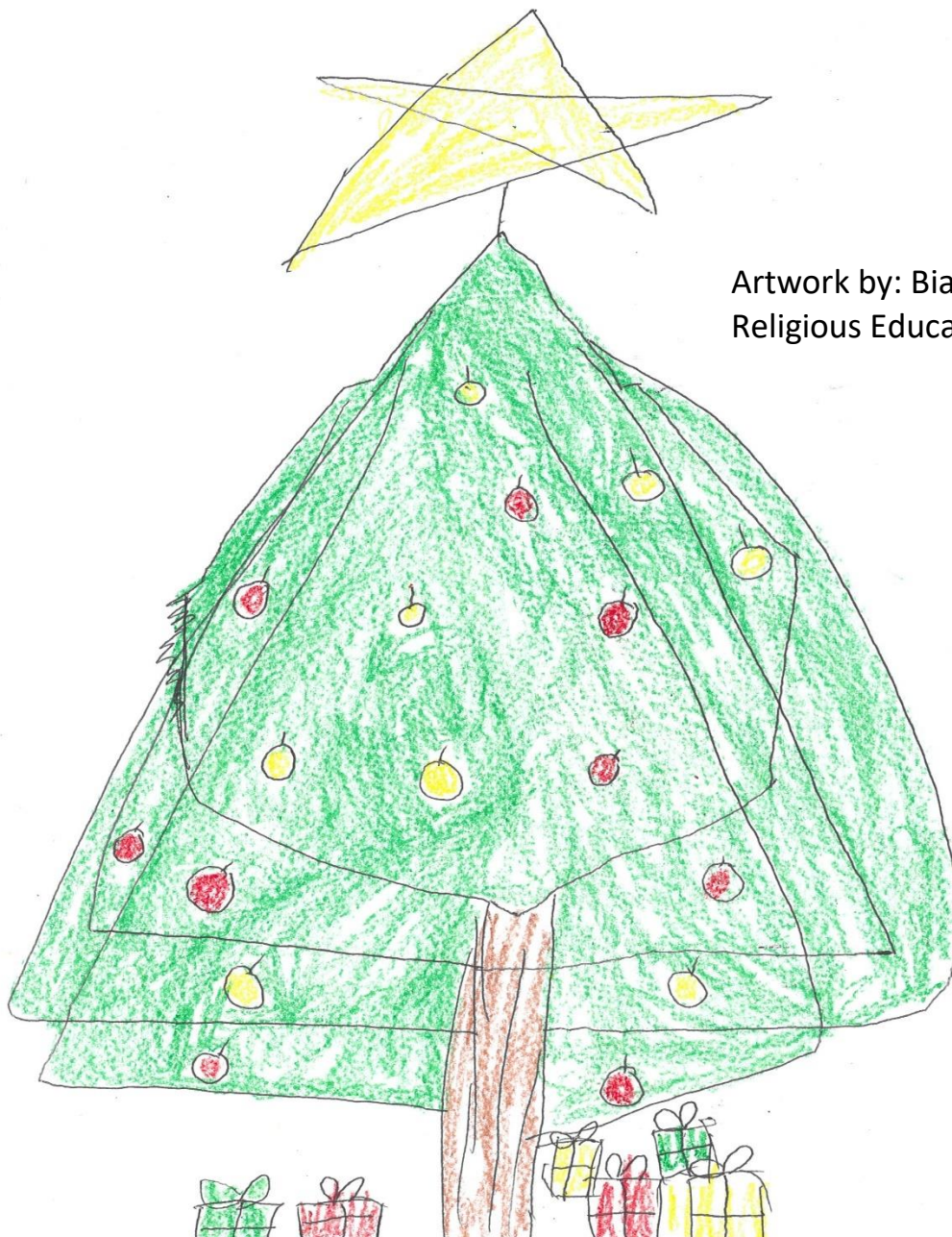


SPIRIT-LED NEWS



Artwork by: Bianca Borromeo
Religious Education, Grade 3

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
 95-370 Kuahelani Ave. Mililani, Hawaii 96789 | (808) 623-3332
www.stjohnmililani.org

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT: WE ARE A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY—called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service* and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to install, in our parish community the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

PASTOR Fr. Anthony Rapozo

In Residence Fr. John Gabriel

DEACON Dcn. Romeo Ganibe

*FULL Parish Clergy & Staff Directory available
on our website.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 8AM (Monday - Saturday)

Sunday: 5PM (Saturday Vigil), 7AM, 9AM,
11AM & 6PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30PM

PARISH RECTORY HOURS

Monday 12PM - 4PM

Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:00PM

Saturday - Sunday Closed

Please call the office for all other inquiries:
Anointing, Baptisms, Blessings, Food Pantry,
Funeral, Homebound Communion & Marriage.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

DEC 10/11

Sunday Collection	\$ 10,353.31
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 1,705.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 70.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 80.00
Marriage	\$ 100.00
Funeral	\$ 300.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,260.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 730.00
Candles	\$ 725.00
Christmas	\$ 117.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 575.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,818.56
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ 20.00
St Catherine – Adopt a Student	\$ 4,960.00
Retirement Fund Religious	\$ 1,968.00
Seminarian Education	\$ 3.50
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 25,790.37



PASTOR'S CORNER

Attending Mass

For Catholics, attending Mass on Sunday (or a Saturday evening vigil Mass) is not optional. It is an obligation. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews addressed this in Hebrews 10:25 – “We should not stay away from our assembly, as in the custom of some, but encourage one another.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church in paragraph 2181 explains why. “The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.” As Catholics, we believe that the Mass is the highest form of prayer and worship.

