



# *St. Joseph Parish School*

## *Summer Parent Newsletter: August 24, 2025*

[www.stjosephwaipahu.org](http://www.stjosephwaipahu.org)



August 24, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mrs. Yamashiro and I have had a wonderful week visiting classrooms and watching our students demonstrate school and classroom rules, engage attentively in lessons, and show excitement for their learning. Teachers have also been conducting pre-assessments to identify students' strengths and areas for growth and their learning style.

At every weekly school Mass, our St. Joseph 'Ohana has participated with a prayerful, grateful heart and a genuine love of God and one another. We have the opportunity to receive Jesus and thank Him for the many blessings we receive each day.

We are excited to begin the new Junior High elective courses and to see students preparing for volleyball season. Dr. and Mrs. Yamashiro have also started working with students who will compete in the Lego League Robotics competition. In addition, several new applicants from grades 4–8 have expressed their desire to serve as Knights of the Altar. We are grateful to their parents for supporting their children in making stewardship a way of life. We thank Sister Mark, OP, Mrs. Sabater, and Mr. Sebastian who journey with our Knights of the Altar.

As a school, we continue to respond to the Call to Holiness and strive to “Be a Saint.” In September, our focus will be on “Everyday Holiness,” with St. Teresa of Calcutta as our model, highlighting her virtue of Charity. We will reflect on Matthew 5:16—“Let your light shine before others”—and encourage daily acts of kindness as a way to live out our stewardship by seeking Christ in each person, especially the marginalized.

In September, we will also celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of La Salette. We are truly blessed to have our La Salette priests—our Pastor, Father Eric Castro, MS, and Parochial Vicars, Father Valentine Sun Tun, MS, and Father Jiju Abraham, MS—guiding us in our faith journey and deepening our love and relationship with Jesus.

In closing, thank you for all your support and cooperation as we pray for one another and strengthen ways we can make Stewardship a Way of Life. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely in Christ,

Ms. Sandobal  
Principal

## **Pastor's Reflection: 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Peace be with you!

As we gather on this Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, I invite you to reflect with me on some important questions: What does it mean to strive for something? How often do we consider the paths we choose in our lives? And more importantly, are we willing to enter through the “narrow gate” that leads us to spiritual growth?

Today's readings provide a framework through which we can explore these questions.

In the First Reading, from the Book of Prophet Isaiah, we hear God proclaiming His desire to gather all nations and peoples. It's a reminder that God's embrace extends beyond familiar boundaries; He invites us all into His fold.

This sets the stage for understanding the journey we are called to undertake—one that requires commitment and intentionality. God promises that those who come to Him will be welcomed, yet we must be willing to take the steps necessary to enter that space of grace.

In the letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that discipline is an essential part of our spiritual journey. We often see challenges in life as obstacles, but the writer urges us to view them differently—as signs of God's love and guidance. When we face difficulties, it's a chance to grow stronger in our faith and understanding.

The passage encourages us to embrace these moments as they help us become the people God intends us to be, leading us toward that narrow gate.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus speaks about the narrow gate and the struggle to enter it. This imagery calls us to consider the choices we make daily. The path toward our spiritual home is not always the easiest. It might require us to let go of comfort zones, face trials, and serve others even when it's inconvenient.

Christ emphasizes the importance of making a conscious effort to enter through that gate, indicating that it's not an automatic process but requires diligence and sincerity.

As we reflect on these readings, let's encourage one another to strive for that narrow gate. Let's support one another in our journeys, reminding each other that even when the path seems steep, we are never alone. God is with us, always welcoming us to seek Him.

May we, therefore, accept this invitation to deepen our relationship with Him and grow ever closer to His kingdom.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Eric Castro, MS  
Pastor

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## STEWARDSHIP *A way of Life*

### **THEME: The Interwoven Threads of Accountability, Commitment, and Responsibility**

*"Accountability is the glue that ties commitment to the result."*

This important statement highlights the critical relationship between these three concepts. Without accountability, commitment may lack direction, and results can become elusive. When we hold ourselves and others accountable, we create a foundation for commitment, turning intentions into tangible actions and outcomes.

In the context of stewardship, these elements are essential in fulfilling our roles within our communities and faith.

#### **Point 1: The Nature of Accountability**

Accountability serves as a reflection of our values and actions. In a stewardship context, this means being answerable for our decisions and their impact on the community. It's necessary to recognize that accountability isn't merely about admitting mistakes but also about celebrating successes and sharing the credit.

The challenge, therefore, is to foster a culture where we can openly discuss our actions, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. We are called to hold ourselves accountable to God and to each other, ensuring that we uphold our commitments.

