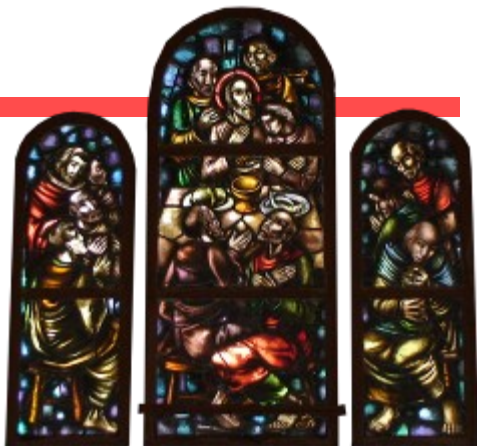




The Journey

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



February 2019

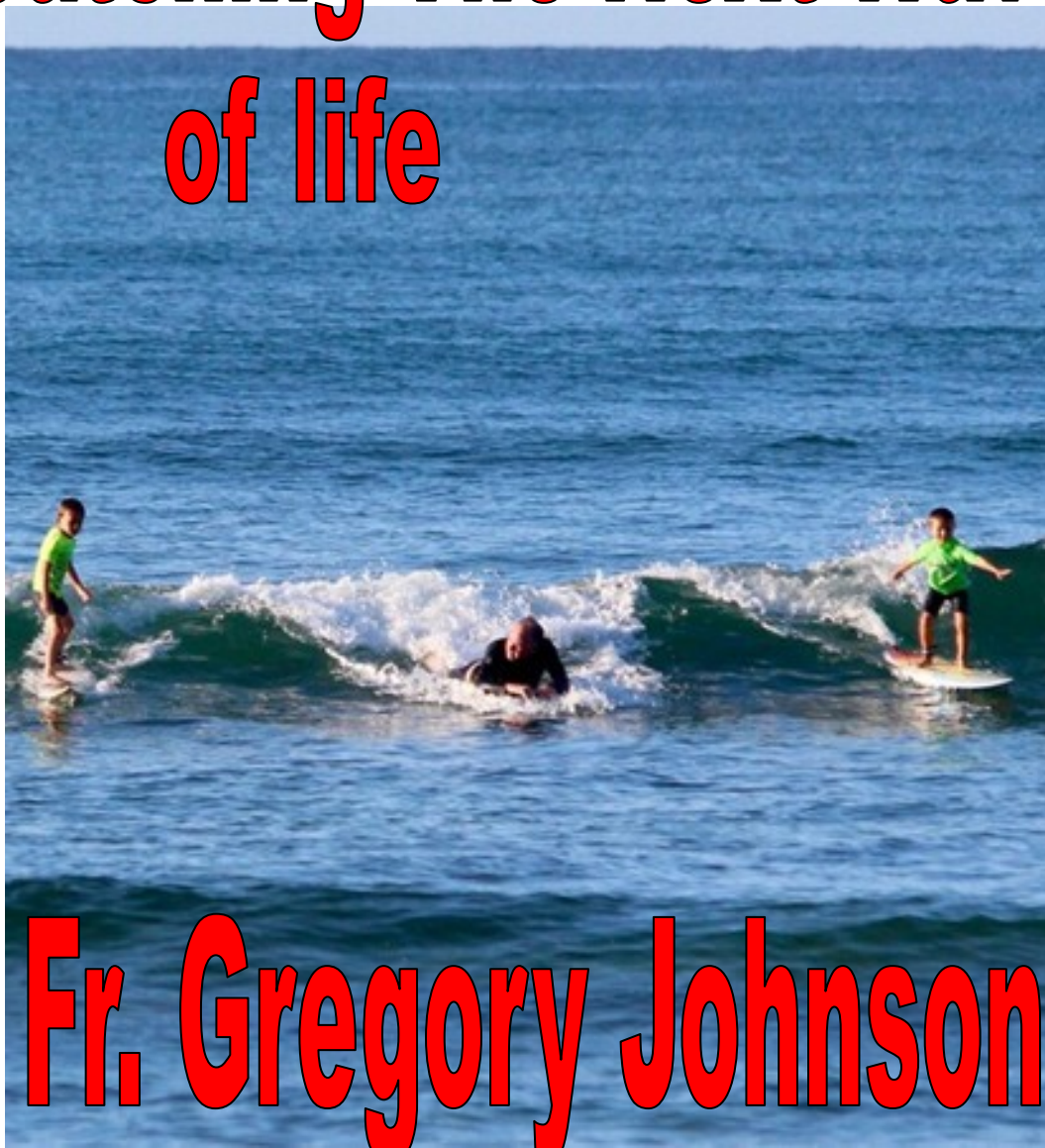
Let us this month

- * Visit the sick and shut-in
- * Pray for the church
- * Check your home disaster supplies
- * Help the Senior Warden
- * Attend Sunday prayer service
- * Volunteer to help with the homeless ministry—last Thursday of each month

