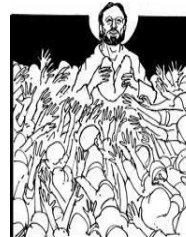


St. Elizabeth Church

AUGUST 2, 2009

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me
will never be hungry."
John 6:24*

1

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 3-9, 2009

3rd - MONDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
6:00 PM Women's Hula - Hall
7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2

4th - TUESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
6:00 PM Hope Alive - Conference Room 3
6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2
7:00 PM YAM - Young Adult Office

5th - WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
8:00 AM Seniors' Knitting - Conference Room 1-2
6:00 PM 8am Choir Practice - Church
6:30 PM Tai Chi - Hall Meeting Room 8
7:00 PM YCL Meeting - Hall
7:00 PM Scouts - Meeting House
8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

6th - THURSDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
5:00 PM Line Dancing - Hall
6:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church
6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice- Conf Room 1-2

7th - FRIDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal - Church
7:00 PM FCC Practice - Church / Hall

8th - SATURDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church
10:00 AM Summer Hula - Hall
11:00 AM Wedding - Church
6:00 PM Mass - Church
7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom
8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

9th - SUNDAY (Regular Mass Schedule)

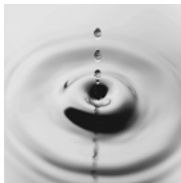
9:30 AM RCIA - Conference Room 1-2
9:30 AM Filipino Catholic Club Mtg - Hall

Today's Readings

1st Rdg: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
2nd Reading: Eph 4:17, 20-24
Gospel: John 6:24-35

Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: 1 Kings 19:4-8
2nd Reading: Eph 4:30-5:2
Gospel: John 6:41-51



A Word from the Shepherd

How often have we invested time, money and energy into projects or new ventures for one reason or another? Many were undertaken for good reasons – life has to be flavored with good things that give some measure of happiness and fulfillment. Gardening can give a sense of peace, especially when what you plant actually grows and bears fruit! Fixing a cars, doing home repairs, sewing projects or arts and crafts all give us a sense of accomplishment and even aid in keeping our brain alert and sharp.

Sometimes even these good attempts at doing something "different" for ourselves fail – we don't like the hot sun or the crawly bugs when we garden; we keep stabbing ourselves with needles and the finished product never looks close to what the dress or shirt should be; attempts at home plumbing repairs only generate more problems!

Even worse are the attempts to find a quick get-rich scheme when we know little about wise investing or think that a few trips to Vegas should do it. Families find themselves in a financial hole through excessive spending or even unwise lending. Sons and daughters, in pursuit of what they think will bring happiness or acceptance and make sometimes disastrously wrong choices

What really satisfies? Today's Gospel brings us a staggering moment of divine revelation. The crowds surrounding Jesus had already witnessed a miracle – two fish and five barley loaves, broken and blessed had fed over 5,000 with lots of leftovers. With the crumbs probably still on their fingers they were asking for a sign of his power ... still. Jesus gives them himself.

He is the true sign of the true power of God. He says that he is the Bread of Life. This bread is not to simply fill stomachs. This bread gives everlasting life.

Think about it. You're the person in the crowd asking for the sign and Jesus tells you that he himself is the way, the sign of how to live forever. He himself is the food you need not only for today's survival but to live forever. You would probably be as puzzled as the crowd. Yet we know through the teaching of the Church and our gift of faith what he meant.

The Eucharist, Communion, is what we need to live. Without Christ within us, nothing else in the world makes sense or adds up. When we truly accept him as our life, why would we ever leave?

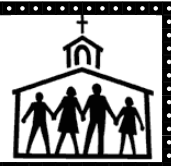
*Simplicity of character is the
natural result of profound thought.*





Pastor's Corner

Fr. Thomas Purayidathil



The Feast of the TRANSFIGURATION – August 6

Until Jesus' transfiguration the disciples didn't know who he was. On the mountaintop, they came to see Jesus in a new way. Something special happened on the Mount of the Transfiguration. James and John had followed Jesus because they wanted special seats at his right hand and at his left (Mark 10:37). Peter wanted to know what he would get since he had left everything to follow Jesus (Mark 10:28). These were men who believed that the fact that Jesus was the Messiah was going to translate into visible, tangible dividends in this life both for Jesus and for them his followers. If Jesus had not prepared them beforehand by giving them a glimpse into the heavenly glory that was his and theirs at the end of their journey of faith, they would have been devastated by the shock of Jesus' shameful death as a public criminal. Just as the mountaintop experience on Mount Nebo prepared Moses and the Israelites, so the Transfiguration prepared Jesus and his special assistants who would assume the mantle of leadership after him for the trauma that was soon to come.

