

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you all!

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, we are reminded of the great commission that Jesus gave to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. He commanded them to go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. This command is not just for the apostles, but for all of us who call ourselves Christians.

Scriptures:

Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1: 17-23

Mark 16:15-20

In First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1-11), we are reminded of Jesus' ascension into heaven. As Jesus leaves his disciples, he promises them the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them as they continue his mission on earth.

This passage serves as a reminder that although Jesus physically ascended into heaven, his presence and power remain with us through the Holy Spirit. Just as the disciples were called to be Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth, we too are called to share the Good News with everyone we encounter.

In the Second Reading, from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians (Eph 1:17-23), we hear his prayer for the readers, asking God to give them wisdom and revelation so that they may know Christ more intimately. This passage encourages us to open our minds and hearts to receive the gifts of God and to live our lives in accordance with His will.

In the Gospel reading from St. Mark (Mk 16:15-20), we are reminded of the calling given to us by Jesus himself - to go out into the world and preach the Good News to all creation. This call to evangelize and share the love of God with others is not just for priests and religious, but for each and every one of us as well.

To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives. Our actions speak louder than words, and we are called to be living examples of the love and mercy of Christ. Let us go forth from this place and share the Good News with all those we encounter, so that they too may come to know the joy of salvation.

May the Ascension of the Lord inspire us to be bold in our witness, to be courageous in sharing our faith, and to be fervent in our love for Jesus. Let us go forth with confidence, knowing that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Eric Castro, MS
Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THEME: STEWARDSHIP: Preach it with words...Proclaim it with our lives.

As we strive to be good stewards of our resources, we not only support the work of the church but also bear witness to our faith in our daily actions. Here are the three points and challenges on how we can preach and practice stewardship in our parish

Point 1: Prayerful Consideration of Giving.

Before making a financial commitment to the church, it is important to pray and reflect on our priorities and values. By seeking God's guidance in our giving, we can ensure that our contributions are in line with His will and are given with a joyful and generous heart.

Challenge: I challenge each member of our parish to set aside time each day for prayer and reflection on their giving. By inviting God into this process, we can deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to stewardship.

Point 2: Responsible Management of Resources.

As stewards of God's gifts, it is our responsibility to manage our resources wisely and with integrity. This includes not only financial resources, but also our time, talents, and abilities. By using these gifts for the benefit of others and the kingdom of God, we can make a positive impact in our community and further God's work on earth.

Challenge: I challenge each member of our parish to assess how they are managing their resources and consider how they can better utilize them for the glory of God. By being good stewards of all that God has given us, we can make a meaningful difference in the world around us.

Point 3: Generosity and Sacrifice.

Stewardship calls us to be generous and sacrificial in our giving, following the example of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us. By sacrificially giving of our time, talents, and resources, we can support the mission of the church and share God's love with others. Generosity is not about how much we give, but about the spirit in which we give it – with a joyful and willing heart.

Challenge: I challenge each member of our parish to prayerfully consider how they can be more generous and sacrificial in their giving. By stepping out in faith and trusting in God's provision, we can experience the joy of giving and the blessings that come from supporting God's work.

In conclusion, stewardship is a call to live out our faith in tangible ways, demonstrating our love for God and our neighbor through our actions. As we strive to be good stewards of all that God has given us, may we continually seek His guidance and trust in His provision as we support the work of the church and further His kingdom on earth.

May God be generous to all of you!

Fr. Eric Castro, MS

Stewardship Is...



MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

On this Mother's Day, let us take a moment to honor and appreciate the incredible women who have shaped our lives in countless ways - our mothers. Their love is unconditional, their sacrifices are endless, and their wisdom is invaluable.

As we celebrate and thank our own mothers, let us also remember those who may be struggling on this day. Whether they are grieving the loss of a mother, longing to be a mother, or facing the hardships of motherhood, let us all pray for them, and let us offer them love, support, and understanding.

Let us also remember the mothers who may not fit the traditional mold - the single mothers, foster mothers, adoptive mothers, and mother figures who selflessly care for and nurture others. Their love is no less meaningful and their impact is just as profound.

To all the mothers out there, we honor you, we appreciate you, and we thank you for all that you do. Happy Mother's Day!

God bless you all!

Fr. Eric Castro, MS

MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this Mother's Day, we thank God for all the mothers who grace our lives with their love, support, and unwavering faith. They guide us to become the individuals You have called us to be. We thank You, Lord, for the inspiration they provide, showing us what it means to live a life embracing Your will. Bless them abundantly for the countless ways they nurture and care for us, sacrificing their own needs for the sake of ours. Grant them strength and perseverance as they navigate the challenges of motherhood, always relying on Your grace and wisdom. Help us, Lord, to honor and cherish our mothers not just today, but every day, recognizing the tremendous impact they have on our lives. May we strive to follow their example of selflessness and generosity, making stewardship a way of life. Bless our mothers with Your peace and joy, and surround them with Your love and protection. Grant them the strength to continue guiding us with their wisdom and faith, shaping us into loving and compassionate stewards of Your creation. We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us the true meaning of love and sacrifice. Amen.

Have a very Happy and Blessed Mother's Day!

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,
Ms. Beverly Sandobal



MONDAY, MAY 13TH

Appropriate Casual Dress Day for reaching our Fun Run Goal of \$40,000.

TUESDAY, MAY 14TH



- Grade 8 Banquet at the Hawaii Okinawa Center
- Hawaii Theater for Youth Excursion for Grades 1 and 3
- Praise and Worship at 6 pm
- Healing Mass at 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH



- School Mass @ 8:15 am
FORMAL UNIFORM
Sponsor Grade 4
A special blessing will be given to all students, faculty and staff born in May and June.
- Following the Mass, the Knights of Columbus will be presenting awards to students who participated in the Christmas Art contest and Basketball Free Throw. Awards will also be given to students who participated in volleyball, basketball, and track.

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH

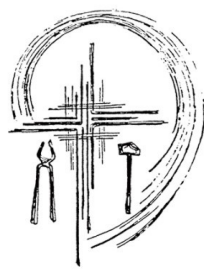


- Pre Kindergarten graduation at 9:00 am
- Inflatables and balloons will not be allowed in the church.
- Early dismissal will follow the graduation.

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH



- Grade 8 graduation Mass and ceremony at 3 pm
- Inflatables and balloons will not be allowed in the church.
- **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE SERVICES**



St. Joseph Parish & School

One 'Ohana for the Environment Recycling Drive



SATURDAY, MAY 18th

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bring cans and bottles to our parking lot in support for our One 'Ohana Fund!
Thank you for being true stewards of our church and environment!

Jewelry: (ALL GRADES)

HELP YOUR CHILD FOLLOW THESE RULES STATED IN OUR HANDBOOK.

- **Students may wear ONE watch, *HOWEVER WATCHES WITH THE ABILITY TO TEXT, EMAIL, PHONE, AND/OR HAS OTHER APPS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.***
- **Students may wear a simple chain with a cross or religious metal.**
- **ONE bracelet may be worn by all students.**
- **ONLY girls may wear ONE PAIR OF STUD EARRINGS ON THEIR LOWER EARLOBES.**
- **Other than one bracelet, other types of jewelry will be collected by the teacher. NO JEWELRY TO BE WORN ON P.E. DAYS.**