about God's unwavering love for us—even in the depths of our failures.

In the Gospel, from Luke (5:1-11), we witness Peter's encounter with Jesus at the Sea of Galilee. After a night of fruitless fishing, Peter obeys Jesus' command to cast his nets once more.

The resulting catch is miraculous, leaving Peter overwhelmed and confessing, "Leave me, Lord! I am a sinful man!" Yet, Jesus does not leave him; instead, He calls Peter to a life of discipleship.

This narrative reflects the very essence of our faith journey: it's often in our moments of despair and recognition of our inadequacies that Jesus invites us into something greater, urging us to trust in His power rather than our own ability.

As we consider these readings today, let us acknowledge the duality of our experience—our sinfulness and God's boundless mercy. God sees within us the potential for greatness, even when we are blinded by our faults. He calls us not to dwell in the shadow of shame but to step into the light of His love and purpose.

Today, I invite you to reflect on your own lives. When you encounter your weaknesses and feel unworthy, remember that our Lord sees your potential. He invites you to go out into the deep waters of faith, to trust in Him wholeheartedly. Just as I have had to confront my own limitations as a priest, you, too, are called to entrust your lives to God.

Let us, then, echo the words of Peter, fully aware of our limitations, but emboldened by His presence. "Lord, I am not worthy, I am a sinful man/woman. But, do not leave me. Instead, only say the word, and I shall be healed."

May we open our hearts to the life-changing power of God's love, allowing Him to work through our imperfections and failures, leading us toward His perfect will.

As we participate in this Eucharistic feast, let us prepare to receive Him, acknowledging both our need for mercy and our readiness to follow wherever He may lead.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Eric Castro, MS
Pastor

School and Parish Staff

Fr. Geronimo (Eric) Castro, MS
Pastor

Ms. Beverly Sandobal, Principal
bsandobal@stjosephwaipahu.org

Mrs. Denise Cashman
Office Manager/Admissions Director
dcashman@stjosephwaipahu.org

School Main Office
(808) 677-4475 Fax (808) 677-8937

Mrs. Mary Cachuela
Parish Office Manager
Parish Office: (808) 677-4276

Special Dates & Events

Monday, February 10th

PICTURE TAKING FOR GROUPS

SEE PAGE 2

Tuesday, February 11th

Grade 5 Excursion
"I Go to College"

Healing Mass at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 12th

EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00

Professional Development Day

**NO AFTER SCHOOL
CARE SERVICES**

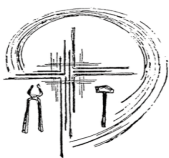
Friday, February 14th

School Mass at 8:15 am
Sponsor Grade 3A
Formal Uniform required

Happy Birthday Father Valentine
and Happy 15th Sacerdotal
Anniversary Father Jiju



<p><u>Monday, February 10th</u></p> <p><u>Group Pictures</u></p> <p>The students who are members of any group listed in the right column, must wear their formal uniform. All KOA members must also bring their cassocks.</p>	<p><u>Attire: FORMAL UNIFORM</u></p> <p>Choir and Instrumentalists, Track Team, Knights of the Altar (Bring Cassock), Girls and Boys Basketball Teams, Girls and Boys Volleyball Teams, Project Based Learning, Yearbook, and Technology Team</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, January 12th</u></p> <p>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY FOR ALL FACULTY AND STAFF</p>	<p>EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00</p> <p><u>NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE SERVICES</u></p>
<p><u>Friday, February 14th</u></p> <p><u>School Mass at 8:15 am</u></p> <p><u>Formal Uniform Required</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Birthday Father Valentine, MS • Happy 15th Sacerdotal Anniversary Father Jiju, MS • Bring leis, flowers, cards for our priests.



St. Joseph Parish & School
 One 'Ohana Fund: One 'Ohana for the Environment



Let's come together as one 'ohana in raising funds for our beloved parish & school through our recyclable items.

**Saturday,
 February 15th**

From 10:00 - 12:00 PM at the
 St. Joseph Parish & School Parking Lot!



Thank you to Waipahu Recycling, LLC.

**THEME: Responding to the Call: Embracing Stewardship
through Faith and Service.**

As we gather in reflection and community, I would like to share some insights on Stewardship—an essential aspect of our faith—as illustrated in the Sacred scriptures.

