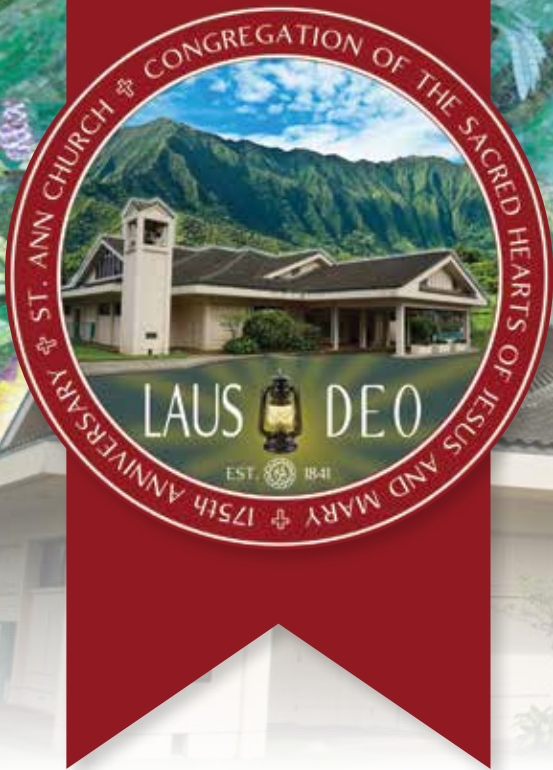


Saint Ann Church



FOSTERING A TRUE SENSE OF FAMILY THROUGH *the Hospitality Ministry*

It was three years ago that parishioner Rendy Perreira says she became filled with a desire to do more for the Lord out of sincere gratitude for her many blessings. This feeling was only further ignited after she and her husband listened to a sermon on the importance of stewardship. Feeling it was time to truly take action, Rendy and her husband decided to start off by joining the Hospitality Ministry together.

“I think for both of us, the reason we got involved is that it just seemed the right thing to do,” says Rendy, a lifelong Catholic. “You can’t just take — sometimes you are called to give and we were ready. We both have been serving in the Hospitality Ministry for a couple of years now and what keeps us involved are the people — the people in the ministry, the church community and the priests. They are all a part of our faith family and we feel such pleasure in helping our family in any way we can.”

Hospitality ministers are there to become the first representatives of our parish to guests



(From left) Ministers Sharon Iwamura, Linda Ross and Raquel deVos are ready to greet members at the front door.

and parishioners. They are there to foster that welcoming presence within our faith community. Ministry coordinator Linda Ross says this is the main purpose of the Hospitality Ministry, though there are other roles that the ministry takes on as

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Fostering a True Sense of Family Through the Hospitality Ministry continued from front cover

well, such as identifying those needing assistance with receiving Holy Communion, conducting the offertory collection, selecting parishioners to bring up the gifts and book of prayer intentions, and distributing parish bulletins.

“In all of these things, we just want to make people feel welcomed and loved — to make it feel more personal for them,” Linda says. “I think it’s so important that people become connected to the church, and that’s what we’re helping to build through this ministry.”

“The hospitality ministers are the first people parishioners see as they enter the church, there to greet them at the door and welcome them in,” Rendy adds. “I think that is the most important part — to make people feel welcome. That is the part of the job I enjoy most. We greet them, talk to them, and help make them feel a part of our community.”

Unlike other liturgical ministries that require volunteers to be commissioned or of a certain age, the Hospitality Ministry is open to any parishioner who is able and willing to serve. Whether it’s a parish youth, couple, entire family or a more seasoned member of the parish, all are welcome. Ministers are also able to easily fit the ministry within their schedules, choosing their preferred Mass time and frequency with which they would like to serve.

“We need about six people to serve every Mass,” Linda says. “Usually, people serve every other week, though people can choose their Mass and how often they wish to be scheduled. Our volunteers are always more than willing to serve and are so joyful.”

Though their purpose is to welcome and serve others, both Linda and Rendy agree that it is the ministry members themselves who end up receiving the most. It makes ministers feel an



Hospitality ministers Margaret Johnson, Bridgette Lindo, Sharon Iwamura, Judy Wong and Harry Morley are ready to distribute bulletins and greet parishioners and visitors with a warm smile as they enter the sanctuary.

increased sense of belonging to the parish, and it makes our church feel more like home as they become increasingly familiar with their fellow parishioners.

“I just feel connected and have gotten to know so many people through this ministry,” Linda says. “It made me feel like I was truly a part of St. Ann and has been such a rewarding experience.”