The faithful should know deliberately missing Mass without serious reason is a mortal sin. This is explained in the Catechism, paragraph 2181. “For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on the days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.”

In going to Mass on Sunday, we follow the Third Commandment to keep holy the Sabbath.

(From Gus Lloyd's book “A Minute in the Church: The One Minute Explanations about the Catholic Mass.”)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Misa de Gallo: December 16 - 24 (5:00 am) - Celebrants: Dec 16- Fr. Anthony Rapozo; Dec 17- Fr. EJ Resinto; Dec 18- Fr. John Gabriel; Dec 19- Fr. Romple Emwalu; Dec 20- Fr. Ed Barut; Dec 21- Fr. Alfred Guerrero; Dec 22- Fr. PJ Camiring; Dec 23- Bishop Larry Silva; Dec 24- Fr. Leonardo Tubana.

Angel Tree network: Friendly reminder, if you haven't turned in your wrapped gifts, please bring them to the Parish Office by Monday, December 19 between 12pm-4pm. Mahalo for being a Christmas Angel by providing a Christmas gift to a deserving child, family, senior, homeless and Seminarian!

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 23 in observance of Christmas Eve and Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. Christmas Eve Masses on Saturday, December 24th will be at 6 PM (Family Mass) and 12:00 Midnight. Christmas Day Masses on Sunday, December 25th will be at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. There will be no 6:00 PM Mass.

There will be Communion Services on Monday, December 26, Wednesday, December 28 to Saturday, December 31, in lieu of daily Mass. There will be no Adoration on Friday, December 30.

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.”



~MOTHER TERESA

Join us in celebrating the Feast of St. John Apostle & Evangelist on Tuesday, Dec 27th. Mass is at 6 pm followed by refreshments in the OCC.

Little Bethlehem Christians (LBC) is a group that represents Christian Families who live in the Holy Land of Bethlehem that make their living as wood carvers. The Alsahouri Family will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items for sale on **December 31st & January 1st** after all Masses. All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.

Don't know what to give a loved one this Christmas? How about the Spiritual Gift of a Mass! As a Spiritual Gift, a loved one will be remembered in ALL THE MASSES offered at St. John in observance of Christmas. Christmas Mass Offering Set: \$20; Each Set Includes: 4x6 Christmas Card, a matching envelope, and offering envelope. Please contact the parish office to purchase a Mass offering set.

Remember a loved one by making a flower offering this Christmas. Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, "Online Giving."

This week on Formed, December 19: Christmas in Rome: A Celebration of the Nativity
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.

The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent. Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite! Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival taking place in dioceses and parishes throughout the United States, a **National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17 to 21, 2024.** Wide participation is encouraged, and until the end of this month bishops are able to pre-order discounted tickets for those who plan to participate. The normal registration fee is \$350 per person, but if tickets are reserved before December 31, 2022, each bishop may order up to 250 tickets at the reduced rate of \$200 per person. **This registration fee does not include transportation, hotel accommodations, or meals, for which each participant will be personally responsible.** If you or a group of you would like to reserve tickets at this discounted rate, you must submit the names of all who wish tickets along with a contact email address to the parish office **no later than Friday, December 23, 2022.** We hope many will be able to join in this unique and inspiring experience.



Advent Week Three Family Activity: Mary Candle

The Mary Candle illustrates the word of Isaiah 11:1 "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from its roots a bud shall blossom." The candleholder represents Mary and also stands for the branch growing from the root of Jesse. From her womb comes the flower, the Savior of the world.

The candle symbolizes Christ, who is the Light of the World. His birth scatters the world of darkness and sin. The veil, which symbolizes Mary's stainless soul, covers the candle throughout Advent. On Christmas, the veil is removed to reveal the newborn Child.

Supplies needed:

1. Candle
2. Candle holder
3. White silk material to cover candle
4. Blue ribbon to tie on the material
5. Image or ikon of our Lady



'Tis the Season of Las Posadas: So What Does That Mean?

By Sasha Monik Moreno *Vivala Creator*

The Posada is a traditional Christmas celebration that Franciscan missionaries developed in America with the goal of introducing the faith. It continues to be popular throughout the southwestern United States and all of Latin America.

The Christmas Posada expresses perfectly the suspense and surprises of the season. It is a prayer, a play, a party and a gathering for families, parishes, and whole communities. It is a celebration that children and adults can enjoy together, as well as those from all different cultural backgrounds.

