

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This week's topic is the Meaning of Advent. The beginning of the Church's liturgical year is called Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Fr. Anthony Rapar

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: 3:30 - 4:30PM

PARISH RECTORY HOURS

Monday Closed

Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM – 12PM,
1PM - 4PM
Closed 12PM – 1PM
for lunch

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE NOV 25/26

Sunday Collection	\$ 10,749.01
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,504.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 215.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 650.00
Funeral	\$ 200.00
All Souls' Day	\$ 30.00
Social Ministry	\$ 10.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 3,260.00
Flowers	\$ 10.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 670.00
Candles	\$ 379.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 20.00
'Ohana in Christ	\$ 50.00
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$ 15.00
Christmas	\$ 10.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 50.00

WEEKEND TOTAL \$ 19,822.01

WeShare (11/19/2023): \$5,069.00



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Honolulu. It will be celebrated on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 pm (Vigil); Friday, December 8 at 8am and 6:30 pm Mass.

YOU CAN HELP! "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend (Dec 9/10). Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please drop your donation during offertory or you may also donate online through our parish "Online Giving."

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, clicking on "Online Giving."



'OHANA IN CHRIST – The Annual Appeal for the Catholic Church in Hawaii:

Please support your Diocesan Church ministries by contributing to the 2023- 2024 Appeal. Your Stewardship of Treasure will especially help: Parish Priests & Deacons, Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Those Most in Need. Mahalo for your generous support - All gifts are important and appreciated. Envelopes are located at the back of the church, or you may donate through our parish website: stjohnmililani.org. Mahalo for your generous support!

EPIC MINISTRY- "Faith Sharing" is on Monday, December 4th, 7PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa. Open to young adults ages 18-39. For more information: email: centraloahu@epicministry.net, text **EPICMINISTRY to 8456** or call (808) 354-0971.

ST JOHN PRESCHOOL – OPEN ENROLLMENT SY 2023-2024, for ages 2.8 years – 6 years old. For more information, call (808) 744-9538 or email: stjohns_preschool@rcchawaii.org.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED:

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

St. Nicholas Day | Catholic All Year at Home w/ Kendra Tierney

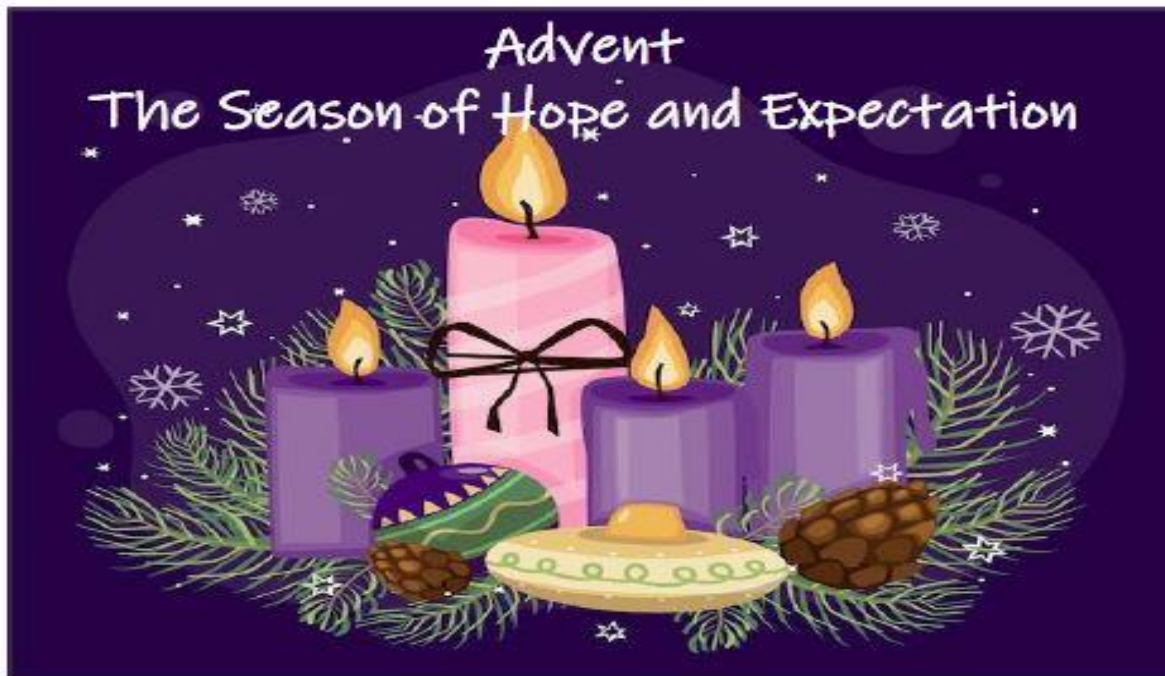
Kendra shares her favorite recipes and traditions for celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas (a.k.a. Santa!). Learn how to make mulled wine and cider, speculaas cookies, and deep-fried Dutch meatballs.

Shalom/Peace | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

"Peace" is a very common word in English, that means different things to different people. It's also a very important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.





