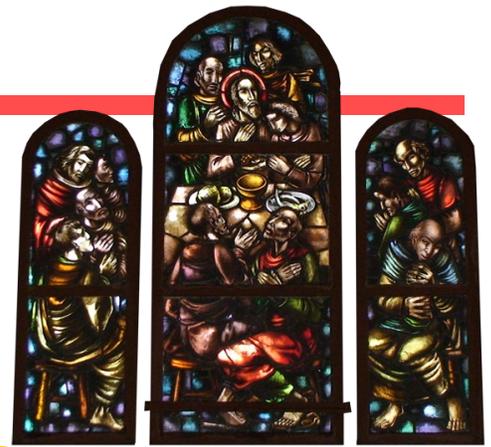




The Journey

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



December 2015

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday , December 24th at 8:00 PM

Christmas Day Service & Meal Thursday, December 25th at 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve Brunch: December 31st at 10:00 AM

Let us this day

- * Help setup New Year Eve meal for homeless at church. Volunteers needed 9am
- * Pray for your family
- * Consider a special offering for the church
- * Make room in your inn
- * Schedule to attend Safe Church Training



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O Come, O Come, Emanuel



Advent is the season when Episcopalians are called to reject the values of a consumer crazed society, where shoppers push and shove, or trample over one another to get the products they covet, just hours after stuffing themselves with turkeys that are raised and slaughtered to commemorate an event that mirrors the brutal marginalization of millions of Native Americans.

One wonders who the real turkeys are?

When the Lord GOD declared: "I will give you treasures hidden in secret places" (Isaiah 45.3), he was not talking about blockbuster sales on "Black Friday" or "Cyber Monday." It used to be that Santa kicked off the holiday season with his appearance on the last float of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Now we hear Christmas carols on the radio and in the stores before all the Halloween paraphernalia has been taken off the shelves.

Have we become a nation that has exchanged Jesus for Santa? A nation that decorates their Christmas trees before the Advent season even begins?

I remember how exciting it was to savor the season by opening a window of my Advent calendar each day. The delayed gratification of dressing an evergreen tree and placing another figure in the crèche each Advent Sunday also taught me patience and gave me an opportunity to ponder the mystery of Jesus' birth.

The consumer frenzy that sucks us into increasing amounts of debt is hazardous to our financial AND spiritual health. The only debt we need carry is the one we have to the GOD who teaches us that honoring the humble birth of a babe born in a manger can lead us to a much greater sense of awe and wonder than anything we could ever buy.

I pray that you will be guided by the LIGHT from above, as the Magi were so long ago, that this will be the most fulfilling holiday season you've ever had.

O Come, O Come Emanuel!

Love always –

Fr. GREGORY+

Thanksgiving Day

Service

Church of the Epiphany



Thanksgiving Day Service was held at the Church of the Epiphany on Tenth Avenue. Members from Epiphany, Good Samaritan, St. Luke's and St. Mary's Episcopal churches were in attendance.

Immediately after the service everyone went to St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili to participate in a Thanksgiving Day meal with the homeless of McCully and Mo'ili'ili neighborhoods.

Meal

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili Episcopal Church

Food For Everyone



Free sit down Thanksgiving meal for all who enter



Singing old show tunes



Korean church joined us - singing great gospel selections

Shoebox Ministry 2015

By Kimery Ushijima

Committee: Denise Hargarten, Jackie Mok, Laurie Lee and Kimery Ushijima

This year with the investigation of Jackie Mok we decided to donate our Christmas filled shoeboxes to Helping Hands Hawaii. Helping Hands Hawaii which has an assigned case worker that goes out in the field to find people who are homeless and needs assistance also families or people who have a home but needs assistance with supplies. Jackie Mok who is a social worker researches all the different organizations and carefully selects one in need of Christmas presents.



Youth talks about supporting Shoebox ministry

We started collecting shoeboxes and supplies throughout this year. I made a plea on facebook for used Christmas Cards and low and behold I was sent a large box of Christmas cards from a relative from Hilo that was enough to last us this season and next season. The St. Mary's Sunday School started decorating the boxes in October and on October 11th we had a food/bake and item sale. We made \$757 and many thanks to the people who donated items to us and for Bernice Tawahara who sold some jellies earlier and gave us the proceeds also for her taking the time to sew us baby quilts and this lady is 88 years young. :) Many Thanks to St. Lukes Church and Good Samaritan for your donations and support. We made good use of Good Samaritan Christmas Paper that they let us use from last year to wrap up the back packs .Many Thanks from all of you for your donations and help and we could not make this possible without you!

November 7th we finished up the boxes on Saturday and set up on Nov.13th in the Sanctuary. Many Thanks to Amy Ushijima, Tamae Endo, Ruth Yoshioka, Sets Kochi for your assistance. November 14th everyone came to St. Mary's to fill the shoeboxes and we beat last year record of 102 to 118 this year also 45 back packs. With the keen sense of shopping from Laurie Lee she found some good priced back packs from Fisher's. Thank you again this year to Richart Au Hoy for purchasing children items from the PX.

I made labels so that we could notate the items in the shoeboxes and I watched the Hargarten's grandchildren carefully selecting items and thinking what they should put in each box to make it special. With the help of our strong men and kids at St. Mary's they loaded up the boxes in Jackie's van and my car and we brought it down to Helping Hands Hawaii. They were so grateful and happy for all of the donations. Helping Hands also take used items and they do not resell any of it. She explained that their case workers may find someone in need of furniture or clothing and they will give them 30 minutes to go through their warehouse and pick up things. Talking to them made this year donations all worthwhile and you want to go out and do more for next year. This Shoebox Ministry is not just for the Sunday School but for everyone at St. Mary's and everyone else who wants to join in to help our local people here in Hawaii.



