

# Catholic Community of Malia Puka O Kalani

326 Desha Ave  
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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

**JAN 4-5, 2014**



## AND THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS.....OF FOOD

### 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: Kip Kauka 968-8890

### 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

We end the twelve days of Christmas with the Feast of the Epiphany on Monday, Jan 6th. In the Catholic Church we celebrate the Feast on the weekend closest to Jan 6. Hence, it is this weekend when we stop publicly reciting the prayer requested by Pope Francis asking the Lord to change the hearts of our business and political leaders so that all people will have food. Even as we cease to publicly recite the prayer we are reminded that the purpose of the prayer (global hunger) continues to rage out of control. Indications are that it will only become worse because of some pending legislation by our US Congress.

The House Agricultural Committee is close to a deal that will cut over 8 billion dollars in food stamp benefits for the poor. The change will reduce benefits for the nations poorest households. The cut will fall particularly hard on seniors, disabled people, and working-poor families with children. While the efforts by our representatives to balance the National Budget and live within our means is praiseworthy, Catholic social values dictate that this should never be done by denying food to the poor. Pope Francis has been stating this nearly everytime he speaks.

What can we do? First of all, keep praying that God will change the hearts of those politicians who have become hardened to the plight of the poor. Secondly, make sure that one significant question asked of a candidate seeking our vote is, “What is your position regarding Food Stamps for the hungry”? When determining who gets our vote, this issue ranks as high as some other “Catholic issues”. Feeding the living is as much a Pro-Life issue as protecting the unborn. Thirdly, keep supporting Malia’s efforts to have a vital food pantry so that the people of Keaukaha have a place to find food when their inadequate monthly food stamps allotment has run out.

During the Christmas Season we made a concentrated effort to give Food Gift Certificates and provisions to those in our community who are needy and hungry. Due to your generosity, we were able to put food on many tables and give a Christmas Gift to many children. To show the significance of this small gesture, let me quote from a couple of letters and cards we received. “Dear Malia Puka O Kalani Church: Aloha! I am the father/step father of six boys and one girl. Indeed, we are a ‘houseless’ family that resides on the Keaukaha Homesteads. I would like to take this time to thank all of the church members of Malia Puka O Kalani Ohana for making our Christmas so very special. Indeed, the reason for the season is the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ by the Virgin Mary. Your church and the Holy Spirit has truly extended God’s blessing to our family. For that, we are eternally grateful. Mahalo nui loa”. (signed) (over)

And another lady, a single working mother that needs to provide for herself and four children ranging in age from 6 to 17 asked for help to provide a Christmas dinner and some gifts of clothes which she could put under the tree. She is not from Keaukaha but from a neighboring community. She called on the parish phone. When she told me of her situation, I asked, "Have you checked with the churches in your community"? She answered, "Yes, but they told me that they don't do things like this". I invited her to come over immediately. Malia gave her \$50.00 worth of Food Certificates and \$100.00 for clothes. (The \$100.00 was given by a parishioner to "help someone in need".) She sent a card stating, "Dear Malia Parishioners, Thank you so much for your kind and generous gift to our family this holiday season. It has been and will continue to be very helpful for my family and me to have a great holiday season. Thank you very much. Mahalo Nui Loa. (signed)"

It is difficult to tell how many families Malia helped with food but we know it is many. Whether or not they wrote letters of gratitude, we know we "came bearing gifts...of food" When people are hungry, this is more precious than gold, frankincense and myrrh. As our government leaders are seemingly bent on cutting the food to the poor, Malia can and will resolve that in 2014 any person or ohana in Keaukaha who is hungry will find a gift of food at Malia. Please continue to support our Food Pantry throughout the year. **Fr. Joe**

**MEETINGS:** The Maintenance Committee will meet Sunday, Jan 5 after the 9:00 Mass  
 The Finance Committee will meet Sunday, Jan 12 after the 9:00 Mass  
 The Pastoral Council will meet Sunday, Jan 19 after the 9:00 Mass

**BAPTISM CLASS:** There will be a mandatory Baptism Class for all parents/grandparents/guardians of children under 6 years old who will be presented for Baptism in January, February, March, or April. The meeting is at 11:00AM this coming Saturday, Jan 11. Please call Patty Grube to register. (phone number on the front of the bulletin.)

**MAHALO:** The Christmas liturgies and continued celebrations were inspirational, devout, and filled with the joy of Emmanuel, "God With Us". This could not have happened without the dedicated involvement of so very many people. We say, "Mahalo" to each other. We were all lifted up by the celebrations.

**A PERSONAL MAHALO:** Fr Joe says, "Mahalo for all the cards, messages, prayers and gifts with which I was showered over the Christmas Season. I felt your love and care. For this, I am very grateful and hold you in the palm of my hands as I pray to the Lord for you".

**FR. JOE GONE:** Fr Joe will leave on Monday, Jan. 13 and will be gone until around Feb 6th. He is going to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to meet and be evaluated by his new leukemia doctor. (Leaving Hawaii in January and going to Minnesota????? Something is wrong with this picture!) The hope is that the treatment will be able to be postponed until June or July and that he will be able to return and be at Malia until the end of May. While gone, Fr. Bob will be with us on the week-ends. There will be no priest present during the week.

<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	
<b>Christmas and 12: 28- 29</b>	
<b>KOA OFFERING BOWL:</b>	<b>\$1722.00</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>\$2911.00</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>151.00</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4995.00</b>