St. John Vianney Mission Statement

St. John Vianney Parish, a Christian Community in the Roman Catholic tradition, motivated by the love of God, provides opportunities in worship, education, ministry and outreach for its parishioners and community at large.

Welcoming Parish Mission Statement

Our mission is welcoming everyone, sharing the Good News, reaching out to those in need, celebrating the love of God.
Dear Parents and Catechists,

As a parish family, we recognize the importance of religious education for our children. Parents, of course, are the primary educators of their children in the faith. This is the responsibility you promised to fulfill upon bringing your child to the Church for baptism. This parish community supports your efforts through our religious education program and the liturgical life of our Church. Our Church teaches that there are three principal ways that parents fulfill their role as Catholic parents.

1) By being faithful disciples of Christ, thus being witnesses to their child of how to live a Christian life. This necessarily includes participating in Mass EVERY Sunday, daily prayer at home, Scripture reading at home, being hospitable to others and reaching out to those in need.
2) Noticing and using moments in everyday life as teachable moments that show God is involved in our lives and has a plan for us- times such as a birth or death, an argument or reconciliation, a beautiful sunset, or a situation that requires a choice between good and bad.
3) Supporting formal, classroom religious education by being involved as a parent as much as possible, assuring attendance by your child, and discussing and using what is learned in the classroom when you are in the home setting.

This handbook will help inform you about our Religious Education Program - how our program is organized and administered, the schedules and meetings for your child and you, and ways you can be involved at church and at home. We are blessed to have dedicated volunteer teachers (catechists) who give their time on Sunday morning to share their knowledge of the faith with our children. Please cooperate with our teachers and show them your appreciation.

We want the best for the children of our parish, including a developing, lived faith experience in everyday life and in the classroom. We pray that our children and their families will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and his Church and that their faith will help them in everyday life to love God and neighbor.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we share our faith with our children!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Peter Miti, Pastor
Religious Education in Our Parish Community

In keeping with the Mission Statement of St. John Vianney Parish, all those who are called to serve in the catechetical ministry of the Church work together to carry out these specific objectives:

1. To teach the message of God's love to adults, youth, and children within the parish community; to educate adults, youth and children in the basic teachings of the Catholic Church;

2. To inspire and to motivate a living faith which leads to a deeper understanding of the message of Jesus Christ and a greater desire to follow Him;

3. To prepare for and to celebrate the sacramental life of the Church;

4. To lead people to holiness through prayer, worship and apostolic service;

5. To build the parish community of faith by strengthening the faith life of those who are already committed; by reaching out to those who are hungering for God; and by providing opportunities for continuing spiritual formation for all;

6. To give witness to the Gospel by loving and compassionate service to others.
Administration of the Parish Catechetical Program

The parish Catechetical Program, under the direction of the Pastor, is administered and supervised by the parish Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) in coordination with the Elementary Education Coordinator (EEC).

Role of the Parents in the Religious Education of the Child

Parents have the first responsibility for the religious education of their children. Graced and gifted by God to fulfill this responsibility, they have the right and duty to create a home where prayer and good example are experienced daily. Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. Family members help one another to grow in faith by their authentic living of a Christian life according to the Gospel.

In partnership with the parish catechists, parents share in and support the formal parish program of religious education in these ways:

† Keeping alive the rich tradition of family prayer in the home; teaching your child/children to pray in many ways;
† Witnessing the importance of Sunday Mass by weekly attendance;
† Taking an active role in preparing your child/children for the celebration of the sacraments;
† Discussing the weekly religion lesson with your child/children;
† Encouraging your child/children to perform acts of kindness within the family, at school, in the parish, and around the neighborhood;
† Guiding your child/children to make moral decisions, to think critically, distinguishing right from wrong;
† Celebrating the feasts and seasons of the Church year in meaningful ways;
† Teaching by word and example that the parish community is a welcoming sign of God’s presence, love and reconciliation;
† Making certain that your child/children know the parish church is a special place, the home of the whole parish family;
Catechetical Programs

Liturgy of the Word for Children for PreK-2nd Grade:
Our Parish celebrates Children’s Liturgy of the Word, at the 9am Mass when class is scheduled the children are dismissed ritually after the Opening Prayer, to the Parish Basement and return during the Procession of the Gifts. The children will hear the proclamation of God’s Word, in language that young children can easily understand giving the children an opportunity to reflect on God’s Word and explore how it connects to their lives.

Elementary Programs:
Children in grades Pre-K - 8 meet on the scheduled Sundays of the month from 10:15am – 11:30am in the parish/school facilities. Classes are held from September through May. A calendar is provided for each family at the beginning of the year.

Youth Ministry:
High School Students from grade 9-12 meet on the scheduled Sundays of the month from 9:45-11:00 or 10:15-11:30 depending on which Mass they attend. A schedule is given to each student at the beginning of the year. Special events and service opportunities are also planned which are announced by email, flyer or in the parish bulletin.

Parental Involvement:
Parents share responsibility for the child's religious education in these ways:

† participating in the parish Mass EVERY Sunday with the child;
† bringing the child to religion class each week on time;
† taking time for family prayer and teaching your child ways to pray and keeping alive the traditional prayers (e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary, Apostles Creed, Acts of Faith, Hope and Love, Act of Contrition, responses at Mass, and the Rosary);
† attending Family Faith Formation and sharing their faith life at home;
† taking an active role in the parish community;

Parents are also invited to participate in formal adult education classes and in parish and diocesan programs. These sessions are announced in the parish bulletin.
Sacramental Preparation

**Baptism:**
Parents must be registered in the parish and attend three preparation classes. Classes are held in February, April, June, September and November. Please call the Parish Office for more information and registration forms.