So start saving your shoeboxes and toiletries (like the soaps and shampoos from the hotels) rubber slippers, Christmas Cards (used are ok) anything new that you won't be using and if you have no space at home just bring it to St. Mary's . Merry Christmas!

new ministry: "Inspiration: for Young Women: Teens and Twenties



The inaugural meeting of a new ministry: "Inspiration: for Young Women: Teens and Twenties" was held on Sunday, November 15th at St. Mary's Mo'ili'ili. Building spiritual community among young women and offering a time and place to share journeys, interior grace and confidence, and co-leading. We began the meeting sharing spiritual journeys, naming personal gifts, and ended in prayer. May you have confidence that you are made perfectly, that you can trust your insight, that your experiences give you wisdom, that your faith will sustain you, and that

from left to right: "Inspiration" meeting November 15th, attended by Faith, Sarah, Kristi, Heather, & Elizabeth Lewin

friends inspire and celebrate your endeavors. Next meeting TBA on or near December 13, 2015. Please contact Elizabeth at elstarpath@gmail.com or St. Mary's office.



Fr. Gregory with Kris Cambell, our Zumba and Tai Chi Instructor



Zumba class in action

Spotlight on guest



Exchange student



Susie Charlie visiting from Tuntutuliak, Alaska

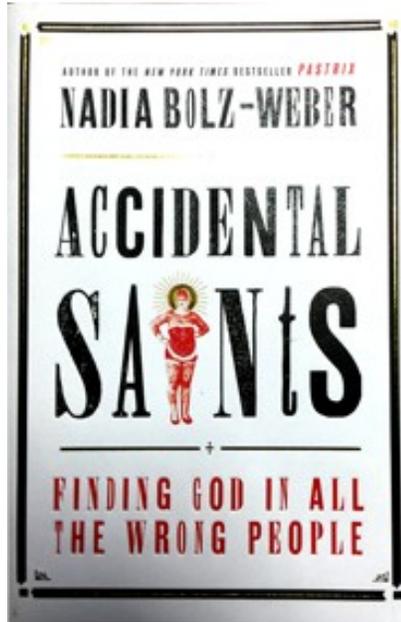
Book of the Month Club

Participants select the book!

Next once a month discussion December, 26 2015 with Fr. Gregory Johnson.

Book of the month club meets the last Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the conference room.

The December book for discussion will be *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber



Participants buy their own book through their preferred service provider. Book Club meeting includes Brunch

Elizabeth Lewin greets Maedene Lum after the Thanksgiving Day Service. Maedene who attends Epiphany, attended St Mary's 16 years ago. She played the organ and was a choir director for 2 years.



Fr. Gregory introduces Yoga instructor Alleen Riordan. Yoga is every Tuesday at 11am



St Mary Salutes our Veterans

2015 National Homeless Memorial:

To honor those who have passed away

Monday December 21, 2015

The Longest Night of the Year

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

St. Mary's of Mo'ili'ili, 2062 South King St.

There will be a hot meal served, gifts, and a memorial service.



Come join us for this free event.



The contractor painting Soldier Chapel explains to the vestry options for painting support poles. Should be completed before January.

Presentations

A very informative presentation about Moldova was given by Andreea Buzdugan during Aloha Hour in the Gathering Room. Miss Andreea lives in Moldova when not being an exchange student in Hawaii.



The Rev. Professor Gregory Johnson, Rector of St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili received a "Sparks of Hope" award on behalf of St. Mary by Interfaith Alliance Hawaii. The award recognized the work and service for and love towards homeless individuals and the working poor in the Mo'ili'ili neighborhood. Above Fr. Gregory explains those ministries of the church and a commitment to always continue.



Covenant Players

Blessed us

With a

Visual Sermon

November 15th.

Amen!



Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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The Journey
BACK ISSUES
Click Here



Birthdays

- 3-AJ Anastacio
- 14-Faith Blanchett
- 18-Joe Pang
- 22-Suzumu Edward
- 23-Charis Mok
- 23-Dara Tawarhara
- 29-Roland Yamaguchi
- 30-Brian Anastacio
- 31-David Blanchett

Mo'ili'ili Homeless Outreach Service

December 25th & 31st 10am

In Gathering Room

Volunteers report at 9am

Hula Ministry

Every Saturday 10-11am

Gathering Room, St. Mary



National Homeless Memorial

Monday December 21st

5:00 - 6:30pm

Hot Meal, Gifts, and a

Tai Chi Class

Every Sunday

8:00am-8:45am

Chapel Front Lawn

Zumba Class

Saturdays 8:30am

Gathering Room

Book of the Month

Saturday, December 26th
10am * Conference Room

Yoga Class

Every Tuesday ~ 11:00am

Gathering Room

Aloha Hour Potluck

Sunday 10:00am

December 27th

Gathering Room



Vestry Meeting

Sunday December 20th

10:15 AM

In Memorial



4-Powertan Blanchett

5-June Morioka

5-Thelma Pang

22-Dorothy Sumida

23-Takeshi Kouchi

25-Rick Hoogs

26-Barbara Hoogs

31-Norman Yamaguchi

Tri Church Ministries

Tri Church:

BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:00am
at: St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Tri Church:

Kadomatsu Saturday

December 26 10:00am- finish
at: St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 - 8:00pm

Christmas Day Service

And Meal

December 25 - 10:00am

Mo'ili'ili Outreach Meal

December 31st - 10:00am

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