

# Catholic Community of Malia Puka O Kalani

326 Desha Ave

PO Box 222

Hilo, HI 96721

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## Mass Schedule

Sat. 5:15 pm

Sun. 9:00 am

No Weekday Masses from

Nov. 29—Feb. 10

**DEC 7 - 8**



## OPEN THE DOORS

### 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

I often drive around the Island on any given Thursday, the day I have selected to be away from Malia. I love stopping at the various Catholic and Protestant churches to get a glimpse of the design and architecture and spend a moment listening to the Lord. One would think that after being met with closed door after closed door, I would learn to expect that the doors will be closed and locked. Yet, I keep on hoping that sometime, someplace, the doors will be flung wide open as if to say, “Come in. You are welcome here”. After many very frustrating Thursdays it is always a joy to drive down Desha and see the doors of Malia not only unlocked but standing wide open.

This past week, Pope Francis issued his first lengthy apostolic letter. It is entitled, The Joy of Evangelisation. My heart jumped for joy when I read, “The Church is called to be the House of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open. So that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door”.

The Pope goes on with an even deeper message. “There are other doors that should not be closed either. This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself ‘the door’—Baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of the sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak...The church is not a toll house, it is the House of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems”.

Last week someone told me that they had a friend who would love to come to church, have their children baptised, and participate in the life of the church but she is divorced and remarried. I replied, “So”? The response was, “She is aware that she has been excommunicated and hence, her participation is not possible”. After a bit of clarification—specifically, that there has been no such thing as excommunication for divorce and remarriage since the Vatican Council—I asked this parishioner to please bring her friend to church and let her and her children share in the richness of God’s blessings. To again quote Pope Francis, “I invite all Christians everywhere, at this very moment to renew personal encounter with Jesus Christ.... No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”.

We are in the midst of the Advent/Christmas Season. Many of our ohana and friends who have felt excluded by and from the church will experience an inner spiritual urging at this time of the year. Invite them. The doors are open. Whether they are straight, gay, single, married, divorced, or partnered, our church is a church of inclusion, not exclusion.

We are all sinners. The church is for all of us. It is not “a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed cluster made up of a chosen few” (Pope Francis). Let’s start out with the Reconciliation service this Friday, Dec 13 at 6:00. This service is, for all of us, “a small step in the midst of great human limitations” (Pope Francis). Our doors are open to everyone! **Fr. Joe**

**FOOD PANTRY:** Because Christmas falls on the last Wednesday of this month, there will be only one Food Pantry day in December. It will be on December 18. Because there is only one day, double food supplies will be given on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**BAPTISM CLASS:** The next Baptism class will be held on Saturday, January 11, at 11:00 AM. **Please note that this is a date and time change from last weekend's bulletin announcement.** The class is for parents/grandparents/guardians of children 6 years old and younger who will be presented for Baptism in January, February, March or April. Anyone interested should call Patty Grube to make a reservation. Her number is on the front of the bulletin.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** We are grateful to Dennis McCartin for agreeing to assume the position of Secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council. This position became vacant when Kehau Kuewa assumed the position of Chairperson after Samantha Naipo-Arsiga stepped down due to family responsibilities. We are also grateful to Kuuipo Keopuhiwa who has accepted the invitation to be the fourth at-large member of the Pastoral Council. This vitally important Hub-Of-Our-Parish will meet on Sunday, January 19, at 10:30AM.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES:** You are reminded that the Social Awareness & Community Development Committee is collecting food gift certificates to give out to those in need at Christmas. This is in place of the annual Christmas giving tree. If possible, please put your donation in the Koa Offering Bowl this week or next weekend. On a piece of paper, write the name and address of the person/family that will receive your gift certificate and place it and your donation in an envelope marked for "Fr. Joe". To protect confidentiality, Fr. Joe will be the only one to see these envelopes.

**ST. JOSEPH PRESCHOOL:** St. Joseph Preschool is looking to expand and is inquiring if there is interest in the Keaukaha community to open a preschool at Malia. Please spread the word about this initiative. They need a commitment of 8-12 new preschoolers in order to start. If you or someone you know might be interested in further information regarding the POSSIBILITY of signing-up a preschooler, please contact Laverne Costa at 959-9219. Your contact is NOT A COMMITMENT. It will only give them an indication of interest.

**MALIA CRAFT FAIR:** Please support our holiday craft fair on December 14 and 15. For the first time ever, our craft fair is open to outside vendors. If you know anyone who might be interested in selling their crafts at our fair, have them call Laverne Costa at 959-9219.

**ROSARIES:** A reminder that Walter and Luana Leite will be giving away their handmade rosaries after the 9:00AM Sunday Mass. Thank you for your generosity, Walter and Luana.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Thank you to all who participated this year in Operation Christmas Child. The collection goal for the Big Island was 6,000 shoeboxes, and we surpassed it. This year, our shoebox gifts will bless needy children in Nepal. Please pray for the child who will receive your box. Thank you.

| <b>STEWARDSHIP</b>                 |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b><i>NOV. 30—Dec 1</i></b>        |                  |
| <b>KOA OFFERING BOWL:</b>          | <b>\$1406.25</b> |
| <b>Thanksgiving (Philippines):</b> | <b>\$501.50</b>  |
| <b>Food Pantry</b>                 | <b>\$50.00</b>   |
| <b>Cook Book</b>                   | <b>\$738.00</b>  |
| <b>Sweetbread</b>                  | <b>\$110.00</b>  |
| <b>Human Devel.</b>                | <b>\$55.00</b>   |
| <b>Other</b>                       | <b>\$25.00</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$2885.75</b> |