The readings from Isaiah, 1 Corinthians, and Luke remind us of the call to service and the commitment we are invited to make in our spiritual journey.

In my priesthood, I have encountered both the joys and challenges of stewardship, and I wish to share three vital lessons we can draw from these readings.

Lesson 1: The Call to Holiness and Service (Isaiah 6:1-8)

In Isaiah's vision, we see a profound encounter with God that leads to a divine calling. Isaiah, upon witnessing the glory of the Lord, is acutely aware of his sinfulness and the need for purification.

When he hears God's voice asking, "Whom shall I send?" he responds, "Here I am! Send me." This moment beautifully exemplifies our own calls to holiness and service.

Stewardship begins with recognizing our need for God's grace and holiness. As parishioners, we are called not only to receive God's blessings but also to be instruments of that grace in the world.

Being stewards means offering our time, talents, and resources for God's mission. Let us take the same willingness that Isaiah exhibited and ask ourselves how we can respond to God's call in our daily lives.

Lesson 2: The Reality of Our Transformation (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

In this passage, Paul reflects on the transformative power of the resurrection, emphasizing its foundation for the Christian faith. He speaks of how the early believers witnessed the risen Christ, acknowledging their own imperfections and changes they experienced because of their faith.

Stewardship requires a willingness to embrace transformation. Just as the apostles were transformed from fearful individuals to bold proclaimers of the Gospel, our journey of stewardship involves growth.

Paul's message reminds us that regardless of our past, we can be changed by God's love and grace. This transformation prompts us to be active participants in our community, using our resources to serve others and spread the message of Christ.

Lesson 3: The Abundance of God's Provision (Luke 5:1-11)

In the story of the miraculous catch of fish, we witness Jesus calling the disciples. After a night of futile fishing, Peter and his companions follow Jesus' instructions, resulting in an overwhelming catch. This powerful moment illustrates both Jesus' authority and the abundance that follows faith-filled action.

God provides abundantly when we respond to His call through stewardship. Often, we may feel weary or inadequate, like Peter after a long night of fishing.

However, when we trust in Christ and act as good stewards of what we have—our time, talents, and resources—we discover God's bounteous blessings.

This passage reassures us that through our willingness to serve, we will never be left wanting. It's vital to extend this abundance, sharing generously with our communities as a testimony of our faith.

Conclusion

Beloved parishioners, I invite you to reflect on these lessons as we embark on our stewardship journey together. Let us commit to being faithful disciples—accepting the call to serve, embracing the transformative power of God's grace, and giving generously from the abundance He provides.

As your pastor, I am deeply grateful for your support and dedication, and together, we can grow in stewardship, making a profound impact in our parish and beyond.

In Christ's service,

Fr. Eric Castro, MS



Stewardship in ACTION

EMBRACING OUR SHARED MISSION. WEEK IN REVIEW.



WHEELCHAIR SUNDAY | The Wheelchair Global Mission of the Knights of Columbus - Hawaii has embarked on a remarkable initiative to provide mobility and hope to individuals with disabilities across various provinces in Luzon, Philippines. They began with the home parish of Fr. Eric in Pampanga, and continued their outreach to the central and northern regions of Luzon. This exemplifies true stewardship and faith in action, transforming lives and fostering a spirit of community and compassion.



PINWHEELS FOR LIFE | JAN 22 Students of St. Joseph Parish School commemorated the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children this past Wednesday, January 22. Following the Mass, students, faculty, and staff placed blue and pink pinwheels facing Farrington Highway. These pinwheels remind us of sixty million babies lost through abortion.



MARCH FOR LIFE | JAN 24 Eighth-grade students from St. Joseph Parish School, as well as members of the Filipino Catholic Club and Knights of Columbus (Council 10475), represented our parish community at the March for Life on January 24. Participants listened to speakers, sang, prayed, and marched around the State capital to promote the Gospel of life.

