

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

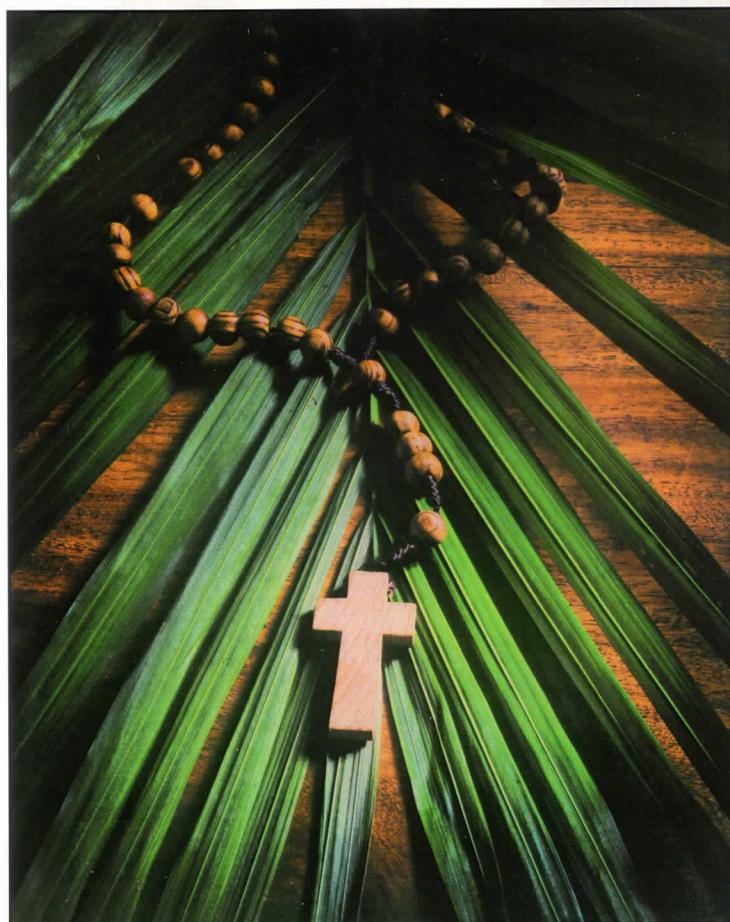
PARISH LENTEN ACTIVITIES BRING PARISHIONERS TOGETHER IN PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP

Throughout our everyday lives, we busily prepare for holiday gatherings, outings with family and friends, and even for sporting events — so it should naturally follow suit that we prepare for the important events of our spiritual lives, as well. Here at St. Anthony, we offer some opportunities during Lent to prepare for the most solemn time of our liturgical year — the death of Jesus on the cross and His triumphant resurrection.

The parish participates in a special Palm Sunday tradition each year. In previous years, parishioners, students, and clergy would walk from St. Anthony to St. Ann parish, praying along the way. After the pilgrimage, parishioners would return to St. Anthony via bus and enjoy lunch and fellowship together. Last year, the parish started a new tradition of walking around the parish grounds, school and church, as opposed to walking to St. Ann. This slightly shortened pilgrimage is still followed by a luncheon and opportunity for fellowship.

“We really enjoyed it last year, which is why we are doing it again this year,” says pastor Fr. Roland Bunda. “It’s a really nice tradition.”

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Parish Lenten Activities Bring Parishioners Together in Prayer and Fellowship continued from front cover

On Wednesdays during Lent, parishioners are invited to come together to pray the Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. — the Stations are usually followed by Benediction led by Dcn. Stephen Magiente. Fr. Roland and associate pastor Fr. Sylverius Kerketta also lead Stations of the Cross on Lenten Fridays at 12:30 p.m. for the grade school.

“The Stations are a way for us to walk with our Lord on His journey to Calvary,” Fr. Roland says. “More than just a tradition, it’s a good way to reflect meditatively on the life of Christ. It’s been a good tradition for our school, too.”

This year at Pentecost, over 100 school and religious education students from second through 12th grade will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This Lenten season is a great time to provide faith formation opportunities for these students as they prepare.

“We have a retreat planned for them, we also have Reconciliation planned for them, so that’s all going to be a big event,” Fr. Roland says. “It’s a really exciting time for them to reconfirm what it means to be fully Christian and fully Catholic, and to reflect on the sacraments.”

During Lent, Catholic parishes throughout the Maui Vicariate, including St. Anthony, will hold penance services on different evenings. This is an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to anyone from the parish.

“It’s good to be reconciled!” Fr. Roland says. “The prayer service is followed by individual confessions. In our vicariate, any priest who is available goes to help out at any service. It’s really nice when we can support one another, and it’s especially good to see parents bring their children to the service. It’s a good witness for them to see their parents and other adults also go to Confession.