Many of us spend our daily lives in the valley of toil and hardship. We feel abandoned by God and begin to doubt our faith and its promises. If we remain close to Jesus during difficult times, one mountaintop experience is all that we need and our doubts and fears will turn into blessed assurance. The Eucharist we celebrate offers us a glimpse of Jesus in the "mask" of bread and wine. It takes faith to see through to the deeper reality in front of us. As we receive the Eucharist, we move beyond appearance to a deeper truth and a more profound understanding of who God is and who we are as Christians. May our observance of Christian life bring us to that transfigured experience and understanding, an experience of God that is truly transforming and enriching!

God bless you all!

Fr. Tom

WEEKLY COLLECTION



Last Week's Collection	\$ 11,645.50
Building Fund	\$ 134.00
Energy	\$ 166.00
Initial Offering	\$ 65.00
Total Collection for 7/25-26//09	\$ 12,010.50
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	\$ 172.00

Every year, the Diocese approves a list of second collections and provides envelopes for this purpose. In September, the collection is for: Catholic University of America (September 12-13, 2009). To assist with this, St. Elizabeth's will donate 10% of the 4th Sunday's collection in September.

Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon

August 02, 2009: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

This is the first of two accounts of manna and quail in the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Old Testament of the Bible. In the Exodus account for today's reading, greater emphasis is placed on the manna, while the other account, found in Numbers 11, instead emphasizes the quail. Both the manna and the quail are phenomena that are found in the Sinai desert, with the manna being a sweet excretion from certain insects, and the quail being migratory fowl that sometimes die from exhaustion in their flight over the desert. The final remark from Moses highlights the manna and provides the context for idea of the "bread from heaven," which later becomes important for both Jewish and Christian traditions. Verses 19 through 11 narrate Israel's complaints, which is the context for the appearance of the manna and quail.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78:3-4, 23-34, 25, 54

Psalm 78 retells the history of God's continual interventions to save the Israelites, their constant failure to remember what God has done for them, and God's efforts to bring Israel to faithfulness. The psalmist is reminding the Israelites of his own day that this is their story, and is calling them to live the fidelity that their ancestors ignored. The verses used for today's reading connects directly with the first reading, relating God's saving deed of providing both manna and quail in the desert. The psalm verses sing about remembering and passing on the story of God's "glorious deeds" from generation to generation, and also about how the Israelite's desert journey ended: God had led them to the holy land that had been promised to them.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

This reading from Paul's letter is a "parenthesis," or ethical exhortation, which most likely comes from the earliest Christian catechesis, or teaching. The letter highlights the teachings of Christ, and also talks of a pattern of renunciation and renewal. The words "put off" and "put on" seem to point to the early Christian tradition of de-robing for baptism and then re-robing afterwards, but those same words also highlight the contrast that exists between the baptized person's old pagan way of life and the new Christian way of life.

Gospel: John 6:24-35

This selection from John's Gospel opens the way for Jesus' teaching on the "Bread of Life." The people ask Jesus for a "sign" to prove that he is who he claims to be: "the Son of Man" on whom "the Father, God, has set his seal." But Jesus' words speak against a faith that does not see beyond the earthly "signs." Instead, Jesus tells those listening to "work...for the food that endures for eternal life," which is the "bread from heaven," which must be received in faith. What is being highlighted by Jesus' words is not the sign itself (such as the miraculous manna in the desert), but the reality that hides behind the sign (such as God's loving presence and providence which make the sign possible). In this way, Jesus prepares his disciples to hear his later claim: "I am the bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:41). The "sign" that they see is Jesus himself, but the reality behind this "sign" is that Jesus is the "Son of Man" sent by God the Father.



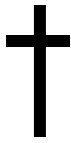
I.H.S. UPDATE (by Ron Nagasawa) ~Lori Almeida picked up and delivered desserts donated by the parishioners of St Elizabeth Church to IHS. The numbers served: 45 at the Women & children's shelter and 150 at the Men's shelter.

Our menu consisted of mashed potatoes, hamburger steak with savory brown gravy, corn, mixed fruit cocktail and, of course, the fabulous array of donated desserts.

Including myself, there were three of us at the women & children's shelter where again Bet-elynn Smith arranged the desserts as though it was a dessert buffet at an upscale restaurant. She's so thoughtful. I then went to the men's shelter and joined the eight volunteers from our church. Most of the volunteers there have been doing this for quite some time. Their friendliness to all is quite uplifting. Our church can certainly be proud of how everyone represents us.

Those served were grateful and I actually ran into the IHS director, Connie Mitchel. She thanked our church for providing the desserts and servers.