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| December 2 | First Sunday of Advent |
| December 3-11 | Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena, OCC
Dec. 3-8 (5pm), Dec. 9 (4pm), Dec. 10-11 (5pm) |
| December 8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Masses: 6:30pm (Vigil), Thursday, Dec. 7
8am and 6:30pm, Friday, Dec. 8 |
| December 10 | Second Sunday of Advent |
| December 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
5pm Mananitas 6pm Mass 7pm Potluck |
| December 13 | Advent Penance Service, 7pm |
| December 15 | Journey to the Inn, 6:30pm, OCC |
| December 16-24 | Misa de Gallo, 5am |
| December 17 | Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) |
| December 24 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Masses: 7am, 9am, 11am |

Note: The 6 pm Mass on Dec 24 (Christmas Eve) fulfills the Christmas Obligation but not the Sunday Obligation.





Join us for **Misa de Gallo**
at 5:00 A.M. with our
Celebrants:

Dec 16	Fr. Anthony Rapozo
Dec 17	Fr. John Gabriel
Dec 18	Fr. Edmund Barut
Dec 19	Fr. Alfred Guerrero
Dec 20	Fr. Romple Emwalu
Dec 21	Fr. Boniface Sakala
Dec 22	Bishop Larry Silva
Dec 23	Fr. EJ Resinto
Dec 24	To Be Announced



The Christmas Season

December 24 | Christmas Eve

Masses: 6pm, 12 Midnight

December 25 | Christmas Day

Masses: 7am, 9am, 11am

No 6pm Mass

December 27 | Feast of St. John

Apostle & Evangelist

Masses: 8am and 6:30pm

December 31 | The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

January 1 | Solemnity of Mary, The
Holy Mother of God

January 7 | The Epiphany of The Lord

January 8 | The Baptism of the Lord



My Soul Magnifies the Lord (Lk. 1:46)
A Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines
Including Portugal, Spain, France, & Rome

13 Days / 10 Nights

December 1-13, 2024



**Fr. Anthony Rapozo,
Spiritual Director**

Please visit the parish website, stjohnmililani.org to view the full pilgrimage itinerary.

SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION (MARK 13:33-37) BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

Today, we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder Advent that does not always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but rather, out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed.



Whatever we feel God calling us to do this Advent — committing to a daily Gospel reflection, visiting a lonely neighbor, or donating money to those in dire need — there is no time to waste.

Jesus makes this clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he “places his servants in charge, each with his own work.” We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain vigilant to the work He has given us to do because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it.

Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!

Respect Life: “*The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (5B)

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Responsorial Psalm: 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



- “Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit!”
-PSALM 51:12

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 4, 2023

8AM Felicidad A. Fernandez
(Death Anniversary)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Vallen & Elise Hara
(Death Anniversary)
Eveline Hunter (Birthday Blessing)

Tuesday December 5, 2023

8AM Christopher Tadda
Frank Tadda
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)

Wednesday December 6, 2023

8AM Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Gene Nishikawa (Thanksgiving)
Suzanna Foster (RIP)
Xavier P. Belleza (Birthday Blessing)

Thursday December 7, 2023

8AM Pedro Taglinao (Death Anniversary)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Jane Beauchemin (RIP)

Friday

8AM Feliciano Dona (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Brandon Browning
(Birthday Blessing)
Guerrero Family
(Blessing/Thanksgiving)

Saturday

8AM Eric Umetsu (RIP)
James & Mildred Mizoguchi (RIP)
Modesta Yadao (Healing/Blessing)
Dolly Mandap (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)

Sunday

7AM Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
9 AM For the People
11 AM Gene Nishikawa (Thanksgiving)
Suzanna Foster (RIP)
6 PM Jaime Risos (RIP)

Julia Kilantang (RIP)

December 8, 2023

8AM Eric Umetsu (RIP)
James & Mildred Mizoguchi (RIP)
Modesta Yadao (Healing/Blessing)
Dolly Mandap (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)

December 10, 2023

7AM Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
9 AM For the People
11 AM Gene Nishikawa (Thanksgiving)
Suzanna Foster (RIP)
6 PM Jaime Risos (RIP)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LILIAN PROPIOS LAPA (RIP) – Wednesday, December 6, 2023, St John- Visitation: 9:30am;
Mass: 10:00am; Burial: 1:30 ~ Mililani Memorial Park.

MAXIMA “MAXINE” LOONEY (RIP) – Thursday, December 7, 2023, St John- Visitation: 9:30am;
Eulogy: 10:30am; Mass: 11:00am

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, John Bates, Cindy Abernathy, Lupita Arizpe, Richard Guillory, Nicole Guerrero, Mona DeCosta, Reyes Aguirre, Marisol Aguirre, Lana Daszek, Vanessa Liu, Michael Donlin, Patrice Wilson, Gene Lumantas, Clarita Martinez, Julian Rillamas Jr., Jim Walsh & Lita Guerrero.

DECEASED

Mark Burnett, Chirsty Esposito, Jane Beauchemin, Genevieve Rosa, Michelle Aubuchon, Monica Pangelinan, Jonathan Somaoang, Gavina Tamonte, Gloria U. Munson, Aida Govico, Catalina Sagocio, Margaret Nakamura, Wendell Perry, Patrick Mayock, Gary Garcia, Daniel Ariola & Maxima Looney.

