

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

STAFFED BY:

Fr. Paulo Kosaka, O.F.M. Cap.

VICE PROVINCE OF STAR OF THE SEA

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Try your best
to enter by the
narrow door.”**



**WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF MT.
CARMEL CHURCH**

E komo mai!

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the ‘Ohana of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church stand united as a committed multicultural parish in prayer and faith; with the power of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary; to evangelize in the service of God, by sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ in our words and actions with the hope of eternal salvation for all.



'Aukake

21—SUNDAY (Lapule)

- ⇒ 7:30am—Mass
- ⇒ 8:45am—Faith Formation
- ⇒ 10:00am—Mass

22—MONDAY (Po'akahi)

- ⇒ Divine Office - Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass
- ◆ Mass Intentions - Blessings for: Castro, Rivera and Kosaka Ohana, Strength for Bobbie Wilson.

23—TUESDAY (Po'alu)

- ⇒ Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass
- ◆ Mass Intentions: Birthday Blessings: Winnie Salas, blessings and protection for our parish children, youth and young adults.

24—WED. (Po'akolu)

- ⇒ Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass
 - ◆ Mass Intentions: Thanksgiving for healing & Reconciliation
- ⇒ 10-12pm—Foodbank

25—THURSDAY (Po'aha)

- ◆ 7:00am Mass Intentions: Prayers for Pelegrin, Obien & Branscum Family and safe journey for Gabrielle Kamaka and Kamaka Ohana.
- ⇒ Diocesan Clergy Conference-Workshop -St. Stephen's Diocesan Center (9:00am – 3:00pm)

26—FRIDAY (Po'alima)

- ⇒ 9:30am Funeral Mass: +Laura Theolinda Toledo & 11:00am Burial Valley of the Temples.

27—SATURDAY (Po'aono)

- ⇒ Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 7:00am Mass
 - ◆ Mass Intentions: Prayer to Blessed Mother to enfold the Johnsen Halas Ohana under her protection & love. +Samuel & +Emily Halas.
- ⇒ 8:00am—Hawaii Catholic Men's Conference (St. Ann's)
- ⇒ 4:30pm—Vigil Mass



Healing and Strength for:
Ernest Gabina Darisay,
Frances Padeken, Bobby Wilson,
Maria Halford, Clementine Kong,
Lin English, Diane Lau,
Bernadine Zimbra, Richard Asuncion,
Lono Lauahi,
and for all parishioners that are homebound and for all caregivers.

Blessings and Safe Journey for:
Gabrielle Kamaka and Teja Marie Ruff Salas.

For Peace in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in the Far East, and in Central America.

For the Souls of: +Laura Theolinda Toledo and +Dolores Galicinao Ramiscal.

For Mass Intentions:
Please email or call the parish office for Mass Intention requests. We would appreciate at least a 2-3 days in advance before the weekend. If you are noting your Mass Intentions online, please also email our parish office.

Mahalo & God bless you!

BIG MAHALO to:

Madeline N. for cleaning the church in preparations to our weekend Masses!
Betty Lou K. for the flowers on the altar, *All the counters* of the weekends:
Pua Kamaka, Charles W., Francis J., Charlotte R., Lori W., Betty Lou K., and Pacita W., and to the Foodbank Ministry Team: Nick C., Noella C., Ronn ., Carol V., Czarina S., Pua K., and Gabrielle K. on August 18th. The grounds keepers Larry L. and Lanikae L. *And to ALL* the ministers in the parish who serves so willingly and faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Treasure Report For the weekend of:

AUG. 13 - AUG.14

4:30pm Mass

Tithes & Offerings...\$107.00
Building fund...\$275.00
Catholic Charities...\$20.00

7:30am Mass

Tithes & Offerings...\$173.00
Building fund...\$68.00

10:00am Mass

Tithes & Offerings...\$223.00
Building fund...\$238.00
Chairs donation...\$50.00
Ohana in Christ...\$50.00