“In our current pastoral plan, we are stressing marriage and family life — praying together and getting formation,” he adds. “I think it makes it a little more real when you see it in action. I believe our faith is caught first, and then it is taught. Remember the word from biology class, ‘osmosis’? You absorb your surroundings. So if you’re surrounded by people who are active in the faith, and a happy, welcoming parish, you ‘catch’ it, and want to be a part of the action and learn more.”

Finally, during Holy Week, the parish will offer a Tenebrae prayer service on Wednesday, 5 p.m. Mass on Holy Thursday, and on Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at noon and the Good Friday liturgy at 6 p.m.

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All parishioners are invited to take part in all of these opportunities to grow in faith in anticipation of our Easter celebration! For more information, please contact the parish office at 808-244-4148.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Answering the Call for Lent

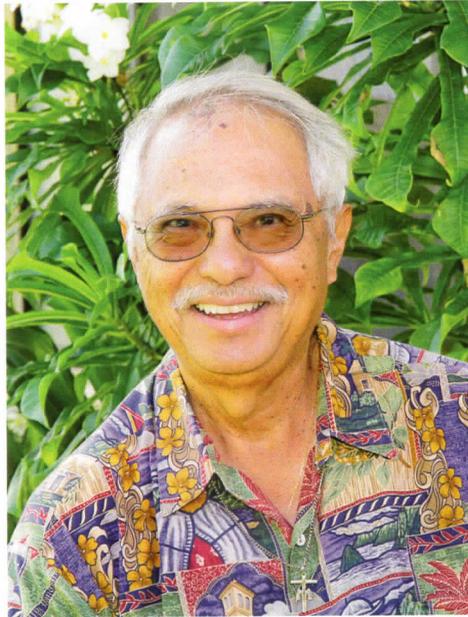
Dear Parishioners,

This month, as we begin our Lenten journey to Easter, every one of us should ask ourselves, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ and how well am I living that out each day?”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed what it means to be a disciple when they wrote their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. “Who is a Christian disciple?” the USCCB asked and, in turn, they also provided the answer, “One who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ’s” (9). So, as disciples of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we consider the true meaning of that answer.

The first step in the Christian life is responding to Jesus’ call. Jesus invites every person to develop a relationship with Him. But obviously, not every person is a Christian disciple. Some people are too busy to even hear that invitation or don’t make the effort to recognize it. Others make a conscious decision to reject the call because it demands that they can no longer place themselves at the center of their lives.

On the other hand, for those of us who make an affirmative



response to Christ’s call, the most meaningful life possible awaits us, both now and into eternity. However, saying “yes” to Jesus has consequences that affect the rest of our lives.

The first consequence of becoming a disciple is that we now follow Jesus. The Gospel accounts record that when He called His disciples, they left what they were doing and followed Him. The same is true for us today. Becoming a Christian disciple does not necessarily mean that all of us will leave our present job, or enter into the consecrated life, or serve as a missionary in another country — although that might be where the journey leads you. But it does mean that we

offer our work — whether as a doctor, homemaker, mechanic, farmer or teacher — to build up the Kingdom of God.

In following Jesus as His disciples, we should strive to more fully absorb His teaching and then apply it to our daily lives. As we do, we find that we attempt to imitate Him, treating others with the same welcoming and generous spirit. St. Peter was direct when he described how Jesus acted: “He went about doing good... for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). That’s the model for how we must live.

Discipleship leads naturally to stewardship as a way of life. The time we offer in prayer and worship will give us the strength and guidance for serving Christ. Using the skills and gifts we have to build the Kingdom will direct our offering of talent. The support of all these endeavors with our treasure will ensure that our lives as disciples and stewards are genuine.

As a Christian steward this Lent, I encourage you to reflect on the changes you can make in growing as a disciple of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL GEARS UP

St. Anthony School has been having a great year so far! In its second year as a K through 12 school, the staff, faculty and students have enjoyed the many activities that have brought all grade levels together as one school family.

After celebrating Catholic Schools Week this past January, the school now looks toward Lent. As we prepare for Jesus' passion, death and joyous resurrection at Easter, the school plans to engage students with activities that will help them reflect on the season and grow closer to Christ. St. Anthony School looks forward to continued growth and the opportunity to form more students in the future.

"This is our second year as a K through 12 school, and we're thinking wider and broader — everything we've done this year and will continue to do will have the focus of being a K through 12 family," says Head of School Tim Cullen. "Whenever we pre-plan activities, we always ask ourselves, 'Is this something we can do together as a K through 12 school?' I use the phrase 'biggs and littles together,' which makes the little ones stand up straighter and look up to the bigger kids, and gives the older ones an opportunity to be role models.