“I feel so fulfilled by serving in this way,” Rendy adds. “I feel like there is no better way to praise our Lord than to serve Him in a way that makes use of our talents. When you feel that you are helping someone, the way it makes you yourself feel is a blessing without comparison. I truly feel that by serving our faith family, we complete ourselves and become more able to love our Lord and one another.”

Parishioners interested in joining or learning more about the Hospitality Ministry may contact Linda Ross at lindaeross@hawaii.rr.com, 808-285-4081.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

More than Ever, Let Us Be One in the Lord Jesus

Dear Parishioners,

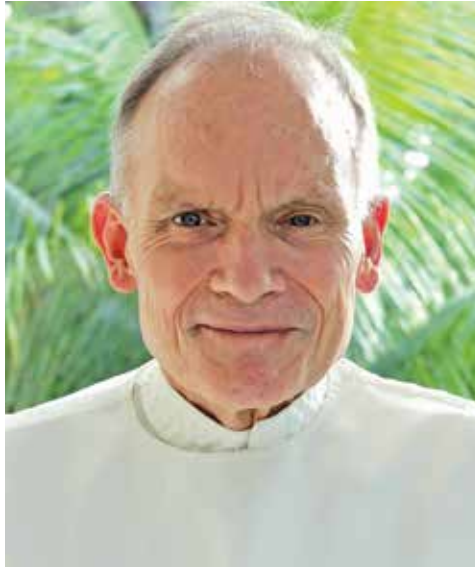
I just watched the prayer with Pope Francis from St. Peter's Square. It was very beautiful at this time when we have to stay in the house and maybe we experience cabin fever. How blessed to be united to the Church, not just here in our parish or here in our diocese, but the universal Church in the person of the universal pastor, the Holy Father.

The other day I was listening to two psychologists talk about how to get through this time. One suggestion was humor and the other was get a pet! Just before the pandemic hit, Fr. Ed and Kani, his dog, moved to Kaimuki. Kani never knew how important she might be in a crisis.

As followers of Jesus Christ, our faith suggests things we can do to live in this moment. Today's time of prayer with the Holy Father and his blessing the city of Rome and the whole world is an example. As disciples of Jesus, we are His Body, the Church, and remembering that can help us not just concentrate on ourselves and our fear and anxiety. (If you don't have any fear and anxiety, I can give you some of mine!)

One important thing to do is make more space for the Lord in prayer. It helps to have a time and a place to do that and to the best of your ability be faithful to that each day. Say the Rosary, read the Scripture, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, unite yourself spiritually to Holy Mass being celebrated somewhere in the world at every hour of the day. You might just want to be quiet for five minutes and believe deeply in Our Lord's love and mercy for you. Pray!

Think of how to use the gifts God has given you for others. There may be someone you know who lives alone — give them a call, send them



a text or an email. Look at the latest copy of our parish bulletin you have and see the names and ministries, pray for them and maybe ask the Lord how He might want you to be involved after this is all over. Go online and learn about some apostolate or mission that Christians are doing in some part of the world and lift them up to the Lord in prayer. The internet is a great gift at this time as it helps us look outside the four walls in which we have to stay.

I also want to say a word of thanks. I know how you are all feeling the economic pinch. That's probably a source of worry for most if not all of us. Thank you for remembering St. Ann. I'm so moved by the contributions we receive online, in the mail or just dropped off at the front door. A great blessing from the Lord. Mahalo!

May this time make us more than ever one in the Lord Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Rich McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor





Meet Youth Ministry Coordinator Shane Chambers

Longtime Parishioner Seeking to Give Parishioners a Family

It all started with a letter that came home from a teacher at school. Shane Chambers was a freshman in high school preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the letter informed his parents that each student was required to perform community service hours.

“I remember that letter coming home and my mom taking my hand as a preteen, putting me in the car, and taking me right down to St. Ann,” Shane says. “She took me right up to the Religious Education Principal, Uncle Mike, and he put me to work organizing song sheets. So that was my first involvement with Sunday school and volunteering.”

Today, the seeds first planted in Shane that day have come to fruition, as St. Ann recently welcomed him into the role of Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Following his introduction to service in the parish, Shane quickly became engaged in life at St. Ann. The summer after making his Confirmation, he attended the parish youth training and served as a youth volunteer for the next year’s Confirmation classes. And so began many years of parish involvement and stewardship.

“I’ve volunteered both as a youth and an adult,” Shane says. “I have seen different people in the Youth Ministry Coordinator position, and I have been taking it all in and growing in every aspect of my life. So this role for me is new in the sense of the title, but I’ve been involved pretty much more than half my life now.”