OTHER: ONLINE GIVING

Funds types

Building...\$400.00
Faith Formation...\$40.00
Offering / Tithes...\$1,000.00
(August 7 - August 14, 2022)

OTHER: WALK / MAIL IN

Church Donations:

Building funds...\$1,058.00

(Donations varies of spiritual services provided)
(Deposit to BOH on: August 17, 2022)

GRAND TOTAL OF:

\$3,702.00

A BIG
thank you

21st. Sunday in Ordinary Time C

August 21, 2022

From the desk of Fr. Paulo

ALOHA & FAREWELL

We bid our young adult Gabrielle Kamaka aloha & farewell as she departs this Thursday accompanied by her family to her college studies at Arizona Grand Canyon University. We are grateful to Gabrielle for the years she has served in her ministries as a faithful Lector, recently assisted with our parish Foodbank Ministry and Faith Formation – Genesis in the Beginning, and have faithfully attended the 10:00am Sunday Mass.

She has been actively present in our parish life also as a member of the Youth Ministry and participating in the many parish events with her Kamaka Ohana. Ho'omaika'i – Congratulations Gabrielle.

We wish her God's blessings and protection as she goes on to higher education and face new challenges in GCU in Arizona. Always keep your spiritual life active and remember your roots of your Ohana.

OUR MONTHLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mahalo Nui Loa to those who participated at our Parish August Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday August 2nd and Second Sunday, August 14th. Your efforts and sacrifices truly blesses all of us in the parish. Our Scriptures are filled with men and women of all ages who stood on behalf of others to pray and brought God's mercy and blessings to many.

The Eucharist is the **Source and the Summit** of our Christian Faith. May our parish receive abundance of God's blessings as we celebrate our firm faith in the **Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist**.

Have a blessed week in the Lord,

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.

GIVE ALOHA

Last weekend we made the announcement regarding our parish participation with other churches and nonprofit organizations in the Foodland Community project called **Give Aloha**.

I would now like to give you some updates.

What is the Purpose of Our Parish participation in the Give Aloha program or any Fund Raising?

Here are some but not all:

For ongoing parish efforts to pay off **our parish loan** incurred* with the major construction.

We had brought to compliance with the City and County Code by the installation of new water line, the power system, placement of fire hydrant and new sewer tanks and system. All these to bring to completion our Hale 'O Malia building, major repairs of the church & Sts. Damian & Marianne Social Hall. As of July 2022, we have the loan amount of ***\$ 137,586.34** left.

The parish is also preparing for some necessary upkeep of our buildings:

Need for repairs and external painting of Hale 'O Malia building (Last painted over 6 years ago) Repairs in Church and St. Damian & Marianne Social Hall.

Here are some updates on the Give Aloha program.

The program is for only for the **month of September 2022. Foodland will match a portion of your gift. We will receive all donations to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church plus our matching gifts in October.**

You may track your donations given by saving your receipts for the Year End Tax Report. Put your receipts in safe place and you may turn them in later.

How it works:

Go to any **Foodland or Sack N Save store.**

Make a donation of any amount up to \$ 249. at checkout.

Give the cashier our organization code for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel **# 79081**

Present your Maika'i Card to the cashier when making your transactions.

Review your receipts to confirm the donation amount and the name of our parish is correct.

OUR PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers and condolences to:

Eddie and Lilia Galicinao and Galicinao Ohana on the death and burial of Eddie's sister **+Dolores Galicinao Ramiscal** last Thursday, August 11th and to Leatrice L. Gomes and Gomes Ohana on the death of **+Laura Theolinda Toledo**. Her funeral is on Friday, August 26th.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto **+Delores Galicinao Ramiscal and +Laura Theolinda Toledo**, O Lord and Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May the Souls of **+Delores and +Laura** Rest in Peace O Lord, Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday, August 22nd

Divine Office - Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass

Mass Intentions - Blessings for: Castro, Rivera and Kosaka Ohana, Strength for Bobbie Wilson.