Young Christian Life

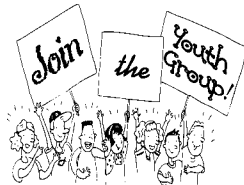
YCL celebrated its 20th anniversary with their biennial retreat held on July 24th through the 26th. The weekend could not have been more perfect. A great mix of old lifers from weekends 1 - 36, sixty-five total spent time reflecting, reminiscing and getting closer to God. The weather was beautiful, the premises was perfect for reflecting on Gods love and generosity. Thank you to all who made this retreat possible. The Hana Hou planning committee, Fr. Mike, Fr. Gordon, Fr. Tom, Fr. Jon, Paulette Bibbs, and the parents who spent their afternoon with us eating lunch to cap the retreat. Also a big mahalo to all who have supported YCL throughout its existence in our parish community. Most especially the YCL lifers are very thankful to our heavenly father above who has been so good to us!



YCL is for youth between the ages of 14 & 18 years old who want to grow in their faith and relationship with God. Come, see what we are all about, join us for:

- Basketball Freeplay, Wed., 5:30 pm
- Prayer Meetings, Wed., 7-8:30pm in the hall
- Youth Mass, Sundays, at 6pm

Need more information? Call Davis or Carolyn Savea, Youth Directors, at (808) 630-9757. God's blessings to all!



RCIA - the Journey of a lifetime

Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour



Jesus the Teacher

Many times in the scripture we've read how Jesus taught the crowds who followed him on his travels hoping for a cure, for a sign of his power. Surely they saw many cures and healings but the real sign of his power lay in his message of reconciliation, mercy and forgiveness. The true power is the power of love.

St. Elizabeth RCIA sessions began ... with an eager group of 20. Many are Catholics needed to complete their Initiation Sacraments with Eucharist and Confirmation; several are from a Protestant background wanting to know more about our Catholic faith and enter into full communion with our Church; some are not baptized and are exploring the commitment to Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they strive to grow in faith and love. To contact us, email or call our ministry contact below:



Listen to the whispers

"Our God is not a distant God ... Our God has a heart," Pope Benedict XVI

St. Elizabeth RCIA: Ministering to all adults seeking to know the Lord in the Catholic Church Ministry Coordinator: Linda Cacpal 487 7994



10th Annual Golf Fun Fest August 28, 2009

The Golf FunFest has added to our parish building fund for nine years, and it has brought a lot of fun and camaraderie. Its success is greatly due to the generosity in gifts and assistance from our parish family and supporters. So once again we are asking for your support for this year's event. We are in need of door prizes and would be very grateful for any donations (i.e., gift cards or certificates, cash, televisions, new appliances, new golf balls, etc.) We also need and will gladly accept any donations of canned sodas, beer and chips. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office before August 27, 2009.

This year's FunFest is being held at Waialeale Golf Course. Please consider playing with us...invite your family and friends for a day of fun and fellowship. Applications are available at the Rectory or at the Church entrance. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the event. Need more information on any of the above? Please call Faga Tuala at 291-4687.



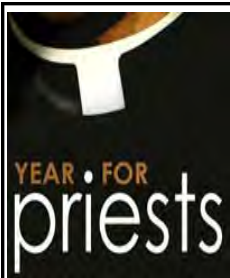
ST. ELIZABETH'S YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Have you been searching for community and fellowship? Well, search no further! ST. ELIZABETH'S YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY is looking to help you grow in your faith!

YOUNG ADULTS meet every TUESDAY at 7pm in the Youth & Young Adult Office. If you are 18 *(high school graduate) to 35 years old, single, dating or married, we invite you to join us for scripture sharing & fellowship.

All are welcomed to attend our meetings! Just come as you are, when you can! Questions? Email: yamstelizabeth@aol.com, or call Jason or Chucky at :486-5116 (office).

Our next social gathering is Sat., August 29, 2009 At the Water Park More details to come.



By Basilian Father Chris Valka

SOURCE: Catholic News Service posted July 28 2009
(cnsblog.wordpress.com)

Growing up, my father used to remind me to be careful what I said, "because all too often, our words come back to haunt us." I am sure we have all heard it before and often found it to be true, but then there are occasions when our words come back to save us.

A few days ago a good friend of mine was in town from overseas. In her own country, she is very close with an older woman, who I will call "Jane." Nearly 50 years ago, Jane worked alongside a priest, who I will call "Joe," before he left the priesthood and his own country. I have never spoken with Jane, but I imagine her to be a person of great faith, fidelity and love, for she communicated to my friend that she has prayed for Joe all these years, though lost touch with him. However she is close with Joe's brother, who informed her that Joe is now dying.

When Jane found out that my friend would be visiting the same city where Joe resides, Jane asked her to visit Joe and tell him that he and his many good works had never been forgotten. Jane passed along an envelope containing old pictures and the copy of a homily that Joe had given to Jane, at her request, when he was still a priest. My friend asked if I would come along, for company to be sure, but also so that I might anoint him if he desired.

