



St. Michael & All Angels, Kaua'i Monthly Newsletter January 2019

## Upcoming Events

- Sundays, Jan. 6-Feb. 10, Adult Christian Formation: The Gospel of Luke
- Sun., Jan. 20: **Annual Meeting**; 6 pm, Parish Hall; **RSVP**
- Fri. & Sat., Feb. 1 & 2: All Angels Jazz Festival; Concerts @ 7 pm
- Sun., Feb. 3: The All Angels Jazz Mass; 8:30 & 11 am



## Herald Update

Herald Newsletter co-editor, Pat Hillegonds, is continuing to recover. As we pray and patiently await her full recovery, Gail and Loretta will attempt to keep up with Herald issues, if not monthly, every other month. If you have an email address, please be sure it is updated with the office for the latest issues.

## Annual Meeting

As required by our Canons and By-Laws, the Annual Meeting of St. Michael and All Angels will take place on Sunday, January 20, 2019 (This is a week earlier than our customary time so that we can better accommodate the Jazz Festival on February 1-3). We will gather in our Parish Hall at 6pm for a reception with dinner and the meeting to follow. Since we are providing food and beverage, **please RSVP to Loretta in the Parish Office so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.** We hope everyone will join us for this festive time!

## Following the Directions

### Andrew McMullen, Rector

As I was flying above the Pacific at 35,000 feet, making my way home from a visit with my children, I realized that I would soon be preaching on the Feast of the Epiphany and would have to come up with a sermon to explore its meaning to us. As I did so, a memory rushed up to meet me. When I was 12 years old, I received a football game for Christmas. It was a complex game that involved selecting strategies and plays and then entering them into the game console. A computer (or at least what passed for a computer in those days!) calculated the input and then revealed the result of the play and ultimately the game. Of course, at 12, I did not read the directions that came with the game and just started playing with it. It did not go well. The game disregarded my selections and strategies. All

sorts of weird outcomes flashed on the screen. I reluctantly read the directions, and after that, I correctly entered my plays and the game made much more sense.

I find Epiphany, and its meaning, to be like my experience with that game. On the Feast of the Nativity, Christ is born. God's gift of love enters the world. It is worthy of our celebration. But at the same time, we ask ourselves: What is this love? What are we supposed to do with it? After all, at first glance, Christ does not come to us with an instruction manual! However, I believe that Epiphany reveals to us that Christ does indeed arrive with the answers to our questions. They are found in his life, death and resurrection; they are the directions for our lives. The Epiphany scene, the wise men visiting the child, provides the blueprint for the instructions on how to live this life of

## Annual Meeting, cont.

Our meeting will address the usual business of the parish, including reports from the Rector and Wardens and other ministry leaders as well as submission of the 2019 Budget. We will also hold the election for the three members of the 2022 Vestry Class. In order to serve on Vestry, the candidate needs to be baptized, at least 16 years old and “a member in good standing” of St. Michael and All Angels, faithful in worship and committed to the ministries and financial support of the parish. All nominations must be made in writing, signed by the one making the nomination, and must include an acknowledgment that the one nominated is aware of the nomination and is willing to serve. Nominations should be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, January 16. An election of five parish delegates, plus alternates, to the Annual Diocesan Convention will also take place during our meeting. Nominations may likewise be submitted to the Parish Office and will remain open until the time of the election. If anyone has questions or wishes to have more information, please do not hesitate to contact Father Andrew.



## Following the Directions, cont.

love. Seek it – trust it – honor it – give thanks for it – and then actively follow and live it in the world. This life requires our commitment to be deeply invested in the lives of others, more so than our own, and part of that requires our effort to form and nurture communities of faith which will enable us to fulfill this call. This is more than just being a member of a church; it is underneath it as a way of life, but involvement and dedication to the ministries of our parish are essential if we are to continue our life and work in this vineyard. As we begin a New Year, now is the time for our dedication; now is the time for our commitment; now is the time for us to become the St. Michael and All Angels that God intends us to be.

As a child, I played a game. Without any sense of direction or instruction, I failed to live into what the game offered to me. Christ, the love of God, offers the world “a game,” a life of living into that love. Epiphany lifts up the invitation to explore the instructions and directions for this game which flow from the life of Christ, an invitation to follow that life as our own. In the end, life is not about playing to win; we “win” when we play it with the love that we all are, even if the world sees it as losing. May the New Year bless you and your family, and give you the will and courage to play the game well.



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