Tuesday, August 23rd

Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass

Mass Intentions: Birthday Blessings: Winnie Salas, blessings and protection for our parish children, youth and young adults.

Wednesday, August 24th

Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 8:00am Mass

Mass Intentions: Thanksgiving for healing & Reconciliation for the Adaro Ohana.

Thursday, August 25th

7:00am Mass Intentions: Prayers for Pelegrin, Obien & Branscum Family and safe journey for Gabrielle Kamaka and Kamaka Ohana.

Diocesan Clergy Conference-Workshop -St. Stephen's Diocesan Center

9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday, August 26th

9:30am Funeral Mass: +Laura Theolinda Toledo & 11:00am Burial Valley of the Temples.

Saturday, August 27th

Divine Office – Morning Prayers followed by 7:00am Mass

Mass Intentions: Prayer to Blessed Mother to enfold the Johnasen Halas Ohana under her protection & love. +Samuel & +Emily Halas.

“Prepare My Hands for Battle” – Hawai’i Men’s Conference 9:00am – 4:00pm

St. Ann’s Catholic Church, Kaneohe, Hawai’i.

Please Note: No 3:30pm Confession this Saturday due to attendance at Men’s Conference.

4:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, August 28th

7:30 am Mass & 10:00am Mass

Faith Formation – CCD Classes 8:45am – 9:45am

Scripture Reflections

Ole Testament: Isaiah 66: 18 - 21

Background Context.

The author of this part of prophet Isaiah (generally called Trito-Isaiah) was written after the return from the **Babylonian exile, 538 B.C.** His aim was to console the returned exiles, who were depressed when they saw the sad state of Jerusalem and the poverty of the country round about.

He foretold the future glory of Jerusalem to which people of all nations would come. It would be the center from which the knowledge of the true God would go out in all directions.

I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations: It is God who is speaking. He would bring the nations of the world.

They shall come and see my glory: To a knowledge of the true God of glory, the Lord of all.

I will set a sign among them: A standard or banner around which they will gather. In Isaiah 7: 14 the “sign” Isaiah gave to Ahaz was the Immanuel, the Son will be born to a virgin. Here it seems to be the Immanuel’s standard, his gospel, his life work which would be the center of unity for all nations.

From them I will send fugitives to the nations: This refers in the first place to the Jews of the diaspora, those scattered among the Gentiles, who brought their religion with them and gave the Gentile people some knowledge of the true God. But it was in the Apostles and their successors that these words were truly fulfilled.

Tarshish, Put and Lot, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan: The glory of God will be made known in the most distant parts of the known world by these envoys from Jerusalem.

They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering: The diaspora will then end; all Jews will return “as an offering to the Lord.” They will be brought back to give God honor, by the Gentiles, who now acknowledge the true God.

Some of these I will take as priests and Levites says the Lord: Hitherto only the descendants of Aaron could be priests and Levites in the temple. The new Temple will be served by members of the Gentile races, a great advance on the narrow racial outlook hitherto practiced among the Chosen people of God.

New Testament: Hebrews 12: 5 – 7; 11 - 13

Background Context.

Last Sunday, the author of Hebrews encouraged Christians to be ready to face adversity and hardships. He compared them with athletes who endure so much in order to win a contest. Today he goes on in the same strain, telling us that we must expect hardship – it is part of our training. We cannot win the prize unless we undergo this training. It is God, our loving father, who sends us these trials- he is our Trainer. He wants us to win the eternal prize because he loves us; he is our Father.

You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: The author is writing to Jewish converts who should know their Old Testament. he quotes from the **book of Proverbs** (which they seem to have forgotten), in which those whom God loves are advised to accept chastisements and corrections from God. It is because he loves them, as a father loves his son, that God corrects and reproves them, in order to make them fit to face life and reach the goal God has destined for them.

My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him: The author of Hebrews now tells his Christian readers to accept the trials they have to face, because it is God who is sending them. He is doing this for their spiritual good, he is acting like a loving father.