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Catching The Next Wave of life



Fr. Gregory Johnson

Retired February 1, 2019

Thanks for your service



Fr. Greg rode a wave into my family's life

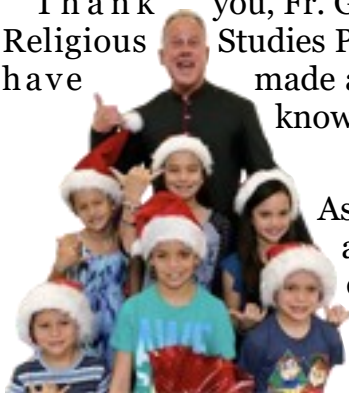
I will always treasure the day Fr. Greg rode a wave into my family's life. Don and the grandkids would grace the shores and waters of White Plains Beach as often as possible. Being dawn patrol surfers too, Fr. Greg and Rev. Dale shared the waves and talked story and became a welcome sight to my ohana! I was experiencing a physical and spiritual low due to my battle with breast cancer and my disillusionment with the Catholic Church and our parish. I would often sit huddled on the beach, protected from the early morning rays with my bald head covered in a scarf and a large floppy hat. Father's friendliness, cheerfulness, caring attitude, and love for all helped me keep hope alive during this trying time. His persistent pleas to try St. Mary's fell on deaf ears as Don wanted to surf Sunday mornings and Mo'ili'ili was so far away from Ewa Beach.



One fateful Sunday the waves were poor and with nothing else pressing Don suggested we try St. Mary's. What a surprise! A welcoming church that preached the Good News and called us to practice what is preached. A church with a homeless woman cradling a chicken sitting right up front. A parish where another homeless woman would get up and dance and sing making a joyful noise unto the Lord. A church that didn't pass the collection plate and spent 10 minutes offering everyone the Peace of Christ. A church with an Aloha Hour after Mass to socialize and connect with others. A church feeding and clothing the poor, helping immigrants, facilitating social services for the needy and looking for ways to make a difference.

We never knew St. Mary's before Fr. Greg; but the St. Mary's we found was a living testament to Christ's commands. Father's boundless energy and enthusiasm, call to social justice, and willingness to welcome and accept all has been my inspiration and reason for continuing to make that Ewa Beach drive. St. Mary's under Fr. Greg's leadership was not just talking the talk but walking the walk and that has made all the difference for me and my family.

Thank you, Fr. Greg, for the years you gave the AF as a chaplain, the years you served as a Religious Studies Professor, and your priestly commitment to the Diocese of Honolulu. You have made a difference in so many lives and we are better for having known you! I know you will continue serving our Lord in your retirement.



As I bid St. Mary's a fond farewell, I hope you carry on Father Greg's legacy and continue to make a difference in the lives of the community. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you..." John 13:34 Let us carry on Fr. Greg's mission of love!



Farewell To Fr. Greg

By Don Hardaway

One of the first worship services my wife Betty and I attended at St. Mary's was Elvis Presley Sunday. With that unique announcement, Fr. Greg had captured my attention. And I wasn't disappointed. I loved the music, golden oldies straight from my high school and college days! In the next few months we were treated to another of my favorites, country music, and then there was pop, rhythm and blues, contemporary, rock and roll and even some of those great Baptist songs I grew up singing. There seemed to be something for everyone.

This diverse selection of music set the stage for one interesting and inspirational sermon after another, and I found myself focused, trying to pick up the nuances in the message, the comments, the quotes, and the interesting facts, all delivered with passion and a dramatic flair. What a refreshing change from the hundreds of worship services I have experienced that seemed to repeat the same words and the same message over and over and over.

On my spiritual journey I want to find new ways to apply my faith to everyday life, and I want to be inspired to do that. Fr Greg's sermons never failed to touch me. Each Sunday I would leave St. Mary's with a smile on my face and a song in my heart, ready for whatever the world might bring.

And it wasn't just the music and the sermons. I loved the bulletins with their quotes and cartoons, and the prayers from "saving us from long winded preachers" to connecting us with current events, some of which had just occurred that very morning. I loved the compassionate and comfortable way disruptions were turned into a celebration or a message, I loved the efficiency of the worship services and that same efficiency which followed us into every vestry meeting. And I loved the balloons and the feeling of ohana. Most of all, I actually felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, right here in St. Mary's.

