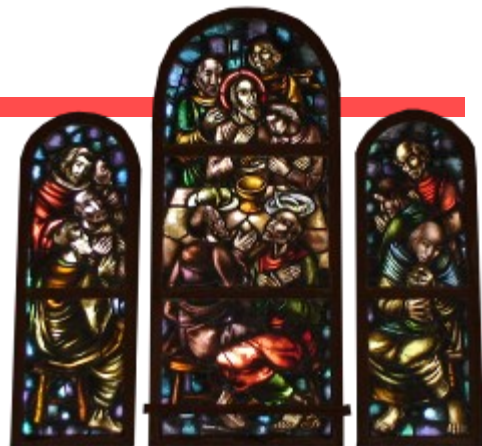




The Journey

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



February 2021

Let us this month

- * Help move furniture at the church February 15th and 20th
- * Attend online class with the priest Wednesdays at 6pm
- * Get COVID vaccinated
- * Think about and prepare for ministry in neighborhood
- * Congratulate the new Vestry members
- * Be an asset to the Parish

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Worshiping Together *In-Person and Live Streaming*

on YouTube's
Saint Mary's Honolulu



Laptop



Smart TV



Cell phone



PC Desktop



Apple Desktop

Subscribe St. Mary's
YouTube & FaceBook



Photo by Graham White

Reflections

by Fr. Charles A. Browning II
Priest in Charge

February is the month in which we begin the season of Lent. For us Christians in the various Western traditions, we begin with Ash Wednesday, a day intended to set the tone of the season, helping us to focus on the frailty of our human condition in order to underscore the glorious power of the resurrection made possible by Jesus Christ on Easter Day.

To accomplish this focus, Lent has long been seen as a season focused on penitence (paying attention to our sins and seeking to amend our lives away from them) with a particular emphasis on the spiritual discipline of fasting and/or abstinence (the limiting or complete refusal of food, traditionally, but also of activities or habits in more contemporary views on the season). The idea is that a discipline of fasting or abstinence will open up space for us to focus more deeply on other parts in which we “live, and move, and have our being.”

Some quarters of the Church have articulated the COVID-19 pandemic as a sort of “long Lent.”

This is fitting because the pandemic’s effects were first felt for us during the Lenten season of 2020 and have continued since. And the pandemic has required much limiting and abstaining of things deemed important for our being. We have been placed into a sort of fasting discipline that was not of our choosing, but it has also afforded us the benefits of more conventional fasts in that we, as a people, are now more clearly able to see what truly matters to us.

I mention this because we have just concluded our annual meeting. The parish annual meeting is a time where closure and new beginnings overlap. It’s both the close of the previous year as well as the starting point of the next. Which is why I always treat my reports as both a review and a preview. As Christians we are both historians and futurists. As Maui says in *Moana* “we find where we’re going by knowing where we’ve been.”

When we think about it, Lent is a future-focused time. Even though we are called to be in the present moment, everything we do during Lent is meant to help us look toward the future glory of Easter. We fast so that the celebration to come is all the more rewarding. We try to spiritually declutter so that there’s much more room for the spiritual high that comes with the declaration of Christ’s being risen.

Which brings me to something I said in my report to the annual meeting. In the closing of that report I noted a possible vision for Saint Mary’s. I did this because I wanted to offer us a glimpse of what could be, once this “long Lent” is finally over. What I hoped to achieve is similar

to what folks in the film industry call a “sizzle reel.” It’s an unfinished preview of something meant to allow people to get a “feel” of what is to come—more so than any concrete examples of the finished product. In other industries we might call this a “proof-of-concept.”

From my perspective, we have been in a state of fasting. Fasting from the singing that we love so much here. Fasting from the communal gatherings that bring us together week after week. Fasting from weekly gatherings and ministry offerings that make a church feel like a proper church. And as with any fasting, the limiting or abstaining of these things is meant to help offer some spiritual clarity in the days to come. As with all fasting, there is required the deep work of prayer and reflection, of listening for the voice calling out to us in a wilderness time. So it is my hope that we will be intentional during this Lenten season to be open and prayerful to what God is calling us to be here at Saint Mary’s after the season has ended.

Aside from any particulars, I feel that God is calling us to be a church that is unavoidable (to recall what I said in my report). This means that we are a church that is committed to not only worship and fellowship, but also to being seen in the community. This means that we are a church where each of us is employing our uniquely given gifts in order to make the aloha of Jesus known to our neighborhood and beyond. This means that we are a church attentive to those *not* coming to church, and seeing how we can proclaim the good news of Easter to them—whether they be people riding their bikes in front of the church during the week, or waiting for tables or take-out at the restaurants

next door, or even driving past on their commutes to and from work, not to mention the folks who often sleep on the sidewalks in the surrounding blocks.

One thing for us to remember is that this “long Lent” is not something that only us in the church have experienced. Our entire world has been thrust into a yearlong season of fasting. And just like how we might crave that first piece of chocolate, or sip of coffee, or steak on Easter Day, the world is craving deeper connections and an encounter with the great Mystery of the Universe. The world is waiting for a new dawn to break, a dawn we all know so well. As we often remind ourselves during the darkest moments of Lent: Easter is coming. It’s our job to proclaim that Easter when the times comes, inviting people into a life defined by the new reality brought into being by our Savior Jesus.