"One example is our monthly prayer service, in

which the whole school participates," he adds. "The staff takes turns as far as who leads our liturgies and prayer services, and we have a combination of students to do different things — for example, if grades six through 12 prepare the Mass, the grade school students may do a meditation song after Communion. We always have something to link the school together as a community."

The activities during Catholic Schools Week also reflected this community atmosphere.

"During Catholic Schools Week we had our first K through 12 talent show, where we had young grade school kids through high school performing," Mr. Cullen says. "Everyone was kind to each other and everyone got to share their talents, and it was nice to do it all together. Earlier this year, we had our players from the basketball team come down to the grade school, introduce themselves, invite them to their game and hand out free passes. It was a great turnout and a lot of kids came, so during Catholic Schools Week, our student athletes went back down to thank them, and give them passes for their game that weekend.

Throughout this month and into April, the school has a variety of Lenten activities planned to help the students prepare for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, all students will attend an all-school Mass. They will also reflect on the Lenten journey and write down what they will personally offer up during the season, as well as what they will do for others. Students will also participate regularly in Stations of the Cross in their respective building level teams — grade school, middle school, and high school. In addition, they will come together once again for an all-school Lenten Prayer Service on March 27. Finally, the entire school will participate in a service project throughout Lent, collecting items for families in need.

"Lent requires us to step back and hold the mirror up to ourselves," Mr. Cullen says. "At any age, we can get so busy that sometimes we don't allow time for God, so Lent is truly a nice reminder to gear down a bit and allow that space for God to enter our



FOR LENT, EASTER AND BEYOND



hearts. Across our campus, that's something that we teach our students to do in their own way.

"It's really important for us to give back to the community," he adds. "We talk a lot about how Lent isn't just about giving something up, but about doing more for someone else. They all have something personal that they do for Lent, but our combined collective prayers and actions create a sense that we're all doing this together — we know everyone else is on the same path."

As St. Anthony School finishes out the year and looks ahead, they hope to continue to grow in number as well as in school spirit. With the support of the parish, parishioners and school families, St. Anthony School looks forward to a bright future!

"We hope that as we continue to grow our enrollment in grade school and middle school, our high school numbers will be able to match those numbers as well," Mr. Cullen says. "We have a great foundation board and an institutional advancement office that just started last year — this is our first full year of these groups working together. Our advancement office is working to bring in and establish sustainable and replenishable tuition assistance, so



that we can support families who want to be here and aren't able to pay the full tuition amount.

"We've got a great parish, and we are here not just to serve the school, but also to serve the mission of St. Anthony Parish," he adds. "The kids and families we have here are great, and there is a great spirit that St. Anthony School has been known for. We've got a lot of momentum and some big challenges ahead of us, but we have a strategic plan in place and are actively working through that plan. It's a welcome challenge, and we are really starting to see some fruits from those efforts."

*If you would like more information about St. Anthony School,
please contact the school office at 808-244-4190.*

Divine Mercy Prayer Group LEARNING TO TRUST JESUS AND

Prayer is extremely powerful, and the members of the Divine Mercy Prayer Group have seen firsthand the ways in which the Divine Mercy devotion can change lives. By praying together, group members not only grow in their own faith, but are also compelled to share the grace and love of Jesus' Divine Mercy with others.

"It's a beautiful devotion," says group member Jo Reyes. "There is so much in the *Diary of St. Faustina* that is so beautiful and reassuring, and it encourages me and helps me in my faith. I've seen so many lives changed through Divine Mercy, and I've seen it change me! God is always there and all we have to do is turn to Him. Our Lord provides so much for us, and He asks so little in return. That's why I'm so dedicated to it, and why I want to share that with everybody."

"As a Divine Mercy devotee, I really feel the grace and love of God, and have learned to be more merciful to others," says group member Joybelle Agustin. "It's all about trusting in Jesus' mercy — even though I have trials and challenges in my life, I know Jesus is there for me. And it's not just about us — it's how we spread the message of Divine Mercy, and evangelize people to trust in Jesus. When God has poured graces into you, you need to share them."

The group meets in the chapel every Sunday at 3 p.m., the traditional time of day at which the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed. When they meet, they pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, venerate the Divine Mercy image, and offer a rose to Jesus as a sign of love and trust in Him. The group also has a small booklet containing excerpts from the *Diary of St. Faustina*, as well as other readings — these readings are often incorporated into their prayer. Afterwards, many group members stay to pray the Rosary.

"I believe that Divine Mercy and Mama Mary go together," Joybelle says. "She brings you to Jesus."