For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges: Being human, everyone feels physical or mental pain when such trials strike. But if they are for one's good, as is the case when they are sent or permitted by God for one's spiritual improvement, then when the pain ends one feels the benefit; it brings forth the fruits of peace and justice.

So, strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees: Get rid of despondency, straighten up and face your problems.

Make straight paths for your feet: Don't allow difficulties or trials to divert you from your Christian duty, your Christian path and Christian perseverance.

That what is lame may not be disjoined but heal: If the Christian accepts the troubles and trials of life as coming from God and as a means toward his salvation, instead of "breaking" him, they will "make" him. Instead of a hinderance, they will prove to be a great help in his journey towards eternity.

Gospel: Luke 13: 22 - 30

Background Context.

Our Lord's message in today's Gospel was primarily intended for the Jews, who had heard his teachings but refused to follow it. However, the fate he foretells for them is the same fate which awaits all, Jews, or Gentiles, who fail to accept the Gospel which he preached and live according to it.

Someone asked him, Lord will only a few people be saved: Jesus did not give a direct answer to this question as to how many would be saved, but he told the questioner that many would be lost because they were unwilling to accept the restrictions which his teachings demanded of them.

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough: This mean: if you wish to enter the kingdom of God in the hereafter, you must mortify and put restrictions on yourself in this life.

After the Master of the house has locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, Lord open the door for us: The door is locked, and all those who were worthy to enter

are already inside. The late comers are late through their own negligence; they had ignored the invitation while they still had time to reach the banquet hall.

He will say to you in reply, I do not know where you are from: They are unknown to the Master of the house. This is so because they failed to keep in touch with him. They had not even answered his invitation. They had ignored the invitation while they still had time to reach the banquet hall.

And you will say, we ate and drank in your company: They claim familiarity with him.

You taught in our streets: Yes, they had met him, and they had heard him preach, but that was all they had done. They had not applied his teaching to their own lives. They remained strangers to him even though they could have become his friends.

Then he will say to you, I do not know where you are from. Depart from me all you evil doers: The late arrival mentioned above implies guilt; they ignored him and rejected his offer of salvation. They lived on in their sinful ways until it was too late and so they excluded themselves.

And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth: Signs of bitter regret for what they have lost, and a feeling of utter frustration.

When you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out: They will also be filled with envy that their ancestors, of whom they were once proud, are now safe forever in God's banquet hall, while they have excluded themselves. They learn now that descent from Abraham was not enough. They had their won part to play but failed to play it.

And people will come from the east and the south and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God: Outsiders, Gentiles, whom they so much despised, will be with Abraham in God's kingdom, while they, the chosen race, have failed to get in.

For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last: The Gentiles will take the place of the chosen race in the new kingdom of God. The Jews thought that they would always be first in God's plans, but they find now that their rejection of Jesus entailed their own exclusion from the new kingdom of God. The Gentiles, with whom God had dealt only indirectly until the coming of Jesus, accepted Jesus and his teachings and therefore merited citizenship in heaven.

Application to Life.

Someone said there are **3 kinds of Christians: Tugboat Christians, Sailboat Christians and Raft Christians.**

First the tugboat Christians:

The **tugboat Christians** are those who follow Jesus Christ not only in sunny weather but also in stormy weather.

They follow Jesus not only when the wind and the tide serves them but also when the wind and the tide oppose them.

They go to Mass on Sunday not because they have to but because Jesus Christ said at the Last Supper; **“Do this in memory of me.” Luke 22:19.**

They help other people, strive to obey God’s Commandments, and practice their faith not because they feel like it but because Jesus said, **“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 5:12 and “You are the salt and the light of the world...” Matthew 5: 13 – 16.**

In short tugboat Christians are the kind of people that today’s Second Scripture Reading of Hebrews exhort us to become.

“Endure your trials as discipline; God treats you as sons.” Hebrews 12:7. Though initially our discipline and trials we endure for our faith are painful, **Book of Hebrews** reminds us that God treats us like His children and all discipline God sends are all meant for our good.