Stewardship in ACTION



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATING VOCATIONS & CAREERS



Vocations and Career Day Father Eric, MS, our devoted Pastor, shared his inspiring journey in the priesthood, while Sister Mark and Sister Emilie, OP, offered beautiful testimonies of faith and service. Nurse Haylee Carlson, RN, from Chaminade, encouraged students with her dedication to healthcare. Mikey Monis, a Class of 2006 alumnus and TV personality/producer from KHON's *Living 808* morning show, shared his path in media and broadcasting. Mikey has also arranged for our 8th graders to tour the studio and see how broadcasting is produced. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our inspiring vocation and career speakers for sharing their remarkable stories with students in grades 2-8. Their words encouraged our students to follow their passions, embrace their faith, and trust in God's plan for their futures!



We thank Chaminade University for providing this pilot program at St. Joseph Parish School.

January 30, 2025

Aloha Students and Families!

I am thrilled to share that St. Joseph's Parish School has partnered with Chaminade University of Honolulu to launch a new pilot program aimed at establishing student health services to promote student health and wellbeing. This collaboration will allow us to implement innovative practices designed to address both physical and mental health in a holistic way.

The program will provide students, staff, and parents with access to wellness resources, workshops, and personalized care options, all rooted in the latest research with Chaminade University's health programs. We will also be offering educational opportunities for students to learn about healthy habits, emotional well-being, and the importance of self-care.

As part of this pilot program, I will be serving as the new school nurse here at St. Joseph Parish School! My name is Haylee Carlson, and I am excited to be a part of this wonderful community. I have an extensive background in emergency and pediatric nursing and am passionate about empowering students to thrive. I am excited to work with and support all of you with your health and wellness needs throughout this school year.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and working together to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our school community. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime if you have any questions or if I can be of any help to you. My email address here is schoolnurse@stjosephwaipahu.org.

Wishing you all many blessings and a wonderful start to the new year!

Very Respectfully,

Haylee Carlson, BSN, RN, CEN
School Nurse

Chaminade University of Honolulu
In collaboration with
St. Joseph Parish School

EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP. WEEK IN REVIEW.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK | JAN 27 & JAN 28 During Catholic Schools Week, SJPS celebrated Mass and honored Dcn. David and Dcn John as they celebrated their one-year diaconate anniversary. SJPS showcased their talents at their annual talent show.



NEW YEAR'S BALL GALA | JAN 31 St. Joseph Parish & School celebrated their first Gala on Friday, January 31 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio. It was a wonderful night full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Join us for the next one on January 30, 2026—Masquerade Ball! See you there

St. Joseph Ministry Fair and Feast Day Celebration

“Growing Together in Stewardship One People + One Spirit + One Mission”

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we continue our journey in faith and stewardship, we are excited to share two important upcoming events: **the Ministry Fair and our St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration**. These events are wonderful opportunities for our parish and school community to come together in gratitude and service, recognizing that all we have is a gift from God.

As a Stewardship School, we strive to instill in our students that true stewardship is a way of life. We must first acknowledge God’s many blessings, and in response, we offer ourselves—our time, talents, and treasure—to Him. Stewardship calls us to be welcoming people, deepen our relationship with God through prayer, participation in the sacraments, scripture reflection, and acts of service. The Diocese of Wichita beautifully defines stewardship as *“The grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.”*

To help our students understand and live out this call, we emphasize the Four Pillars of Stewardship: **Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service**. As primary educators of your children, your role in modeling and practicing these pillars is essential.

To provide a hands-on experience of stewardship, we invite you to participate in our **Ministry Fair beginning February 15th**. Each weekend, different ministries will highlight ways we can be more welcoming, prayerful, faith-filled, and generous in service. We encourage all families to take part in exploring these ministries and finding ways to engage more deeply in our parish life.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our **St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration on March 15th**. As part of this special day, we are offering Stewardship Shirts, which we invite everyone to purchase and wear in celebration. These shirts may also be worn by students during P.E. classes and casual dress days.

Please find the attached form to place your order for the Stewardship Shirt. **All orders must be submitted by Tuesday, February 18th, along with payment. Checks must be made payable to St. Joseph Church, and payment must be attached to the order form. A sample of the T-shirt will be in our school office. The color of the shirt is red.**

We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating our faith and commitment to stewardship. **Our theme is “Growing Together in Stewardship: One People, One Spirit, One Mission.”** We thank you for your continued support in making Stewardship a Way of Life and contributing to our St. Joseph Parish and School community as one!

