

Catholic Community of Malia Puka O Kalani

326 Desha Ave

PO Box 222

Hilo, HI 96721

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Email: maliapastor@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Sat. 5:15 pm

Sun. 9:00 am

No Weekday Masses from

Nov. 29—Feb. 10

CHRISTMAS, 2013

DEC 28-29, 2013



WHO IS FAMILY?

MISSION STATEMENT

“Malia Puka O Kalani is a Roman Catholic parish on Hawaiian Home Lands in Keaukaha, Hawaii dedicated to building a church community filled with the Holy Spirit, guided by God’s Word, and enriched by the Hawaiian culture”

Pastor:

Fr. Joe Hennen

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Robert Stark, SSS

Baptisms:

Patty Grube 747-6273

Building Maintenance:

Moke Moses 937-9783

Business Manager:

David Watson 935-1465

Finance: Jeannette Lesko

778-8058

Liturgy: Joe Farias 982-5919

Faith Formation: Billie Baclig

315-9844

Social Awareness:

Richard MacKenzie 896-0390

Roberta Gacutan 339-1295

Homebound Ministry “Malia

Visitor”: Hale Pekelo 968-1382

Facility Use: Laverne Costa 959-9219

Pastoral Council & Bulletin:

Kehau Kuewa 258-0041

jkkuewa@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.maliapukaokalani.com

Before coming to Malia in 2008, I ran an adolescent substance abuse treatment program in New Jersey. We marketed ourselves as a “*Family-based Program*”. The very first question we asked the teenager when he/she came through the doors was, “Who is family to you?” As you can imagine, we received multiple and varied answers. There was the occasional, “Dad and mom and two brothers and a sister” but the great majority answered in some other way. “Mom and stepdad and two step sisters.” “Just mom”. “Both my dad and my mom but they are divorced and don’t get along.” “My grandparents” “My Foster parents and their kids” “I don’t have anyone except a teacher who was really nice to me.” etc. etc. etc..

Christmas is a time for family. The trouble is, when we often speak about family (especially in church) we usually think of mom and dad and a couple brothers and sisters. When we think only in terms of that unit, we generally talk only to that unit—thereby, missing so many people who have a different experience of family. I think the majority of us would agree that the ideal family would be the traditional unit of mom and dad and kids. The reality is, we don’t live in the world of the ideal and the perfect. Many of our lives take place within a family unit different than the traditional unit. Even many of our traditional units are often held together only by legal structure and not by the bond of love.

It was the great philosopher, Voltaire, who said, “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good”. Where-ever there is a bond of love and support and care for each other, there is good. That good is our family. The Hawaiians have it correctly. OHANA (family) is not just blood related individuals. OHANA is the unit of people who respect each other, help each other, protect each other, love each other, and, ultimately, are committed to each other.

We gather at Malia to celebrate the birth of our God into family. Even the unit into which He was born was not the traditional unit. His family consisted of mother and foster-father. Our God lives in our family, our ohana, regardless of how we answer the question, “Who is family to you?” We are single mothers and fathers; we are grandparents; we are divorced and remarried, we are foster parents and adopted children; we are straight and gay couples; we are widows and widowers; we are friends who spend precious time together. In short, we are Ohana, Family. We celebrate the presence of God within our family unit and we recommit ourselves to the bond of love.

This Christmas we celebrate the reality of “EMMANUEL”, “GOD WITH US”. In this celebration we become family, ohana. And we are reminded that our God continues to come into our lives, into our families, most especially in the Eucharist. Pope Francis recently said, “The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak”.

May our incarnate God live in your family and may you experience Him in the bond of your love and in the sacrament of the Eucharist. *Fr. Joe*

If you do not have a regular worshipping community, you are welcome to join our Malia Ohana. We wish you and each other:

*Mele
Kalikimaka*

*Merry
Christmas*

*Feliz
Navidad*

Please register me (our Ohana) in the Malia Parish:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

PHONE: _____ **Email:** _____

Please place in the Offering Bowl or mail in. Someone will contact you. Mahalo