No father or mother will forego a discipline when they see their child straying in the wrong path.

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate...” Jesus exhorts us in the Gospel of Luke.

The second, the sailboat Christians: The **sailboat Christians** on the other hand are those who follow Jesus when the wind and the tide serve them.

But when the wind and tide oppose them, they tend to go in the direction they are blown. The Sailboat Christians go to Sunday Mass when family and friends go but left to themselves, they often miss.

They ask, **“How far can I go before I sin?”** rather than **“How much more can I do because I love?”**

They fail to realize that Christianity is not about rules and laws alone but about a relationship with Jesus Christ. They only recognize Jesus for what they can gain.

Therefore, God’s 10 Commandments are seen as restrictions and burdensome in their lives rather than the guiding light that leads us securely in our path to eternal life.

They are sometimes called **“Cafeteria Christians”** because they only choose what is convenient for them and not what is necessary for them.

In short, they are people who follow Jesus through the wide gate but are reluctant to follow Him through the narrow gate. **“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,”** Jesus exhorts us today.

Yes, sailboat Christians tend to follow the crowd and the popular trend of the time and culture more than they follow the gospel.

Finally, there are the raft Christians: Raft Christians are Christians in name only. They don't really follow Jesus, even when the wind and the tide serves them.

If they go in Jesus' direction, it is only because someone pulls or pushes them.

Often it is the lot of those who are complaisant in spirit. Somehow, though they are baptized and have received all the graces that are necessary for salvation...they fail to respond.

They do Christian things not because they want to but because they have to. In short, they are Christians in name only but not in deed.

Jesus Christ and His teachings disturb their complaisant hearts, and their consciences are often provoked.

This brings us back to today's Scripture readings and the questions set before us:

Are we a tugboat Christian, a sailboat Christian or a raft Christian?

Are we tugboat Christians? Do we follow Jesus Christ in good times and in bad? Do we go with Jesus not only through the wide gate but also through the narrow gate as well?

When Jesus is asked by someone; **“Lord, will only a few people be saved?”** Jesus answered them: **“Strive to enter through the narrow gate.”**

The Pharisees and the Scribes thought and acted as though they had the guarantee to heaven because they were members of the Chosen People, the Jews.

Jesus reprimanded them on many occasions in the gospel that, that was not enough, the possession of heaven is not a birth right.

Thus, entry into the Kingdom of God can never be automatic...but it is the result and the reward of struggles...faithfulness.

Jesus said, **“Strive to enter through the narrow gate...”**

The verb **“to strive”** as it occurred in the original word has given rise to our English verb **“to agonize.”** The word for striving is the word from which the English word **“agony”** is derived.

It means as Christians we are placed in the arena (world)...the area of life with the struggle that is fierce...for our opponents are Self, Sin and Satan.

It means that Christianity is never a spectator religion, but a religion that will cost one's life.

It is interesting to note that St. Luke began the gospel passage with Jesus passing through towns and villages teaching...all while making his way to Jerusalem, before he is asked by someone, whether only a few people are saved.

We know that it is in Jerusalem that Jesus will suffer, die, and rise. The narrow gate that Jesus will enter is Jerusalem and as His disciples we expect nothing different.

We do not know who asked...for we are told it is someone...it could be anyone of us.

Are we **Tugboat** Christians...**Sailboat** Christians...or are we **Raft** Christians?

When difficult situations test us as Christians do we abandon our faith?

Are we Christians that is void of obedience to God's Commandments and teachings and the call to repentance? Thus, a Christianity that is without the Cross? Are we becoming more and more Christians in name only?

For such a follower, the Lord will say to us, I do not know you...and when we knock at the locked door and stand outside...even as we keep knocking the door will be shut. Even as we may declare that **“we ate and drank with your company, and you taught in our streets...”**

Set before us is the question; **“Lord will only a few people be saved?”**

No one can answer that for us except each one of us must do that ourselves and by our daily lives of discipleship we know the true answer.