With Heartfelt Gratitude,
Ms. Beverly Sandobal
Principal

**St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration and Ministry Fair T-Shirt
SCHOOL ORDER FORM**

Due Date: February 18, 2025

Last Name _____

First Name of Student and Family Members who want to order.	Homeroom	Size

Youth S	Youth M	Youth L
Adult S	Adult M	Adult L

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Adult XL	Adult 2XL—\$22	Adult 3XL—\$23	Adult 4XL -\$24

_____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

_____ @ \$22.00 = \$ _____

_____ @ \$23.00 = \$ _____

_____ @ \$24.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

FOR OFFICE USE

Date received: _____ Amount: \$ _____

_____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Received by: _____

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUES, FEB 11 @ 6:30PM
 (PRAISE & WORSHIP STARTS AT 6PM)
HEALING MASS
 CHURCH

Healing Mass is on the second Tuesday of the month. Next one is on Tues., Feb 11. Praise and Worship starts at 6pm, Healing Mass with 'laying of hands' and 'anointing' to follow at 6:30pm.

THURS, FEB 13 & 20 @ 6:30PM
HOLY HOUR DEVOTION
PRESENTATION BY
DCN. KEITH
 AFF/MUSIC ROOM

Dcn. Keith is facilitating a short presentation on the Holy Hour Devotion, giving parishioners an opportunity for personal silent prayer before Jesus contained in the most Blessed Sacrament. The presentations are on Thursdays, Feb 13 & 20 @ 6:30pm in the Music (AFF) Room. All are welcome!

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 9, 2025
 Luke 5: 1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time, Cycle C: fishermen meet Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWD	PRESSING	BOATS
THE LAKE	WASHING	SIMON
ASKED	SAT DOWN	TAUGHT
FINISHED	A CATCH	MASTER
ALL NIGHT	PARTNERS	PETER
KNEES	SINFUL MAN	JAMES
JOHN	SONS	BE AFRAID

AT THE LAKE

S I N F U L M A N A N K
 F I N I S H E D E H N A
 J O M A S T E R D E O J
 L T I O E K A L E H T J
 G H L Y N H C S K D L A
 N G L A G W R G S I W M
 I I E C C E O G A A K E
 S N D A N O W D K R E S
 S L D T K E D Y T F I O
 E L R C G N I H S A W N
 R A T H G U A T D E S S
 P E T E R S T A O B F O

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TUES, MAR 4 @ 6:30PM
PALM BURNING
PRAYER SERVICE
 COVERED PASSAGEWAY

Palm Burning Prayer Service will be on Tues, Feb 13 at 6:30pm under the covered passageway. Bring your old blessed palms to Mass or drop them off at the Church Office. You may also bring your old blessed palms to the prayer service.



ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

MASSES WITH DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES:
 FOUR MASSES:

6AM, 8:15AM
12PM & 6:30PM

CHURCH

ON-GOING DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES:
9:30AM - 11:30AM, 1:30PM-4:30PM

CHURCH OFFICE



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

ALL FRIDAYS OF LENT @ 6PM | MASS TO FOLLOW @ 6:30PM

MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28
APRIL 4, 11 & 18*

STAY TUNED FOR MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION & CHOIR SPONSORSHIP FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND MASS IN A FUTURE BULLETIN.

***GOOD FRIDAY. STATIONS START AT 8AM—NO MASS.**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A JOINT PARTY CELEBRATING FR. JIJU'S 15TH SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY & FR. VALENTINE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY!

Wednesday, February 19 @ 7:30pm

Join us as we celebrate Fr. Jiju's Sacerdotal Anniversary and Fr. Valentine's Birthday on Wednesday, February 19! We will begin with the OLPH Novena and Mass at 6:30pm, followed by the celebration at 7:30pm under the covered passageway. Please bring your family and friends and a potluck dish to share! See you there!



ST. JOSEPH MINISTRY FAIR!

EVERY WEEKEND, WE WILL BE SHOWCASING DIFFERENT MINISTRIES FROM EACH STEWARDSHIP PILLAR! STOP BY THE PARISH HALL AFTER MASS TO CHECK OUT OUR VARIOUS MINISTRIES!

FEB 15/16: HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES

FEB 22/23: PRAYER MINISTRIES

MAR 1/2: FORMATION MINISTRIES

MAR 8/9: SERVICE MINISTRIES

ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION!