So now, I just want to say thank you to Fr Greg, Thank you for sharing your time, your energy and your talent with us. Through your leadership we have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Fr. Greg, I will miss you!

DEAR FATHER GREG,

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME ACOLYTE WITH YOU AT CHURCH. YOU WERE THE BEST PRIEST I EVER HAD. YOU SAID THAT ONE DAY YOU WANT ME TO BECOME A PRIEST WHEN I GROW UP. EVERY TIME I MISS CHURCH ON SUNDAY, I KNOW THAT YOU LOVE AND MISS ME. THIS PAST SUNDAY YOU TOLD ME AND MY GRANDPARENTS THAT I HAVE THE BEST GRANDPARENTS IN THE WORLD TO MY PROSPECTIVE. THE BEST PART OF MY ACOLYTE CAREER WITH YOU IS WHEN WE WOULD GO ON THE ACOLYTE OUTINGS TO CPK OR WHEN YOU TOOK US TO CAMP. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE WITH YOU AND LETTING ME BE A ACOLYTE WITH YOU AFTER ALL OF OUR ACOLYTES LEFT AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO NOT QUIT BECAUSE ALL I WANTED TO DO AT CHURCH IS TO BECOME AN ACOLYTE WITH YOU.

LOVE THE BEST ACOLYTE,

ISAIAH HORIMOTO





Fr. Gregory's Retirement Celebration Talk

by Betty Hardaway

When I was asked to say a few words about Fr. Greg, I thought - well I do have several stories about Fr. Greg. For example, how hard we had to run to keep up with him as he guided our tour through Israel. That man walks faster than anyone I know! But after some thought I realized which story I needed to share.

Fr. Greg was one of my father's dearest friends. (My dad was Fr. Linscott, better known in his later life as Poppa, who had served as priest at Epiphany Church and principal of Epiphany Elementary School for many years.) Even though Fr. Greg was much younger, he and Dad had a very special bond and they often had lunch together. At the end of Poppa's life when he was not able to go out to lunch, Fr. Greg would still go to dad's house to spend time with him.

On the day my father died (at 97 years old), all of the family who lived in Hawaii gathered at Poppa's house. After we said our goodbyes to Poppa, we went upstairs to the living room to meet with Dad's priest, Fr. David, to discuss the arrangements for the memorial service. My dad had left very specific and detailed instructions about the service. He specified which Holy Communion service to use in the prayer book and had selected specific hymns to sing with the page numbers indicated for each. (He actually even suggested what should be served for refreshments at his memorial service, which we basically ignored!) If any of you knew Poppa you would not be surprised that he was so specific – he had very definite ideas about many things! At any rate, we were puzzled by the hymns he selected because when we looked them up in the 1982 Hymnal, they didn't seem appropriate. In fact, one was Amazing Grace which I absolutely knew Poppa would never select. Fr. David figured out that they were probably hymns in the 1940 Hymnal since Poppa had written these instructions many years before. But no one had a 1940 Hymnal! We were in the process of trying to figure out how to get our hands on a 1940 Hymnal when Fr. Greg arrived. We had not had time to call him to let him know Poppa had died so we were a bit surprised. Fr. Greg told us that he had been sitting in his office that morning thinking of Poppa. He had a very strong feeling he needed to be with Poppa. But before he left his office he felt God urging him to take his copy of the 1940 Hymnal with him. He couldn't understand why but felt that was what God wanted him to do. So when he arrived at the house, he saw that Poppa had died and joined us in the living room. He said he wasn't sure why but he had brought the 1940 Hymnal with him! We were overjoyed and knew this was truly a miracle!

That strong bond between Poppa and Fr. Greg was very important to Poppa but was also very important to the rest of our family. We love Fr. Greg dearly and wish him the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life. I know for sure there will be lots of love and laughter and, of course, surfing!!!

Retirement Celebration

Saturday, January 26, 2019



JP Sabbithi gave
opening prayer



New plaque installed

Riya Davis sang two very soulful songs. Here she sings "I will always love you".

Look on St. Mary's Facebook for the video - Riya Davis Sings.