Youth Ministry has changed quite a bit since 2002, when Shane received the Sacrament of Confirmation. With the Restored Order of

“I had so many caring and loving people in my life, and I want to continue that for anyone who even just wants to ask a question or put a foot in the door at youth night or class. I want to give them the experience of being heard and being recognized, and tell them that they are valuable. Yes, you belong to the Church. Yes, you belong to a community. And it’s more than a community — it’s a family.” — SHANE CHAMBERS



The Youth Ministry gathers for the high school Dance-Off night.



Shane Chambers (at far right) and members of the St. Ann Youth Ministry team have fun at the high school Dance-Off event.

Coordinator Shane Chambers

Brings Youth a Sense of Belonging in New Role

Sacraments implemented by our diocese, students receive Confirmation and First Communion during the same year. As a result, the number of middle school and high school students continuing to attend Sunday Religious Education classes has decreased. However, Shane is optimistic about the number of teens coming to the parish youth nights, and he looks forward to continuing to build a vibrant and engaged youth community at St. Ann.

“Youth nights are pulling about 35 teens, so hopefully we can strengthen in number and community,” Shane says. “We do a little catechesis, some faith sharing, and games and activities, mixing fun and faith. I tell everyone, please bring your friends and family members to check us out, even if they just have an inkling about coming. It’s about finding that spark and igniting it so they can grow in their faith.”

Shane feels that a tight-knit faith community is essential for teens and preteens navigating today’s world.

“That guidance and support, love and care not only from my parents and high school, but also from people who were in my same situation was so important,” he says of his Youth Ministry experience as a teen. “Coming together with our faith is good for us and everyone around us. The more we surround ourselves with what is good and right and loving, the more Christlike we can be in our lives.

“We’re not doing this by ourselves,” Shane adds. “I think sometimes we can feel like we’re in this alone — especially teens who feel their parents aren’t listening — but that’s not true. We have a community where we can call each other brother and sister, and it’s for God and for each other — and even for ourselves.”

Keeping the importance of community firmly in mind, Shane also looks forward to building on



The Youth Ministry hosts a middle school fun day after Sunday classes.

the social action side of Youth Ministry. He plans to organize many service projects that will give our parish youth the opportunity to actively live out their faith by serving God’s people.

With a deep sense of gratitude for the seeds of faith that were planted in him through our Youth Ministry program, Shane is excited about this new chapter in his involvement at St. Ann.

“I’m thankful that I can continue living my faith through my words and actions, and it’s because this is what I grew up with,” he says. “I had so many caring and loving people in my life, and I want to continue that for anyone who even just wants to ask a question or put a foot in the door at youth night or class. I want to give them the experience of being heard and being recognized, and tell them that they are valuable. Yes, you belong to the Church. Yes, you belong to a community. And it’s more than a community — it’s a family.”

Youth Ministry Sunday School classes for sixth grade through high school are held at 10 a.m. every Sunday, following the school calendar. Comprehensive Youth Ministry nights are held every other Sunday evening. For more information, please contact program coordinator Shane Chambers at 808-341-0685 or ymcoord@saintannahawaii.org.



KEEPING THE FAITH DURING A CRISIS

Adversity is a part of life. We may face family strife or financial issues. We may experience a personal or family medical crisis. We may suffer the loss of a loved one.

The thought of not being able to attend Mass to receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord as a result of a crisis — such as the one we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 pandemic — is devastating.

Right now, it may seem challenging to remain a faithful steward. We may even question our faith and wonder how to find God during these turbulent times.

Where do we turn?

First and foremost, we must pray without ceasing. During a difficult time, you can always turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Take time each day to read the daily Scripture readings — they can be found at USCCB.org, and then by selecting the date on the calendar on the home page. You can also use the many rich resources of our faith to engage in spiritual reflections each day as an individual and with your family. This can include simple prayers like an *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* a few times a day, as well as praying the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Stations of the Cross, among others. Many resources for these are easily found online.

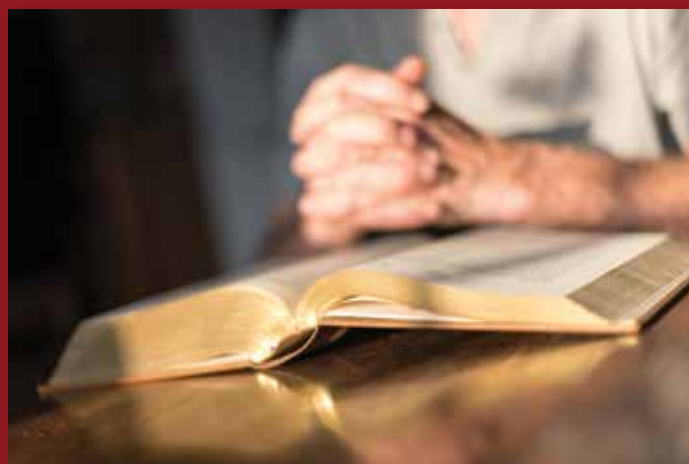
It is also important to remember that at times when you cannot physically attend Mass, Sunday remains a holy day, and you are encouraged to pray. You can participate in prayer by way of televised or live-streamed Mass — one option for viewing daily Mass online can be found at www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass.