**Reconciliation (Confession):**
The sacrament of Reconciliation is available to all on Saturday from 8:30am-9:00am, or by appointment and at the parish communal Penance Service during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

**First Penance/ Reconciliation:**
Baptized children who are in the second grade and have faithfully attended religious education classes will celebrate the Sacrament prior to receiving First Eucharist. In preparation for this event, parents are required to attend additional sessions and to pray and work with the child at home. This should be a gradual, prayerful, and joy filled anticipation of the sacrament of God's loving forgiveness.

**Confirmation and First Holy Communion:**
Children who are properly catechized may receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion beginning in second grade (usually at the age of seven). Catechetical preparation for the reception of the sacraments begins in the previous grade.

Those preparing for to receive these sacraments must be:

- † validly baptized Catholic (a copy of their baptismal certificate is required)
- † properly instructed
- † capable of renewing their Baptismal promises

Older children (grade 3-12), who have been baptized and have not received Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will receive special instruction and will receive their sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion after they have been properly prepared.
**Confirmation:**
This year all children and youth in grades 3-12 will be Confirmed in May 2018. Readiness for Confirmation cannot be separated from readiness for Eucharist, and sacramental readiness is never about learning, but about faith. As your child prepares for Confirmation and Eucharist, here are four things to keep in mind:

† The baptized need the sanctifying grace of Confirmation earlier, not later in life.

† Sacraments are always a beginning. As your child matures in faith, he/she will grow in his/her understanding of Confirmation and experience of the Eucharist.

† The Eucharist is the culmination of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Your child is now welcomed as a fully participating member of the Church.

† At any age, completion of the Sacraments of Initiation Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in no way signals graduation. Rather it is the beginning of a lifetime of being nourished at the table of the Lord.

Children seven years old and above who have not been baptized participate in the RCIA program.
Concerning Child Abuse  
(Safe Environment Program)

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requires dioceses and eparchies to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people.

The children’s education program consists of age-appropriate lessons built upon the Church’s teaching that “the human body shares in the dignity of the image of God” (CCC364). That dignity leads us to foster in every person the belief and awareness that as a person of God they are deserving of love and respect. Because dignity is a gift given by God at birth, abuse of all kinds is harmful to that dignity.

Children being among the most vulnerable require us to protect that dignity. Thus, consistent with diocesan policy, St. John Vianney Parish will conduct safe environment training as part of the religious education curriculum.

If you choose not to have your child(ren) participate in the Safe Environment Training Program please fill out the form supplied by the Department of Religious Education.
Parish Policies and Procedure

Admission and Fees:
All families enrolling their child or children in the religious education programs are required to register in the parish. Completed parish registration forms may be returned to the parish office which is open Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm and Saturday 8:30am – 12:30pm or placed in the offering boxes on Sunday. The program fee is $40 for one child, $65 for two children and $90 for three or more. If any family cannot make the payment, arrangements can be made with the Coordinator. No child will be turned away because of an inability to pay.

Attendance:
It is important to have everyone present as much as possible. Since the teaching time is limited, children are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. If a child is ill or cannot attend a class, parents (guardians) are requested to write a note to be presented to the catechist on the following Sunday. Three unexcused absences will be followed by a telephone call from the Coordinator of Religious Education to discuss future participation in the program.

Emergency Procedures:
In case of an emergency in the class, the Coordinator of Religious Education is immediately notified of the situation. The catechist remains in the class. The Coordinator notifies the parents or emergency contact person designated on the registration form. If no one can be reached, the Coordinator may have to call 911 for assistance.

Photo Release:
I/we give permission to have his/her picture and/or class work posted on the St. John Vianney Parish website, in the bulletin and in connection with publicity for St. John Vianney Parish and the Diocese of Honolulu knowing that at no time will my child’s full name be printed by his/her photo.
I/we and the child/children named herein hereby release St. John Vianney Parish, the Diocese of Honolulu, and their personnel and volunteers of any and all liability of every nature, kind and description or other claims or demands as a result of injuries, hurt or damage sustained by the student arising from, or in connection with, the student’s participation.

Visitors:
While visitors are always welcome in order to provide a safe learning environment, we will need to restrict class attendance to catechists, aides and registered students. Visits by parents or student guests will need written permission from the Coordinator of Religious Education or Elementary Education Coordinator. All visitors must first check in to the main office.
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Children will proceed from their classrooms in single file to their assigned area.
2. ALL CHILDREN MUST REMAIN ABSOLUTELY SILENT.
3. Catechist will be the last person to leave the classroom after making certain it is vacant.
4. Catechist will close their classroom door upon leaving.
5. Elementary Education Coord. is responsible for checking lower restroom & closing door. CHECK ALL STALLS.
6. Catechist and children will remain in position until released by the Religious Education Coordinator or Elementary Education Coordinator.
7. CHILDREN WILL RETURN TO THEIR CLASSROOM IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE.
8. Catechists will bring with them the copy of their attendance chart.
PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I/we have read this handbook and understand the policies concerning the St. John Vianney Parish Catechetical program for Pre-school – High School. I agree to abide by these policies, and make sure my child understands her/his responsibilities.

Signed(Parent/Guardian) (Print Name) Date

Signed(Parent/Guardian) (Print Name) Date

Print Student Name Grade

Print Student Name Grade

Print Student Name Grade

Print Student Name Grade

*Please sign and return form to St. John Vianney Religious Education Department.*