

(Parish Relics continued)

The Saint's faith and presence brought order, peace, hope, and the love of God to his suffering flock; a noble legacy that remains admired not just by Catholics, but by non-Catholics as well. St. Damien's annual Feast is observed on May 10th and the relic present in our shrine is *a strand of his hair*.

† St. Lorenzo Ruiz, Layman & Martyr



Born in 1594, this layman was the first Filipino to be canonized. He was a scribe and catechist from the town of Binondo, where he was falsely accused of murdering a Spaniard. He sought asylum on a ship with priest-missionaries bound for Japan and, upon their arrival in Okinawa, the group was quickly apprehended by anti-Christian officials.

St. Lorenzo and his companions endured hardship and torture for over a year for the sake of the Faith. The group was taken to Nishizaki Hill in Nagasaki, whereupon the Saint died on September 29, 1637, after being tightly bound; hung upside down over a deep pit; and slowly bleeding. Catholics observe his annual Feast, along with his companion Martyrs of Japan, on September 28th.

Since the Saint's body was cremated and thrown into the sea by his executioners, there

are actually no relics of St. Lorenzo. Instead, our parish has in its keeping a "memorial stone" of the Saint. It was gifted by a representative of the 26 Martyrs Shrine in Nishizaki, who personally retrieved it from the location of St. Lorenzo's martyrdom in the shrine compound.

✠ INTERCESSION ✠

"The prayer of a righteous man availeth much"

~ James 5:16

The above Scripture passage speaks to us of the power of the prayers of our Saints. As such, our parish encourages all to invoke St. George, or our other resident Saints, for their intercession here at our special shrine to them ... for your personal needs and/or on behalf of those dear to you. Simply speak from the heart, or use the following formula while praying before the relics:

Dear [say the Saint's Name]:

I humbly turn to you, beseeching your prayerful intercession. With hope, I commend to you the following concern: [mention your request].

Obtain for me from the Lord this favor, which I ask of you. In return, I will strive to live more faithfully and will joyfully testify to God's infinite goodness and power, as well as to the effectiveness of your intercession.

In the Holy Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

[Conclude with an *Our Father*, a *Hail Mary*, and a *Glory Be* in honor of the Saint]

The above prayer may also be said for 9 consecutive days as a novena.

Mahalo and God bless you for sharing your faith with us! Please report any graces received to the St. George Parish Office: (808) 259-7188.

**St. George, St. Damien,
& St. Lorenzo, pray for us!**



ST. GEORGE PARISH Reliquary Shrine

☺ Aloha! Welcome to St. George Catholic Church in beautiful Waimanalo ... and thank you for being here in this special place!

The Catholic Church is a veritable treasury of sacred traditions, holy practices, and beautiful devotional objects that help us in making a deeper and tangible connection with God. Here, in our parish, we not only have the grace of Jesus's True Presence in the Tabernacle, but we are also privileged to have Saints physically here, too, through rare relics!

What are relics?

Relics are the remains of our Faith Heroes – the Saints – and are considered Sacramentals by the Church, which are visible expressions of various pious devotions. They differ from the 7 Sacraments (e.g., Baptism, Eucharist, etc.) in that the Sacraments were instituted by Jesus to give us *Sanctifying Grace*, while Sacramentals are given by the Catholic Church to inspire us to live better lives so as to gain *Actual Graces*. When used with faith - not superstitiously, as

(Relics continued)

though they are “magic” - blessed Sacramentals dispose us to receive heavenly favors in soul and body through the divine authority and prayers of the Church.

Relics are categorized into three “Classes” ...

- **1st Class Relics:** *Artifacts used to torture Jesus Christ during His Passion (e.g. wood from the True Cross, the Pillar of Scourging, the Crown of Thorns, etc.), and the bodily remains of our Saints/Blesseds (e.g. bone fragments, hair, blood, etc.).*
- **2nd Class Relics:** *Artifacts that belonged to our Saints (e.g. clothing or devotional articles used by them).*
- **3rd Class Relics:** *Pieces of fabric or other Sacramentals (e.g. prayer card, medal, etc.) prayerfully touched to a 1st or 2nd Class Relic.*

✠ CHURCH TRADITION ✠

The Church’s veneration of relics is firmly rooted in Sacred Scriptures, as evidenced by these passages:

- **2 Kings 13:21:** *“And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.”*
- **Acts 19:11-12:** *“Meanwhile, God worked extraordinary miracles at the hands of Paul. When handkerchiefs or cloths which had touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases were cured and evil spirits departed from them.”*
- **Luke 8:43-48:** *“Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years ... She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.”*

Devotion to Saints and relics is also an ancient, sacred tradition as supported by writings from

the earliest years of the Church:

- **A witness’s personal written account of the martyrdom of St. Polycarp of Smyrna (155 AD):** *“We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold and laid them in a seemly place where the Lord will permit us to gather in gladness and joy.”*
- **St. Jerome, early Church Father (d. 420):** *“We do not worship, we do not adore, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the creator, but we venerate the relics of the Martyrs in order the better to adore Him (God) whose martyrs they are.”*

✠ OUR PARISH RELICS ✠

The Saints whose relics are present in our Reliquary Shrine are, as follows:

† St. George, Soldier & Martyr



Our parish’s Patron Saint was born in Cappadocia, circa 280, to a devout Christian family. In adulthood, he joined the Roman army in Lydda (modern-day Lod, Israel) and was active in ministry and evangelization. When the Emperor Diocletian launched a persecution of Christians in 303, he ordered his subjects to offer worship and sacrifices to the pagan gods of Rome, starting with the military.

St. George bravely resisted the enforced idolatry and openly professed his faith in Jesus Christ. For doing so, he was duly imprisoned and subjected to various tortures from which he was miraculously spared and healed by the Lord. Consequently, many conversions resulted from the signs worked by God through the exemplary witness of His faithful servant.

The Saint was beheaded for his steadfast Christian beliefs and his remains were interred in Lod where they are still revered. St. George is counted among the “14 Holy Helpers” and his annual Feast is observed on April 23rd; the relic mounted in our Icon is a piece of his bone.

† St. Damien of Molokai, Priest



Hawaii’s celebrated Servant of the Lepers is also honored in our shrine. Born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, this Saint joined the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary to become a missionary priest. He arrived in Honolulu in March 1864 and ordained in what is now the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace on May 21, 1864.

After assignments at several local parishes, St. Damien heroically volunteered to serve in the leper colony of Kalaupapa, where he remained until his death on April 15, 1889.