#### **Point 2: Commitment Beyond Words**

Commitment must transcend mere words; it needs to be evident in our actions. As stewards, our commitment should reflect our dedication to serving others and making a difference. This can involve committing time, resources, and energy towards initiatives within our parish community.

The challenge lies in ensuring that our commitments are not just spoken but acted upon. We must evaluate if our actions align with our professed values and beliefs.

#### **Point 3: Embracing Responsibility**

Responsibility goes hand-in-hand with accountability and commitment. Each of us has a role to play, whether in our families, our church, or society at large. Accepting responsibility means being proactive and taking ownership of our decisions and their consequences.

The challenge is to develop a deeper understanding of how our individual responsibilities affect the broader community. By recognizing our impact, we can more effectively contribute to the collective mission.

Let us bear in mind that accountability, commitment, and responsibility are integral to successful stewardship. As we reflect on these pillars, we are reminded of the vital need to create an environment where accountability thrives, our commitments are lived out, and responsibilities are embraced.

Let us identify areas in our lives where we can improve in these aspects and strive to be faithful stewards to our communities and to God. The challenge for each of us is to not only talk about these values, but to act on them, fostering a legacy of trust and integrity.

In Christ's Service,

Fr. Eric Castro, MS



**STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

# Important Upcoming Information

## School and Parish Staff

Fr. Geronimo (Eric) Castro, MS, Pastor

Ms. Beverly Sandobal, Principal  
email: [bsandobal@stjosephwaipahu.org](mailto:bsandobal@stjosephwaipahu.org)

Mrs. Denise Cashman

Office Manager/Admissions Director  
email: [dcashman@stjosephwaipahu.org](mailto:dcashman@stjosephwaipahu.org)

School Main Office

(808) 677-4475 Fax (808) 677-8937

Mrs. Mary Cachuela  
Parish Office Manager

Parish Office  
(808) 677-4276

## Sharing our Resources by Donating Canned Goods

Our school is very blessed to celebrate the Mass every Wednesday at 8:15 am. Our parish pantry is always in need of canned goods. There are many less fortunate brothers and sisters who need food for their table. The need is great. If everyone brings one canned good that is close to 300 canned goods each week. Encourage your child to sacrifice a treat and purchase a canned good that is offered during our mass.



Thank you for your support.

## Becoming a Knight of the Altar (KOA)



Every year we are blessed to have girls and boys in 4th-8th grade who apply to be a Knight of the Altar. It is a blessing to see them sacrifice to get up early and serve at our daily 6:30 am Mass and at the Parish weekend Masses. They have begun their formation classes with the guidance of Sr. Mark, OP, Mrs. Sabater, and Mr. Sebastian. If your child is interested in this ministry, be sure to see Sr. Mark for an application. We thank the many parents who have supported their child's ministry, by waking up and coming to school early so their child can serve at Mass and also having them serve on the weekends. This is one way your child can make stewardship "A Way of Life."



## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, August 25th to Friday, September 5th	Fall Standardized testing begins for Grades 2-8. Be sure to have a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast.
Wednesday, August 27th	<p><b>Mid Quarter for the 1st Quarter</b></p> <p>School Mass and Celebration of Life at 8:15 am. There will be a special blessing for those born in July and August. All students are required to wear their formal uniform. Sponsor: Grade 6.</p> <p><b>Holy Hour for Vocations at 5pm.</b></p>
Monday, September 1st	Labor Day: NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 9th	<p>School Mass at 8:15 am. All students are required to wear their formal uniform. Sponsor: Grade 5.</p> <p>Happy Birthday to our Pastor, Father Eric, MS</p>



# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



## St. Joseph Parish & School

One 'Ohana Fund: One 'Ohana for the Environment

Let's come together as one 'ohana in raising funds for our beloved parish & school through our recyclable items.



# SEPT 20

From 10:00 - 12:00 PM at the  
St. Joseph Parish & School Parking Lot!



## ADULTS, GROW YOUR FAITH BY TAKING THE BASIC ADULT CLASSES (BAC)

FALL / WINTER 2025

SAT, AUG 30 DAY 1

SAT, SEPT 13 DAY 2

SAT, SEPT 27 DAY 3

SAT, OCT 11 DAY 4

9AM-2PM

AFF / MUSIC ROOM

SAT, OCT 25 DAY 1

SAT, NOV 8 DAY 2

SAT, NOV 22 DAY 3

SAT, DEC 6 DAY 4

9AM-2PM

AFF / MUSIC ROOM

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION. MAHALO!**



SUPPORT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GLOBAL WHEELCHAIR MISSION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!  
**SECOND COLLECTION IS THIS WEEKEND AUGUST 23 & 24. MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." -LUKE 13:30*

Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?



## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS. WEEK IN REVIEW.



**ADMINISTRATORS RETREAT | AUG 17** Our Pastor Fr. Eric and Parish School Principal Ms. Beverly Sandobal joined all the Hawaii Catholic School Administrators for a weekend retreat. Praise God for our pastor and our school principal for their ministry!



**RECYCLING DRIVE | AUG 16** Thank you to those who donated to our monthly recycling drive. Your recyclables generously supports our parish and school. Thank you to all the volunteers from our parish and parish school for sorting the recyclables. God bless our donors and volunteers!



**KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR | AUG 23** Our Knights of the Altar continue to serve our parish at our daily and Sunday Masses. We thank our Knights and their families for their stewardship to our parish. Pictured with our Knights are the Dominican Sisters who continue to pray with us!



# Our Special Intentions

## We Pray For....

- Our La Salette Community.
- All family members of Father Eric Castro, MS.
- Juanita Castro, mother of Father Eric Castro, MS.
- Family Members of Stister Judith Abique, SPC.
- Repose of the soul fo Sister Judtith Abique, SPC and her brother Willy Abique.
- All first liners, priests, religious, health workers, essential workers, families, and everyone around the world.
- Mr. Pio Guerrero.
- Mrs. Irene Sandry, grandmother of Tania Ma'afala (SJPS alumni).
- Mr. Seji Tokuda, father of Ms. Grace (Cafeteria Manager) and Tricia Alquisa (Cafeteria Assistant).
- Ms. Sandobal.
- Miles and Avelino Arbues.
- Dr. Rick Yamashiro & Family (Counselor & Dean of Students).
- Repose of the soul of Genny Inase, cousin of Ms. Sandobal.
- Repose of the soul of Regina Salisbury.
- Bryce, Jason, and their families.
- Repose of the soul of Peter Akuna.
- Everette Davis, grandson of Ms. Davis (former Jr. High teacher).
- Mrs. Susan Ganibe, mother of Mrs. Calzada (Music teacher).
- Mrs. Grace Montemayor (mother of Alfredo, alumni).
- Mrs. Ashley Rupert (former teacher).
- Mrs. Michelle Izon (former teacher).
- Brenda Strimpfel, alumni of SJPS.
- Mr. Wendell Bacnis, former teacher.
- Special intention for Krista Chang.
- Sharon Rose Gasmen, mother of Alexander (alumni).
- Samantha Calumpit (alumni).
- William D. Brandt, father of Mrs. Cashman and her husband Jason Cashman (Office Manager, Admissions Director).
- Arne Kawamata and family (Facilities Director).
- Cora Tubana (former Parish Business Manager).
- John C. Basso, grandfather of Journey Ramento and her brother Alika Magnani.
- Laverne Suster (former teacher).
- Mr. Dave Sebastian (Grade 4-5 Social Studies Teacjer).
- Helen Andres, parish staff.
- Papa Tony, Antonio Cabanilla, grandfather of Julia Valenzuela (Grade 4A).
- Mr. Jesse Gregorio, father of (alumni Jesse, Landon, Gr. 8 and Jensen 5A).
- Gary Patacsi Quiming, (SJPS alumni).
- Healing for Deacon Raffy Mendoza, SJPS Financial Advisor
- Healing for Sister Teresa Ebanen, OP.
- Special intention for Miguel Ruiz Machado, brother Of Mrs. Machado (1B Teacher).
- Special intention and healing for Bianca-Lyn Ramento, mother of Journey (3B).
- Healing for David Villa Jr. and Frediz Villa, siblings of Sister Fidelia Villa, SPC.
- Healing for Sister Mark, OP and Sister Rosario, OP
- Special Intention for Cameron Alquisa, son of Mrs. Tricia Alquisa (Cafeteria Assistant).
- Mr. Daniel Sr. and his family. Father of Celeste Akiu principal of Holy Family.
- Mrs. Medeiros, mother of Dr. Glenn Medeiros, (President of St. Louis School).
- Repose of the soul of Brian Kaawalooa, friend of Ms. Eileen. (Grade 3-4 Teacher)
- Repose of the soul of Kiara Ago, family member of Sister Fidelia Villa,SPC.
- Repose of the soul of Constantino Gopez, Deputy Grand Knight .
- Repose of the soul of Bernardo Soriano, uncle of Mrs. Fowler (Grade 3-4 Teacher).
- Repose of the soul of Jasper Acosta and special intention for his family.
- Repose of the soul of Warren Miyahira, (brother of Ms. Eileen (Grade 3-4 Teacher).
- All the people affected by the typhoon and flooding in the Philippines.
- All the people suffering due to inclement weather.
- All the people affected by the wild fire in California.

