

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today, we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper"—"Rejoice in the Lord always."

To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

We have joy because we are looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

The empty manger in the front of the sanctuary sitting on a hill of straw is our reminder that we are in our third week of preparing to meet our creator on Christmas morn. The hill of straw represents each of us on our Advent journey to prepare a place for the Christ child, symbolizing preparing our hearts and souls for him.



Fr. Anthony Rapon

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 DEC 9/10

Sunday Collection	\$ 12,464.43
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,268.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 139.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 65.00
Funerals	\$500.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,212.00
Flowers	\$ 315.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 130.00
Candles	\$ 532.00
Christmas	\$ 235.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,933.11
Retirement Fund Religious	\$ 2,546.00
St John Catholic Preschool	\$ 20.00
T-shirt	\$ 21.00

WEEKEND TOTAL \$ 24,385.54



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISA DE GALLO will be held on December 18 – 24 at 5 am.

CHRISTMAS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATIONS: Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th at 6 PM and 12:00 Midnight. Christmas Day Masses, December 25th at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 11:00 AM. There will be no 6PM Mass.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, December 25, in observance of Christmas Eve and Tuesday, December 26, Christmas Day .

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."



THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 27th. Masses will be at 8:00 A.M. (followed by breakfast in the OCC) and 6:30 P.M.

BIBLE STUDY: Catholic Women who wish to grow and persevere in their spiritual life and increase their knowledge of the Catholic faith are invited to join the Miles Christi Catholic Women's Bible Study group meets on Saturdays, 10 am to 12:00 am. We will not meet on Saturday, December 23rd and 30th. We will resume on January 6, 2024. If you are interested, contact Barbara Ursal: bursal@twc.com or (808) 671 4750.

WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Our prayers and presence in the public square can change policies to promote a Culture of Life!

March for Life 2024: **Friday, January 19** from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the State Capitol.

Thursday, January 18 at 6 p.m. at St. Theresa Co-Cathedral, Mass followed by an hour of adoration with Celebrant: Bishop Larry Silva

A Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines
Including Portugal, Spain, France, & Rome
December 1-13, 2024



Join Fr. Anthony Rapozo, Spiritual Director, December 1-13, 2024, for a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines!

Journey through some of Europe's most treasured shrines with stops in Portugal, Spain, France, and Rome!

Please visit the website for more information, stjohnmililani.org.



Join us for the Ordination to the Holy Orders of Deaconate Mike Browning at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, 712 N. School St., Honolulu. Bus transportation is available. The school bus will pick up at St. John at 8:00 A.M. and pick up at St. Theresa at 1:30 P.M. Please contact the parish office to sign up. Cost is \$5.

‘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 18th, 7PM at Resurrection of the Lord, Waipio. 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:

Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word “love” is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, “love” refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.

Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

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

Respect Life: “O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery. Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”



SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION (JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28) BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

Today, we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” is a Latin word, meaning “rejoice.” The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.” It is God Who is the source of our

joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents, and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: “He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light.” This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any “clutter” in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12,14,16(11B)

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Responsorial Psalm: 89:2-3,4-5, 27,29

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



- "Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion, because the holy one of Israel is great among you."

~ ISAIAH 12:6

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 18, 2023

8AM Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Jane Beauchemin (RIP)
Fr. Cletus Mooya (RIP)
Lolita Valdez (Healing)

Tuesday December 19, 2023

8AM Jack Ward (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Maxima Looney (RIP)
Special Intentions

Wednesday December 20, 2023

8AM Fernando & Lucia Malicay (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
Suzanna Foster (RIP)
Gene Nishikawa (Thanksgiving)
Margie Romasanta
(Birthday Blessing)

Thursday December 21, 2023

8AM Ignacia V. Benitez (RIP)
Demetrio Galicinao (RIP)
For the People (Thanksgiving)
Special Intentions

Friday

8AM

December 22, 2023

Catherine Datuin
(Death Anniversary)
Danielle Peterson (RIP)
Daniel Lopez Sr & Jr (RIP)
Mike & Aggie Browning
(Wedding Anniversary Blessing)

Saturday

8AM

December 23, 2023

Maxima Looney (RIP)
Gavina Tamonte (RIP)
Monica Pangelinan (RIP)
Wendell Perry (RIP)

Sunday

7AM

December 24, 2023

German A. & Claudia C. Vergara
(RIP)
9 AM Gene Nishikawa (Thanksgiving)
Suzanna Foster (RIP)
11 AM Scott Ohana
Long & McGie Family
(Thanksgiving)
6 PM For the People
12 MIDNITE Alex & Molly Dizol (RIP)

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, Vanessah Liu, Michael Donlin, Patrice Wilson, Gene Lumantas, Clarita Martinez, Julian Rillamas Jr., Jim Walsh, Lita Guerrero, Florida Badua, Allene Ishikawa & Dominador Rulloda.

DECEASED

Jane Beauchemin, Genevieve Rosa, Michelle Aubuchon, Monica Pangelinan, Jonathan Somaoang, Gavina Tamonte, Gloria U. Munson, Aida Govico, Catalina Sagocio, Margaret Nakamura, Wendell Perry, Gary Garcia, Daniel Ariola, Maxima Looney, Suzanna Foster & Ruth Hartzel.