During the nine days leading up to Divine



Mercy Sunday — the Sunday after Easter — the group gathers daily to pray the Divine Mercy Novena. This novena, in addition to the group's weekly meetings, is open not only to St. Anthony parishioners, but to anyone from any parish. By spreading the message of Divine Mercy not just to St. Anthony parishioners, but to everyone, this group has inspired other Maui parishes to create their own Divine Mercy groups.

"Joybelle came from a Divine Mercy group in California, so when she moved here and joined our group in 2012, the rest of us felt led to spread the group even further," Jo says. "We made an appeal for our group at other parishes, branched out and worked to educate people about Divine Mercy."

"When I was in California, I went to church one Sunday and someone approached me and asked me to join their Divine Mercy Novena," Joybelle says. "I was having some ups and downs at the time, so I thought that maybe this was God's way of telling me to be closer to Him. I joined them, and all of a sudden, I felt like Jesus was really trying to bring me back to Him, to serve Him again. I joined the group, they taught me to pray the chaplet, and Jesus really moved the Holy Spirit in me to realize that I really needed to do something to stay in the faith my parents had taught me."

"When I came here, I brought with me my love for Divine Mercy — I wanted other people to also

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

experience what I felt,” she adds. “At the time, St. Anthony was the only parish that had a group. It was a small group, and at the time they were going to start meeting less. So I said, let’s figure out how we can do this more. I talked to Father about sharing Divine Mercy with other parishes — we started doing the novena at St. Anthony. We gave out some pamphlets, we opened our group to anyone who wanted to join. Now most of the parishes here in Maui have their own prayer groups.”

Going forward, the group plans to continue to reach out to others in various ways. They hope to find ways to engage youth in the Divine Mercy devotion, and are looking into getting involved with the official Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy organization. In the past, the group has supported the Malama Pregnancy Center of Maui — they plan to continue this in the future, and look for more outreach opportunities. Lastly, group members plan to continue to support other St. Anthony ministries, programs and activities.

“I tell the group on Sundays that while we are gathered here together, Jesus also wants us to be His instruments to go out into the world in different ways,” Joybelle says. “We are not only committed to praying, but also to serving others through the mercy of God.”

“We have a very welcoming group — all they have to do is show up!” Jo adds.

All parishioners — and anyone else — are welcome to stop by a Sunday 3 p.m. meeting to learn more about this special devotion. “They just need to know the ABC’s of Divine Mercy: Ask anything through prayer to Jesus; Be merciful to others; have Complete trust in Jesus,” Joybelle Agustin says.



ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

1627 B Mill Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Church Office: (808) 244-4148
www.stanthonymaui.org

DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD!

We invite you to take part in our Stewardship Renewal! Please remember to turn in your Commitment Cards to the parish as soon as possible.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!

FORMED IN THE HEART

St. Anthony Catholic Community

2019 COMMITMENT CARD
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

TIME
Spending Time with God in Prayer

Stewardship begins in prayer. Stewardship is not about me; it is about Him; Consider a few of the following prayer suggestions.
Please check the circle below to mark your prayer commitments:

- Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days
- Attend weekday Mass at least once a week
- Attend Adoration once a month
- Spend at least 15 minutes a day in personal prayer
- Pray together with my loved ones
- Read the Bible for at least one hour a week
- Pray the Rosary at least weekly
- Go to Reconciliation every other month
- Pray for my country daily
- Pray for vocations
- Invite a friend or acquaintance to Mass
- Pray for the sick of our parish

The gift of my time, talent and treasure is the right size:

- When I can no longer make any excuses for the size of the gift (large or small).
- When I can honestly state that the gift is as large as I offer it in thanksgiving to God.
- When I can honestly state that in the gift, I am being honest with God and with myself.

TREASURE
Offeratory Gift

Thanksgiving for God's gifts, each household at St. Anthony is asked to give a specific percentage of income based on the biblical tithing:

to the Offeratory at St. Anthony: 4% to other charities: 1% to the diocese

My Offeratory pledge to St. Anthony

percentage of household income: %

Please complete either a weekly or monthly offeratory gift:

weekly gift: \$ x52 = \$ annually

or

monthly gift: \$ x12 = \$ annually

Weekly giving based on proportion of income.

Weekly Giving Chart

% of Hhld Income	10%	5%	4%	1%
Household Income				
\$30,000	\$58	\$29	\$23	\$6
\$50,000	\$96	\$48	\$38	\$10
\$70,000	\$134	\$67	\$54	\$14
\$100,000	\$192	\$96	\$76	\$19
\$200,000	\$384	\$192	\$153	\$38

First & Last Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Spouse: First & Last Name _____
Spouse: Phone _____
Spouse: Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHURCH CENTER :: **Saturday** 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SAINT DAMIEN CHAPEL :: **Monday - Friday** 6:30 a.m. | **Saturday** 7:00 a.m.