

9. The Original (small) Rectory

The original rectory was completed in 1850, one of four stone structures built by Father Walsh. This was the cottage used by Fr. Walsh as his home while building St. Raphael Church. He spent 18 years here until it became too small for the needs of the mission. A larger rectory was built in front of the church (where we looked at the remnant stairs). This building was used to house a teacher, associate pastor and mission helpers. During that time, St. Raphael also had a school for the children of Koloa. This structure burned down in 1900. Parishioners decided to restore the historic structure and transform it into a parish hall in 1939. Currently, the building is used as a classroom for our religious education.



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WELCOME TO ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH

Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Koloa is a parish of the Roman Catholic Church of Hawaii in the United States. Located in Koloa on the island of Kauai, the church is within the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Honolulu and its bishop.

St. Raphael was founded by Father Arsenius Walsh in 1841, and is the oldest Catholic Church on Kauai.

1. Historic Church

The present sanctuary of St. Raphael's Church in Koloa, Kauai was completed in December 1854, however the blessing did not take place until October 24, 1856 to coincide with the feast day of St. Raphael the Archangel. The original bell tower was removed in 1933 and a permanent adobe tower was added to the left of the sanctuary. In 1936 Father Philibert enlarged and renovated the church to double its seating capacity by moving the entrance forward. We celebrate the Masses Monday through Friday, and Sunday at 7AM here. It is also used by many visitors for wedding celebrations. New seating was added in 2014. The church property is open daily from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

2. Old Cemetery

The original cemetery for St. Raphael's, includes the remains of some of the early founders of the church and most recently, our beloved Deacon Tom Contrades. One priest from Sacred Heart had a specific deathbed request to be buried in the old cemetery so that "he could hear the people when they attend mass". The site is rarely used today as most of the plots have been utilized. Every Easter, the youth of the parish place flowers on all the graves you see here. Majority of internments are now held at our new cemetery which is located on Koloa Road as you head west or 'ewa of Koloa Town.

3. Stairs to Old Rectory

Anyone want to guess why these stairs are here? Stairway to Heaven, maybe? Well, actually these stairs led to the second rectory built on the property. The walls of the structure were removed for safety purposes, but the public bathrooms are located here as a result of the original infrastructure.

4. Original Chapel

The first stone chapel was built by Father Walsh in 1842 with a size of 15 feet and 45 feet in length and was used until 1854 while the church was being built. When the Old Church was completed, the Chapel was left with overgrown weeds and shrubs. It was rediscovered during preparations for the Centennial anniversary in 1941. The Chapel sanctuary was rebuilt by parishioners to its present size of 15 feet x 15 feet by parishioners.

5. Lady of Lourdes Grotto

There are two grottos dedicated on the grounds of St. Raphael, Kauai. This grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes is the second to be built and was completed and blessed in 1941. The figure of the Blessed Virgin looks serenely down from the grotto wall at the left upon a statue of St. Bernadette as she appeared on February 11, 1858 in Lourdes, France. The concrete Altar attached to the wall had been used for Masses on several occasions including the Feast of the Holy Ghost in the 1940's, the centennial celebration of St. Raphael Church in 1956, and also when Fr. Joseph Bukoski a local boy from Koloa celebrated his first Mass in 1979.

6. Outdoor Stations of the Cross

The walking path going to the Stations of the Cross was consecrated after its completion in 2008.

The Stations of the Cross leads to the Grotto of the Risen Christ. Long time before the construction of the Stations of the Cross, the Grotto was rediscovered in the 1970's. The pathway of the Stations of the Cross is approximately 1,500 feet (500 meters) long.

7. Grotto of the Risen Lord

This grotto was believed to have been the first to be constructed on the grounds in the late 1800's over the mouth of a lava tube. Originally dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, it was modified in 2008 to be the Risen Christ. Every Easter Sunday, Mass is held here at daybreak.

8. New Church

As time progressed, St. Raphael's community attendance outgrew the Old Church building capacity. This resulted in the building of a gathering hall that was also used as a worship center to hold additional masses. (currently *the lawn in between the original chapel and second rectory steps*). In 1992, Hurricane Iniki damaged the hall beyond repair.

Upon reaching the New Church in front of the Baptismal Font.

After Hurricane Iniki, St. Raphael was able to obtain financial support from FEMA to rebuild this Hall you see in this modern structure today. Eventually this Hall was modified to become the New Church, and one of the interesting things that you see in this New Church behind the Altar is the design with an imaginary Christ at the center administering to his flock.

The walk continues at the walking path between the New Church and Hall going to the Old Small Rectory.