During times of crisis, we must also find ways to use our talents to serve God. If you are unable to participate in ministries and serve your parish community, you can still use your talents to serve your family and those closest to you. Something as simple as calling to check on family and friends — or even doing a video call — can go a long way.

Finally, we must try to remain good stewards of our treasure. You may have lost your job or have seen a reduction in work hours and pay. But despite your hardships, a faithful steward must faithfully try his

or her best to return a portion of your treasure to God however He is calling you to do so. Check the parish website for online giving opportunities and do what you can to return a portion of your treasure to God.

No matter the situation, God always remains faithful to us. Don't forget that everything God gives us is a gift, and the way in which we share our gifts with God and our neighbor is ultimately how we give Him glory.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

*I believe that You are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love You above all things, and I desire to
receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive
You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.*

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

THE EUCHARIST: *Nourished by the Gift of Jesus*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers to the “source and summit” of our faith (1324) — the gift that nourishes our belief and is also, in many ways, the high point of our journey with God as Catholics. It is the Eucharist.

As Catholics, we hold the unique belief that in the Eucharist, Holy Communion, we are invited to receive our Lord, truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Our eternal God humbles Himself to be united with us in this sacrament. Unfortunately, however, for many of us, it’s a gift that can easily be taken for granted, as we usually have the opportunity to receive Jesus each Sunday — or even more often — at Mass.

However, if you’re looking for inspiration in deepening your appreciation of the Eucharist, perhaps you need not look any further than our second-grade students. Each year, these students prepare to receive the gift of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time, and their excitement is contagious.

“In my experience, kids are probably the most open,” says Bob Noguchi, Principal of Religious Education. “When it comes to receiving Jesus, they might not be able to fully understand the depth of it, but they can understand, and they will tell you the bread at Mass becomes the Body of Christ — it’s not bread anymore, it’s the Body of Christ. That mystery is a challenge for adults to grasp, but children are very open.”

However, regardless of whether you’re a child receiving the Eucharist for the first time, or someone who’s participated in Holy Communion more times than you can count, the graces available in the sacrament do not change. Just as the physical body needs food to survive, so does the spirit need spiritual food. As Catholics, we find this sustenance in the Eucharist.

“Life is difficult and God knows this, but He gives us that food — spiritual food,” Bob says. “The Eucharist offers to all of us strength for that journey of life. The beauty of the Catholic faith is that we believe God is so close, so present to



Last year, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Makainai celebrated the First Communion and Confirmations of five of their grandchildren.

“Life is difficult and God knows this, but He gives us that food — spiritual food. The Eucharist offers to all of us strength for that journey of life. The beauty of the Catholic faith is that we believe God is so close, so present to us — He’s not a distant God. He wants to be with us and He gives us Himself in the Eucharist, not just to be next to us or above us, but to be within us, to reside and dwell with us. That is the strength and the grace of the Eucharist.”

— BOB NOGUCHI, PRINCIPAL OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Saint Ann Church

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THE EUCHARIST *continued from page 7*

us — He’s not a distant God. He wants to be with us and He gives us Himself in the Eucharist, not just to be next to us or above us, but to be within us, to reside and dwell with us. That is the strength and the grace of the Eucharist.”

Bob encourages all parishioners to consider taking steps to grow closer to Christ in the Eucharist. In addition to attending Mass, he has found that spending time in prayer, in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament — whether

in Eucharistic Adoration, or hidden in the tabernacle — has had a significant impact on his own appreciation of the Eucharist.

“Jesus is present in the tabernacle, and just to spend a few minutes of quiet time in prayer, just sitting with Jesus, I think it would make a difference,” Bob says. “To have this available during the day, for me, it’s such a blessing and I think it would have an effect on anyone who just spent a few minutes in quiet with Jesus.”

If you would like to register your child for First Communion preparation, please contact the Religious Education office at 808-247-3092, ext. 104. Eucharistic Adoration is currently not available due to COVID-19 restrictions, but please refer to the parish website or call the parish office for updates on Adoration schedules.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

Saturday: Vigil: 6 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** 7 a.m. | **Confession:** Saturday, 4 p.m.