The Symbolism behind Las Posadas

Las Posadas memorializes Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a shelter for Jesus Christ to be born. In fact, Las Posadas means "inns" or "dwellings" in Spanish. For those unfamiliar with the nativity story, Mary and Joseph were continually turned away from accommodations. On Christmas Eve, they eventually found a humble stable where Jesus was born.

The Posadas reenactment

During the Posadas, there are typically two groups of people that participate in the festivities to reenact Mary and Joseph's journey. The first group of people are known as pilgrims or "los peregrinos." They begin a procession and walk house-to-house singing a traditional song about Mary and Joseph looking for shelter. Typically, a child dressed as an angel leads the procession while the other peregrinos hold candles and sing.

Related From Vivala: The Mexican Lotería Is Alive and Well

The second group is known as the innkeepers who wait at their respective homes. The first few innkeepers will turn los peregrinos away and deny them entrance into their homes. Eventually, they will reach the designated house where they are permitted to enter to begin the festivities. One year, my grandmother hosted one night of the festivities. Seeing the peregrinos sing outside her house with candles was very touching and moving. As the family matriarch and devout Catholic she was, my grandmother's joy and happiness in welcoming in the procession into her home was infectious and started the holiday season on such a beautiful note that year.

Advent Week Four Family Activity: Create a Snow Globe

Create a Family Snow globe. Snow globes often symbolize innocence, therefore, metaphorically representing the purity and redemption of the Advent Season. All you need is the following items:

- 1) A clear glass or plastic container that is waterproof and can hold water.
- 2) Glitter
- 3) Glue
- 4) And some image or object to put in your globe.
- 5) Water



Advent Week Four Family Activity: Create a Snow Globe

Candy Cane Story

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure, white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the Name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs, who like sheep have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging that Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane, a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.

But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear". I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and His great love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the universe today.

Author Unknown

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION (MT 1:18 - 24) BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?



In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he obeys God's call to him through the message of an angel.

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED....)

Respect Life: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

The 2023 Hawaii March for Life will be held on Friday, January 20th at the Hawaii State Capitol from 3 to 6 pm. This marks the 50th anniversary of Hawaii legalizing the intentional termination of a pre-born child's life. It is important that as Catholics we show our respect for all human life and our opposition to the culture of death that is so prevalent in society. It is hoped that there will be a large gathering of defenders of life on this momentous occasion. Since bus arrangements are not firm, participants should plan on carpooling to the Capitol. Details on parking will be provided later. On January 19, 2023, in preparation for the March, Bishop Larry Silva will celebrate a March for Life Mass at St. Theresa Co-Cathedral at 6 pm followed by a Holy Hour of Adoration. Please consider attending one or both of these events.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 19, 2022

8AM Ester Aguirre (RIP)
Gerry Borgonia (Birthday Blessing)
Suzanna Foster (Peace in her heart)

Tuesday December 20, 2022

8AM Fernando Malicay (RIP)
Luz Malicay (RIP)
Margie Romasanta
(Birthday Blessing)

Wednesday December 21, 2022

8AM Suzanna Foster (Peace in her heart)
Grace Sullivan (Blessing)
Ed & Dorothy McKeaney
(Special Intentions)

Thursday December 22, 2022

8AM Juancho Achaval Jr. (RIP)
Lorrie Roccia (Special Intention)
Kathleen Smart (Healing/Health)

Friday

8AM

December 23, 2022

Ester Aguirre (RIP)
Catherine Datuin (RIP)
Daniel Lopez, Jr. (RIP)

Saturday

8AM

December 24, 2022

Eva Gabriel (RIP)
Suzanna Foster (Peace in her heart)
Ester Aguirre (RIP)
Floresita Hintze (RIP)

5PM

Sunday

7AM

December 25, 2022

Brigido Duque (RIP)

9 AM

For the People

11 AM

Lawrence Scott (RIP)

6 PM

Death Anniversary

Agreda Acebo (RIP)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LAMERTO "BERT" GALMAN (RIP), Wednesday, December 21, 2022, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Clovis, CA at 10:00 am PST. You are invited to watch his Funeral Mass on Facebook Livestream:
https://www.facebook.com/OLPHclovisca/live_videos/

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Gary O., Manny Rodil, Brenda B. Miyashiro, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, Christy Esposito, Víctor Apilado, Trevor Townsend, Gene Lumantas, Rachel Sullivan, Romeo Donato, Alfredo Alcausin, Teri Velasco, Jennifer Domingo & Wayne, Char Matsumoto, Aida Antalan, Salve Galman, Ray & Jane Beauchemin.

DECEASED

James E. Smith, Luis P. Santos, Mely Akau, Ester Aguirre, Darrell Domingo, Florie Hintze, Marcelina A. Hewe, Rosita Vidmar, Florence Fukumoto, Juancho Achaval, Jr., Loretta Domingo, Conchita Uson, Patricia Li, Lamberto "Brett" Galman, Avery S. Curet & Demetrio Galicianao.