

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020



**Saint John Vianney Parish
Community**

920 Keolu Drive, Kailua, HI 96734-3842

Phone: 808-262-8317

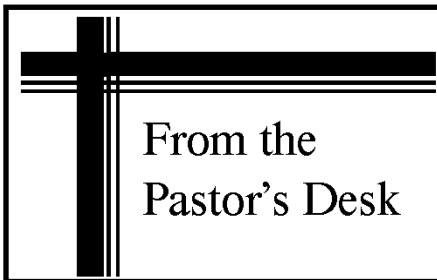
Fax: 808-772-5634

Website: www.saintjohnvianneyhawaii.org

Email: sjvkailuaparish@rcchawaii.org

School Website: sjvkailua.org

myparishapp.com



Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday is commonly known as “*Good Shepherd Sunday*” or “*Vocations Sunday*,” a day when the Church prays especially for new shepherds and pastors to lead the Christian communities. The image of God as the shepherd of his people has a long tradition. The shepherd of biblical times had a much more intimate relationship with his flock. He would bring them out to pasture each day and spend all his time with them. In the evening he would bring them back to the enclosure where they would be safe from preying animals. He knew each one individually and would notice immediately if even one was missing. ***Today being Vocations Sunday; it is obvious that our Church, more than ever before, is in great need of good shepherds, totally committed to the Way of Jesus, to lead people through turbulent times and storms.*** We are asked to pray, especially, that the Church will be graced with good shepherds and pastors. Let us pray for all priests and also for seminarians like Kurt Meyer and his companions, and all those contemplating a calling to the priesthood and diaconate.

While there is this great need, we often tend to narrow the term “vocation” to those who feel called to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, as when we say: “There are very few ‘vocations’ in our diocese.” Yet it needs to be emphasized strongly that every single baptized person has a ‘vocation’. ***Everyone is called by God to play a specific role in the Christian and wider community.*** Unless we see that ‘vocation’ is something that we are all called to, it is not likely that there will be enough people to meet the service needs of our Christian communities. Our parishes can only grow and thrive when every member makes a contribution to the well-being of the whole. When all give, all receive in abundance; the abundance that Jesus speaks about in today’s Gospel. May we all be stewards ready and willing to give.

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Peter

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory: For the foreseeable future, we are not having Sunday Masses. Without a doubt, this has affected our weekly donations to support our Parish.

Our weekly donation for **April 25 –30** is \$ 4,173 and the weekly budget is \$ 9,288. Therefore, we have a **deficit** of \$ 5,115.

MAHALO for your continued SUPPORT to GIVE. If you give online, keep giving online, and if you give by envelope, you can mail or drop off your donation at the Parish Office or place in the Slot Box.

*Remember to Pray for the Sick—
Francis Teixeira and Jack Sullivan
And for the Homebound*

SJV Covid-19 Community Outreach We need you! Our Community needs you!

Following the 9 am video Mass on May 17th, we humbly ask that you drive through the parking lot between 10:30 and 12:30 with your nonperishable food items.

We accept your weekly monetary donations at the same time. More details will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

School News by Earl Walker

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused our local businesses to close.

Unfortunately, some are facing permanent closure. The pandemic has also closed all public and private schools. Almost overnight St. John Vianney responded to this crisis with a **Distance Learning Program** to meet the academic needs of our dispersed students. We continue to prove that we are a vital institution for educating our youth.

This pandemic has proven challenging for Catholic Schools. Unfortunately, due to possible lower enrollment and lack of funding, some may be forced to close forever. We should be working overtime to preserve our parish school. Now is an opportunity for us to strengthen our testimony and mission as a community of faith and charity. As we approach the 2020-2021 school year, let us continue to support our cherished school. Our response will demonstrate who we are and what we believe.



Know Your Catholic Faith Corner

Apologetics without apology!

*Why do Catholics Confess
to a Priest*

“Why can't we go directly to God for confession? Isn't God the one who forgives us?” I am sure you have heard this question or maybe even asked it yourself. It is a fair question to ask. Of course, God is the only one who can and does forgive us our sins, but God in His plan for us from the beginning, chose to show His love, including His forgiving love, through the Church. In James 5:16, God, through Sacred Scripture, commands us to *“confess our sins to one another.”*

This power to forgive sins, Jesus *passed on first to the Apostles* (remember, we are an Apostolic Church). In John 20:21, Jesus said: *‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’* Then He breathed on them and said, *‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them. If you retain them, they are retained.’* “Indeed how can one know what sins to forgive or what sins to retain unless these are made known; that means, unless they are confessed?