FOOD! ENTERTAINMENT! GAMES! CRAFTS! FUN!

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

SAVE THE DATE!

“GROWING TOGETHER IN STEWARDSHIP
ONE PEOPLE, ONE SPIRIT, ONE MISSION”

Our Special Intentions

We Pray For....

- Our La Salette Community.
- All family members of Father Eric Castro, MS.
- Juanita Castro, mother of Father Eric Castro, MS.
- Family Members of Stister Judith Abique, SPC.
- Repose of the soul fo Sister Judtith Abique, SPC and her brother Willy Abique.
- All first liners, priests, religious, health workers, essential workers, families, and everyone around the world.
- Mr. Pio Guerrero.
- Mrs. Irene Sandry, grandmother of Tania Ma'afala (SJPS alumni).
- Mr. Seji Tokuda, father of Ms. Grace (Cafeteria Manager) and Tricia Alquisa (Cafeteria Assistant).
- Ms. Sandobal.
- Miles and Avelino Arbues.
- Dr. Rick Yamashiro & Family (Counselor & Dean of Students).
- Genny Inase, cousin of Ms. Sandobal.
- Repose of the soul of Regina Salisbury.
- Bryce, Jason, and their families.
- Peter Akuna.
- Everette Davis, grandson of Ms. Davis (former Jr. High teacher).
- Mrs. Susan Ganibe, mother of Mrs. Calzada (Music teacher).
- Mrs. Grace Montemayor (mother of Alfredo, alumni).
- Mrs. Ashley Rupert (former teacher).
- Mrs. Michelle Izon (former teacher).
- Brenda Strimpfel, alumni of SJPS.
- Mr. Wendell Bacnis, former teacher.
- Special intention for Krista Chang.
- Jonathan Bueno, father of Mrs. Carlson (Gr. 1 teacher).
- Sharon Rose Gasmen, mother of Alexander (alumni).
- Samantha Calumpit (alumni).
- Yvonne Fukumoto, wife of Kainoa, (former St. Michael's principal).
- William D. Brandt, father of Mrs. Cashman and her husband Jason Cashman (Office Manager, Admissions Director).
- Arne Kawamata and family (Facilities Director).
- Cora Tubana (former Parish Business Manager).
- John C. Basso, grandfather of Journey Ramento and her brother Alika Magnani.
- Laverne Suster (former teacher).
- Mrs. Machado and her brother (Grade 1 teacher).
- Mr. Dave Sebastian (Grade 4-5 Social Studies Teacjer).
- Helen Andres, parish staff.
- Mrs. Christal Rosales and her family (Pre K teacher).
- Jenny Basitas Resando, sister of Sister Emilie Basitas, OP (Grade 2 teacher).
- Mr. Tosatto, father of Ms. Tosatto (Art teacher).
- Linda and Wayne Roberts, mother and father-in-law of Mrs. Fowler (3B teacher).
- Mrs. Leonida Policarpio, mother of Arnold Policarpio (Parish Pastoral Council President)
- Papa Tony, Antonio Cabanilla, grandfather of Julia Valenzuela (Grade 4A).
- Mrs. Kaylin Ala, Kayani Grace, and her family.
- Mr. Mark Carlson, husband of Mrs. Carlson (1A Teacher)
- Sister Mary Mark Berdin,OP.
- Mr. Tosatto, father of Ms. Tosatto (Art Teacher.)
- Mr. Jesse Gregorio, father of (alumni Jesse, Landon, Gr. 8 and Jensen 5A).
- Gary Patacsi Quiming, (SJPS alumni).
- Repose of the soul of Eric Meurer-Eichberg, friend of Mrs. Fowler (3B teacher)
- Repose of the soul of Wayne Pacatan, cousin of Ms. Sandobal.
- Repose of the soul of Mildred Carvalho, grandmother of Mason (4A) and Ava Joy (3A) Giraudy. Special prayers for their family.
- Repose of the soul of Willie Cruz Galacio, relative of Father Eric, MS, our Pastor.
- All the people affected by the typhoon and flooding in the Philippines.
- All the people suffering due to inclement weather.
- All the people affected by the wild fire in California.
- Samantha Chun and Joseph Fujioka and their families, Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Calzada (Pre K-8 Music Teacher.
- Healing for Anthony Shellnut and Marilyn Shellnut.