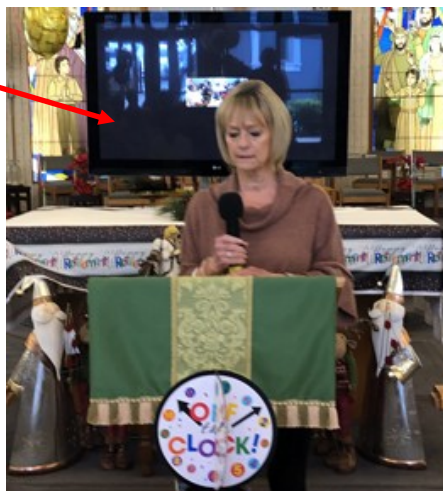
remarks by:
Don Hargarten



Dara Tawahara

Cake cutting

Grand kids helping Betty Hardaway



Gifts

Guest

Harrison
Spiegelberg:
Great-Grandson
of Brig. General
Edward Davis
who constructed
Soldier Chapel





Click here



Riya Davis

Preston Speaks



Fr. Johnson and Fr. Blanchett

What You See Is What You Get

At the critical scene in the movie “Avatar,” when the protagonist is choking to death, he is saved by his Pandoran wife. They say to each other, he in his human form, she in her Pandoran: “I SEE YOU.”

This reminds me of the first time I truly “saw” Fr. Gregory. It was at a lunch gathering (at Gordon Biersch, of course!) of priests, deacons, and laypeople. Gregory walked in and was asked why he still had on his hat. When he took it off, we all saw his BALD head. When someone asked him why he’d shaved his head, he told us that a girl in the parish had shaved her head in support of a school friend who was undergoing treatment for cancer. How could he do less?

For me, this is a wonderful and visible example of the Grace Fr. Gregory carries with him. He responds to those in need immediately, with compassion, and with full faith and trust in God.

I have been fortunate to have served an internship at St. Mary of Mo’ili’ili with Gregory. His love for others, his infectious humor, and his dedication to all are hallmarks of his faith. He has shown me, a “cradle Episcopalian,” the truth of our “Wide Tent” and has helped me explore and stretch in ways I would have thought beyond me.

God’s plans are mysterious and beyond our knowing. However, Fr. Gregory has shown that Love and Service are at the center of those unfolding plans.

Preston Lentz

annual meeting



Rector
Rector



Parish Administrator



Associate Priest -Parish Newsletter



Treasurer



Senior Warden



Sexton

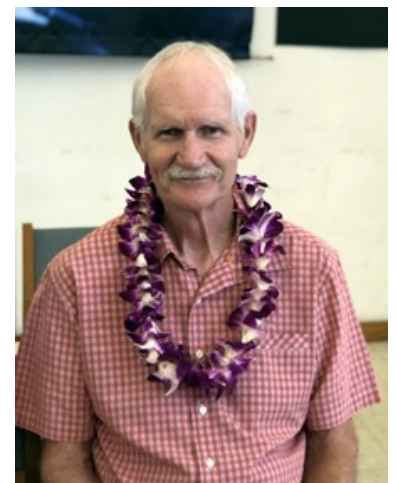
Acolyte



Aspirant

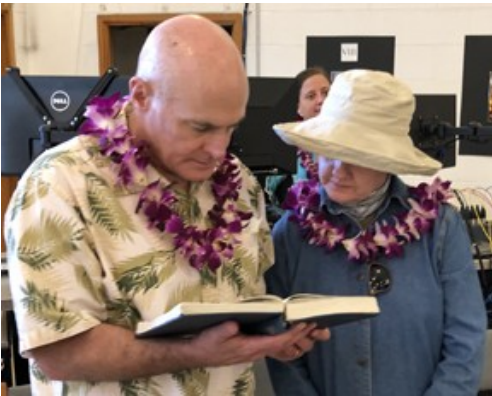
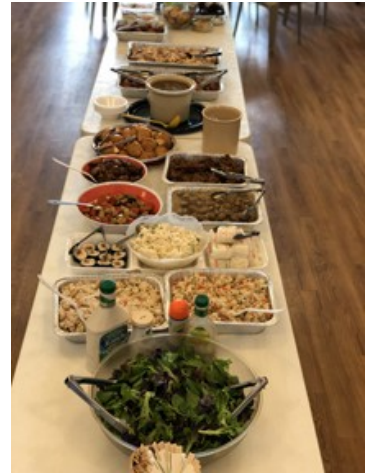


Postulant



Vestry Member

Annual Meeting Continues



Just a few
of the many
who attended
annual meeting

Fr. Gregory's Last Sunday as Rector



Deacon of the Mass, third person from the right is The Rev. Steven Costa, Archdeacon



Byron Uahinui reads Nehemiah 8:1-10



Deacon Preston
Lentz reads the
Gospel:
Luke 4:14-28



Isaiah Horimoto reads Psalm 19



Nicholas Kuklok reads 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Opening Hymn: *Love Divine* (H657)

Communion Songs: *Agnus Dei*, *Ave Maria* and *I Love To Tell The Story*

Recessional Hymn: *Hail to the Lords Anointed* (H616)



Fr. Gregory Johnson introduces the speaker, Professor Jay Sakashita and mentions a book, *Misfit Spirit*, that the professor has published.