**Frank Condello II**

Aloha and Thank You St. Mary's Ohana

Aloha to my St. Mary's ohana! It was wonderful seeing many of you today at church after a one year leave. I continue to serve at The Church of the Holy Nativity in Aina Haina. I have learned a lot from Rev. Libby Berman and have enjoyed my time there so far.

I also want to thank the congregation of St. Mary's from the bottom of my heart for supporting me through this whole process. Your gracious gift of paying my last year of tuition in the seminary program was very kind and I am humbled by your generosity.

It is hard to believe that I am in my last semester of the four year program called Waiolaihuiia. It is a local formation seminary program in Hawaii, that allows locals to be ordained in a part-time program, without having to attend a seminary program at a university on the mainland. It has truly been a blessing for me and has allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a Priest.

If all goes well, I will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by the end of summer and six months later to the Priesthood. I will then need to serve another two years in a Curacy at a different church from Holy Nativity. I promise to visit more often if I can in the future and always hold the dear members of St. Mary's close to my heart.

I am also so happy that you have a wonderful new Priest and family at St. Mary's. Fr. Browning gave a heartfelt and motivational sermon on Sunday and I wish him the best at our church. Once again, it was great being back to see many of you on Sunday! God bless and best wishes during this new year.

Frank Condello II,
Student in Formation for Ordination.



From left to right:
Antonio Cabanado,
Glo Cabanado,
Leah Condello,
Frank Condello II, and
Frank Condello III

Sirach 38:4

"The Lord has given us medicine from the Earth,
it is wise that we use them."

Wear a mask

Social distancing

Wash hands

Get Flu vaccine



Get your COVID vaccination

Annual Parish Meeting 2021



Greeter Arlene Sato with Amy Ushijima



Fr. Charles A. Browning II gives the Priest's Report



Richert Au Hoy delivers the treasurer's report

On the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, January 31, 2021, Saint Mary's Episcopal Church held its Parish Annual Meeting directly after the worship service in the Sanctuary. To sum up the happenings, Pablo Cortez III was appointed Secretary for the annual meeting and William Mok was appointed Senior Warden. Christopher Date was elected Junior Warden, and Isaiah Horimoto and Leland Lee were elected to the vestry. The new Diocesan Convention Delegates elected are Isaiah Horimoto, Laurie Lee and Carlton Pang.

The Parish Annual meeting, like the worship services during this pandemic era was live streamed and recorded on YouTube. There you may listen to the informative Priest's Report given by the Priest in Charge, Fr. Charles A. Browning II.



Senior Warden William Mok speaks to the gathering

Junior Warden Christopher Date, announced in his written report the Chapel projects that are funded by the Cooke Foundation Grant: termite tenting, window and door replacement, electrical panel repair and landscaping. Other projects by the church are office flooring and kitchen repair.



Pablo Cortez III taking minutes of the meeting

Able Body Adult Volunteers Needed

Monday February 15th and Saturday February 20th

To Move Office Furniture Before and After Flooring Work

Call Church Office if You Can Help

smomjourney@yahoo.com

The Journey Team

JOURNEY EDITOR:
Fr. David H. Blanchett



PROOFREADER:
Charlene Date
(not pictured)

WEB MASTER
Richert Au Hoy



WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER
James Maruyama



Road Map

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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The Journey
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Vestry Meeting

10:15am
February 21



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

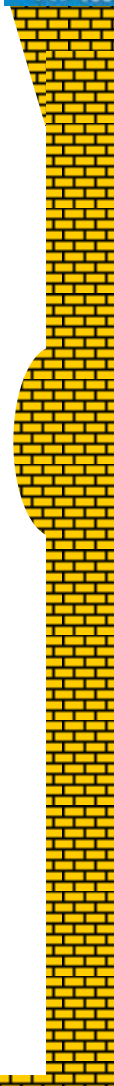
In-Person and Live Streamed
on YouTube & FaceBook

**Office and Gathering Room
Will be Closed**

February 13th through 22nd

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17th
12 Noon



In Memorial

1-John Longo
3-Cheryl Geis
5-Clarence Miyamoto
20-Annabelle Yamaguchi
21-Emiko Sugino

February Birthdays

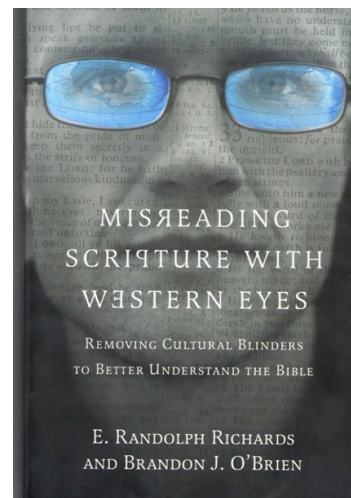
1-Roy Horimoto
11-Jan Horimoto
12-Martha Blanchett

Christian Formation Classes

Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes

Wednesdays at 6pm

Live Stream on YouTube



Prayer Ministry

8:15am
Sundays in
Soldier Chapel