



SPIRIT-LED NEWS

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Someone recently asked me: What is the purpose of lighting a candle in the Catholic Church?

One of the most iconic sites in Catholic Churches throughout the world are stands of votive candles. Lit for intercessions, or to remember a loved one, these candles burn day and night as a sign of the impassioned prayer of those who lit them.

The term "votive" comes from the Latin word votum, which means a vow, pledge or religious undertaking or promise. It can also mean a prayer. Catholics light candles to pray for our deceased loved ones, the sick, the health and welfare of family and friends, and for the needs of our worldwide family. In the lighting of candles, we not only pray, but our prayers become symbols of the One Light of Christ, "the Light of the World."

"AND YOU SHALL command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may be set up to burn continually." Exodus 27:30

Lights have always played an important role in the history of the Mass and other liturgies since the early days of Christianity, and they were kept burning for periods of time at the tombs of martyrs, as a sign of remembrance.

During the Middle Ages, offerings were made for maintaining lamps that were kept burning on the graves throughout the year, which served to comfort the souls of the departed. The burning lamps or candles signified Christ, the eternal Light, whom we implore in our prayers to shine upon the departed. These lights were called "Dead Lights" or "All Souls Lights."

The candles kept a silent vigil and so came to be known as "vigil lights." The offering of a lighted candle is a praiseworthy prayer in action for the holy souls languishing in purgatory.

Excerpts from this article were taken from: Thirty-day Devotions for the Holy Souls.

Gratefully yours in the heart of Jesus Christ,

Fr. Anthony Rapozo

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
PAROCHIAL VICAR Fr. Cipriano “Jojo” Alnas
DEACON Dcn. Romeo Ganibe
 Dcn. Mike Browning

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 8AM Tuesday – 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 7/8

Sunday Collection	\$ 12, 204.00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,338.00
Online Donation (Pushpay)	\$ 1,260.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 290.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 85.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,341.00
Social Ministry	\$ 30.00
Immaculate Conception (12/9/24)	\$ 1,880.25
Preschool	\$ 100.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 270.00
Candles	\$ 542.00
Flowers	\$ 285.00
Mission Outreach	\$ 10.00
Christmas	\$ 75.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ 10.00
Retirement fund for Religious	\$ 2,311.00

WEEKEND TOTAL

\$ 24, 031.25



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION BY PRENGER SOLUTIONS GROUP

Last week we focused of spending time in quiet prayer as a way to make straight the path toward our Lord this Advent. This week we shift gears and concentrate on acting on God's love for us. Those who have gathered around John the Baptist, including tax collectors and soldiers, repeatedly ask him, "What should we do?" His response is always some variation of "Use your power and position in society justly and share your good fortune with those less fortunate."

John abides by his own command. Many who listen to him preach mistake him for the Promised One. He quickly disabuses them of this notion, saying, that "...one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."



It is easy to fall into the trap of our own self-importance. But Advent is a time to remember that Christ did not come to serve the mighty exclusively. He humbled Himself, born into humanity as a helpless infant completely reliant on Mary and Joseph's care. He entered His ministry, allowing John to baptize Him as if He were flawed and in need of the healing waters. Simply put, He is willing to meet us where we are at, including in our sinfulness.

Christmas is approaching fast. As we continue with December's festivities, let us also remember John's call to serve and give of ourselves, to share our good fortune – the "tunics and food" of today's Gospel –with those who have less.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a (12C)

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Responsorial Psalm: 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



~ "When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves."



Juan Diego lived near what is today part of Mexico City, where he heard the Gospel from the first Franciscan missionaries to evangelize the area. He was baptized by one of these missionaries when he was 50 years old. Years later, while walking to daily Mass, Our Lady appeared to him in a series of apparitions with a message for the local bishop. As proof that she had in fact appeared to Juan Diego, Mary gave him the miraculous image on his tilma, which we recognize today as the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Franciscan missionaries had no idea they were evangelizing a future saint—they were simply doing what they were called to do. And we are all called to evangelize! Will you let God use you in someone else's journey toward the Church?

Learn more at www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one





"She really was just being Jesus to me" – Transcript of Rachel's Story

Around my junior year, one of my best friends had passed away in a car accident. I would say the first couple of months there just was a lot of hate in my heart and a lot of woundedness. I was just calling in my head the flaws that I saw in people rather than seeing the good.

My theology teacher, Mrs. Meyer, can tell there was something going on and she pulled me aside one day after class. She encouraged me to go and sit in front of Jesus to spend at least 10 minutes in front of Him in the Eucharist every day and to go to Mass every morning. In the moment I think I was kind of annoyed with her. I was very comfortable and complacent in where I was. She didn't give up on me. She was very persistent. Looking back at it now, I'm extremely grateful the more time I spent with Jesus in the Eucharist the more I started seeing Jesus in other people. That was all I did. I just sat in front of Him and my heart started to open up. Instead of seeing their pride I saw their love for other people, and I saw the ways that they were trying to pursue humility.