The 169th of 201 Reasons to be an Episcopalian:

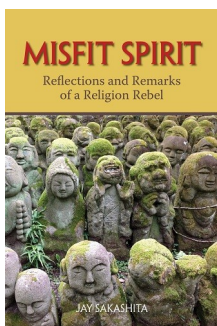
At St. Mary's we embrace the outcast; bless the sinner; and welcome those who have doubts or questions about religion and faith



Professor Jay Sakashita delivering a powerful Sunday message

Misfit Spirit is a collection of entertaining, incisive and insightful writings that explores the issues and themes connected to religion in Hawaii. The more than sixty articles cover a wide range of topics that branch from the trunk of the different religious traditions.

Religion is like a tree nourished by warmth and sunshine (and darkness and despair). The leaves of religion bring shade and shelter to the various creatures gathered below; but the leaves may also block the view of the sky and the beauty above. Religion shapes—and is in turn shaped by—the vision and character of those who dwell under its branches.



Misfit Spirit looks at both the positive and negative aspects of all things religion in Hawaii and offers things to consider and reflect upon. Readers can then ponder which leaves of religion to tend to and which to let flutter to the ground.

Published: 2018; ISBN-13: 978-0-9971305-9-1; Author: Jay Sakashita



Above is an icon plaque that Halaki and Ray Ancheta donated to St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili in honor of the occasion

We Love You Fr. Gregory



#1 Priest



#1 Rector



Thank You Fr. Gregory



We will always love you too



We
Will
Miss You



Celebration of Life



December 18, 1922 - December 14, 2018



Joe's relatives left to right: Nainoa Salmorhagi, Lyca Salmorhagi, Nicole Salmorhagi, Alina Pang, Christian Pang, Joel Pang, Carlton Pang and Milton Pang.



Tin Joe Albert Pang



Fr. Gregory Johnson tells about Pang's service to St. Mary's Episcopal Church



Grand Daughter Nicole Salmorhagi talks about special memories

Celebration of life Service was held Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 10:30 am at the Hawaii Memorial Park Chapel followed by a lunch at The Ko'olau Ballrooms & Conference Center

Photos by Fr. David Blanchett





February

1-Roy Horimoto
 11-Jan Horimoto
 12-Rev Martha Blanchett
 24-Frank Condello III

The Journey Team

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Fr. David H. Blanchett

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WEB MASTER

Richert Au Hoy



smomjourney@yahoo.com

rector report

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili



2019 Annual Meeting Rector's Report

Including Timeline of the Total History of St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 2062 South King Street
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

**Click for Complete
 PDF History Copy**

http://www.stmaryshawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/2019.01_-_timeline_-_st._marys_-_1st_edition.pdf

Fr. Greg, It has been a privilege and honor to serve with you from the beginning of your time at St. Mary's until now. The time, money and expertise in which you displayed and freely gave to this church, its congregants, ministries and the neighborhood will surely never be forgotten and held, as a standard for all who truly practice Jesus' teaching of meeting, loving people where they are at.

Your care for the dying, sick, hungry, homeless, poor, hurting, lonely, spiritually lost and the consecrated property is outstanding. You planted and water so God may give the increase - Bravo!

May God richly bless you always during your retirement - your journey as a priest in the pews.

Love, your brother Fr. David H. Blanchett

Prayer Ministry



Every Sunday at 8:15 am in Soldier Chapel

Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

2062 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

Email: stmaryshawaii@gmail.com
Phone: 808-949-4655

Web: <http://www.stmaryshawaii.org>



Mo'ili'ili Homeless Outreach Service

February 28 - 10am
In Gathering Room
Volunteers report at 9am



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

Aloha Hour

10:00am Sundays in
Gathering Room

Vestry Meeting

February 17 - 10:15am
Conference Room

Office Closed

February 18

Prayer Ministry

8:15am
Sundays in
Soldier Chapel



Free Health Classes

WARRIORS AT EASE CLASS



Saturdays 11:00am
Gathering Room

YOGA CLASS

Tuesdays 10:00am
Gathering Room

MEDITATION CLASS

Saturdays 3:00pm
Gathering Room



ZUMBA CLASS

Saturdays 8:30am
Gathering Room