When we arrived at Joe's bedside, the nurses warned us that he was not able to speak much and rarely understood his environment anymore. My friend sat beside Joe and introduced herself as a friend of Jane's and we watched as Joe slowly brought his head around to fix his eyes on the eyes of my friend. Clearly he understood. After lifting his frail body into a more comfortable position, we shared the pictures that were sent with us. My friend then unfolded the old homily — Joe clearly recognized it as his own penmanship — and began to read it to him.

... The only complaint Christ ever had on earth was that his friends did not trust him. Men could crucify, scourge, hate and betray him, but he did not complain. But when his own friends doubted his care for them, immediately he asked: 'Why do you doubt? ...' Why? Because the love God wants from us is a love that depends on him. In turn he wants us to show the same care for others. He speaks to us through the Gospels. But he also speaks to us through the people we meet and the events that happen. ...

As my friend read, I watch Joe's eyes begin to fill with water. I had never met Joe until this moment. I have no idea why he left the priesthood and what he did before he entered this hospital. However, I could not help but feel that he was hurt by it all and that my friend was the angel God was sending Joe to comfort him before he passed from this world.

After my friend finished reading, I asked Joe if he would like to receive the sacrament of anointing. He nodded yes. As I traced the oil on his head and hands, his eyes once again filled with tears, and I wondered how long it had been since he had received a sacrament.

After we said a few prayers, we left Joe holding the homily he had written some 50 years ago. I don't know that we will ever get a chance to see him again, but I am quite sure that this man who had clearly done so much for God's kingdom had been saved, by God's grace, through his own words. We both smiled as we left the hospital feeling that Jane's prayers had finally been answered and heard my father's voice in my head, "Indeed, be careful what you say, for those words may be what you need to see the love of God once again."



Father Chris Valka, CSB, was ordained a priest for the Congregation of St. Basil in May and will be teaching at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Michigan beginning in late summer.



OFFER YOUR PRAYERS:

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, the Feast of St. John Marie Vianney, under whose patronage the Year of Priests is dedicated, there will be a special opportunity to pray for all our priests of the Diocese at Blessed Sacrament Church in Pauoa. A Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Peter Dumag, at 6:30pm (preceded by 5:30pm Adoration & Benediction & opportunity for Confession) will offer a spiritual bouquet of prayers, rosaries and novenas by any of the faithful (you) wishing to offer them. Fill out the yellow slip provided at the entrances to our church and turn them in TODAY in the envelope provided in the basket. On one side is the grid where you mark the prayers you will be doing for the intentions of the priests of our Diocese.

A plenary indulgence will also be offered under the usual requirements for all those attending the Aug. 4 Mass, either at Blessed Sacrament Church or any other Church of our Diocese. This is so that those unable to attend but who wish to benefit from the indulgence may also participate—e.g. the elderly, those without transportation, the sick. A plenary indulgence is the remission before God of the earthly punishment due for sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned. That is, a sin may be forgiven in confession but we must still endure the punishment for that sin. A plenary indulgence takes all that away. The requirements are a) sacramental confession b) recitation of prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father c) attendance at Mass on Aug. 4 to pray for priests in this Year for Priests.

Questions? Please ask....

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ... When you care enough to love the very best in your marriage, treat yourselves to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information, please contact Ricky & Jo Ann Viernes at 393-2396 and/or visit our website www.lovemoredeeply.org.

31ST ANNUAL CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE: JESUS, THE HOPE OF THE WORLD, St. John A&E, Mililani, August 14, 5-10pm; August 15, 8am-10pm; August 16, 1-4pm. Guest Speaker: Fr. Daniel Balizan. For more info go to www.hccrs.net or call Florence Andrade, 455-3224.

Does your child have an Autism Spectrum Disorder? Are you interested in Religious Education or Sacramental Preparation for your child? Join us for **A FAMILY GET TOGETHER**, Sat., August 15, 2009, 1pm to 3:30 pm, St. Stephen Diocesan Center. The afternoon will conclude with Mass at 3pm in the Center Chapel. RSVP your attendance to Iwie Tamashiro at 203-6702 or email itamashiro@rcchawaii.org by August 10.

RETREAT FOR LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, 8:30am—3pm, St. Stephen Diocesan Center, Kaneohe, with Fr. John Chandler, SJ and Maxine Pollock. Come and spend some time away with God and your peers. Remember who called you into ministry and how you can re-ignite your hope and passion. For more information please contact Sharon Chiarucci at 203-5733 or email her at schiarucci@rcchawaii.org.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE a peer ministry support group for the widowed, divorced and permanently separated. Persons of all faiths. Call Arlene 949-3387 or Linda 294-8571 for more information.

Marriage Help – RETROUVAILLE (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information call 625-7430 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.