Since Jesus would not always be with us physically and visibly, he delegated the power to forgive sins to other men so that his Church would be able to offer forgiveness. Jesus intended this power to be exercised not only by the apostles, but also by their successors for the good of sinners. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) So, the reason why Catholics confess their sins to a priest is because God has chosen to express His forgiving love this way.

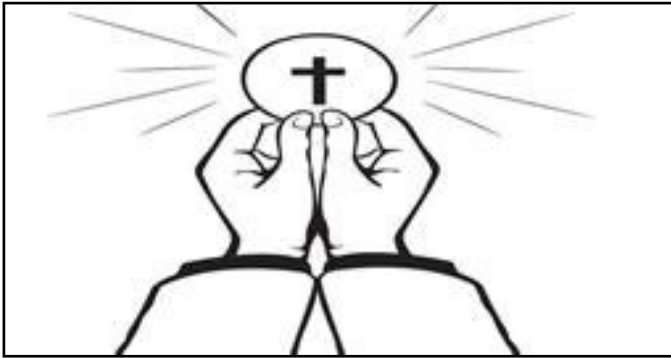
During this Covid-19 lockdown, you can always make an appointment to see the priest for a heartfelt Confession.

“The Lord is always happy when one sinner repents...” (Lk 15:7).

This theme continues through the month of May.

Attending a Virtual Mass and Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

With public Masses cancelled in dioceses across the country for the foreseeable future, many Catholics are heartbroken that they cannot attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. But the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is still taking place, and while you cannot be present physically, there *are* ways for you and your family to participate! Throughout the Diocese our priests are still celebrating the Mass, and you can make an Act of Spiritual Communion to unite yourself to the Eucharist each day.



Here at St. John Vianney we are very committed to bring Christ to the quarantined. For years, Virtual Masses have been a particular solace to the sick and homebound. Now that we are all homebound, we have expanded and made the Mass available on our YouTube page: *sjv Parish Kailua Hawaii*. To participate live, tune in every Sunday at 9 AM.

While many have expressed their gratitude in being able to still participate in Sunday Mass, despite being unable to leave home, some have questioned why we cannot have the celebration inside the Church. The simple answer to that is that we do not have the hi-tech equipment to do so at this stage.

In the meantime, we will continue to do our best to bring Christ to all. Thank you for your patience and allowing us to do this.



In the Risen Christ,
Fr. Peter

St. John Vianney Parish
Presents a year of
APOLOGETICS
How to Explain and Defend your Catholic faith



Upon this Rock I will Build my Church
and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

Why We Confess Sins to a Priest

Jesus himself delegated the authority to forgive sins
to His Apostles and their successors.

As Catholics, we believe that by ordination,
a priest is given as much power to minister God's healing forgiveness
as the Apostles themselves possessed. (see back side)

APOLOGETICS

DEFENDING THE FAITH

Why We Confess Sins to a Priest

- Jesus said, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:21-22).
- Since Jesus would not always be with us physically and visibly, He delegated the power to forgive sins to other men so that His Church would be able to offer forgiveness to future generations.
- "Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt 18:18)
- Jesus knew our desire to hide from our sins and confessing to another person forces us to face our sins and feel true remorse.
- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." (James 5:15-16).
- The confession of sins to a priest to receive the sign of God's healing forgiveness is called the Sacrament of Penance or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18).
- The apostles and their successors are merely ambassadors for Christ bringing his forgiveness to the world through the message of the gospel and the sacraments, including the sacrament of confession. (2 Cor. 5:20).
- And to whom you have pardoned anything, I also. For, what I have pardoned, if I have pardoned anything, for your sakes have I done it in the person of Christ (2 Cor. 2:10)
- Only God can forgive sin, and it is He who forgives sins in the sacrament of Confession and not the priest.



Our Parish Faith Formation Committee encourages
all parishioners to learn more
about this specific topic during May