Jesus is very persistent but not like a forcing way. Neither was she and when I look back on it, I think that she really was just being Jesus to me in that moment. I love spending time in front of Jesus; especially with being a missionary and getting to now walk sixth graders and seventh graders to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist every day. It's very powerful to see that transformation in other people. There is nothing that's more real than the Eucharist.

After suffering the loss of a friend, Rachel's heart grew hard, and she struggled to see the good in others. Her theology teacher encouraged her to go to daily Mass and spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. As she did, her heart softened, and Rachel began to recognize Jesus in other people.

All it takes is one example, one encounter, one conversation to point someone to Jesus. Who will you walk with? Learn more about how you can Walk with One at eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who made this year's **Christmas Wish** a huge success! Your generosity has brought joy to children, teens, and families in need. We're grateful for your support of Catholic Charities, Helping Hands, HCAP and St. John's.

"All were questioning in their hearts." Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office: Fr. Joseph Diaz (Director of Vocations) at (808) 585.3355 or via email: jodiaz@rcchawaii.org.

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

Dec 16	Fr Anthony Rapozo & Fr Jojo Alnas		
Dec 17	Fr. Romple Emwalu	Dec 18	Bishop Larry Silva
Dec 19	Fr. EJ Resinto	Dec 20	Fr Boniface Sakala
Dec 21	Fr. Manny Hewe	Dec 22	Fr. Jojo Alnas
Dec 23	Fr. Ed Barut	Dec 24	Fr. Jojo Alnas



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.



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."

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN'S A&E CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD

Please join us for a special evening honoring 50 years of faith, fellowship and Service.

Saturday, January 18, 2025 | St John's A&E One Community Center | 5p – 9p | Mass at 5p
Luau dinner and entertainment to follow. Dinner \$25 per person required for entrance. Tickets are available to purchase in the church office. For more information or ticket inquiries text Abbie @ 808-216-2128



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"



OHANA IN CHRIST: Please support your Diocesan Church ministries by contributing to the 2024- 2025 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!



ST JOHN PRESCHOOL – OPEN ENROLLMENT SY 2024-2025

for ages 2.8 years - 6 years old.

Year-round Montessori based teaching.

For more information, call (808) 744-9538 or

stohns_preschool@rcchawaii.org

Y.A.B.S: YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY in Room 4 On Tuesdays 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM ---- Let's discover our faith and grow friendships. This is an amazing opportunity to deepen our love for Jesus in this modern age. Join us this month in the program Freedom to Love by Christopher West. Any Questions? Feel free to email: sjaeyoungadult@rcchawaii.org.

GO MAKE DISCIPLES AND SHARE THE GOSPEL! In this National Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission, we are asked to recommit from our Eucharistic heart to go out as missionaries of God's love. Support St. John's outreach efforts to serve the needy and spread the Good News! Mission envelopes are available at the back of the church, or you may donate on the parish website online giving. Mahalo for your support!

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE A MEAL AT INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES (IHS): St. John has been approved to serve dinner at IHS Men's Shelter, 350 Sumner St. in Honolulu every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7pm. A maximum of 5 people is allowed to serve in the kitchen. Parking is available. If your ministry or group would like to serve, please contact the parish office to sign up.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

- ❖ Never Confirmed in the Catholic Church?
- ❖ Do you want to be baptized?
- ❖ Are you or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a part of the Catholic Faith?
- ❖ Let us help you with your journey in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.
- ❖ Candidates will explore the elements of the Catholic faith in weekly meetings with Catechists in preparation to receive all the Sacraments of Initiation.

For more information, contact Deacon Romeo Ganibe at rganibe@rcchawaii.org.



ENCOUNTER NIGHTS
 Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction
 Wednesdays | 7:00 PM
 Rediscover the sense of adoration in silence.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 16, 2024

8 AM Angelito Taglinao
(Death Anniversary)
Jesse Pangelinan
(Birthday Memorial)
Fukuda Family
(Thanksgiving/Blessing)

Tuesday December 17, 2024

8 AM †Eric Umetsu
Jaime Maldonado Sr.
(Death Anniversary)
Karla Peralta (Healing)
Joan Madsen (Birthday Blessing)

Wednesday December 18, 2024

8 AM Fr. Cletus Mooya (RIP)
†M/M Ray Beauchemin
Karla Peralta (Healing)

Thursday December 19, 2024

8 AM Nicholas Howcumfu
†Roberto Dhel
†Anastacia "Tasing" M.B. Agustin
Karla Peralta (Healing)

Friday December 20, 2024

8 AM Catherine Datuin
(Death Anniversary)
†Daniel Lopez Sr. & Jr.
†Robert Ane
Lily Pascual (Blessing)

Saturday December 21, 2024

8 AM †Charles & Chieko Beeson
†Roberto Dael
Ben Pascual
(Birthday Blessing)
5 PM †Ignacia V. Benitez

Sunday December 22, 2024

7 AM Benigno Pascual
(Birthday Blessing)
9 AM *For the People*
11 AM Mike & Aggie Browning
(Wedding Anniversary Blessing)
6 PM Jerry & Paz Fonacier
(Thanksgiving)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELEN FELIX MENDEZ: Age 95, a long-time SJAE parishioner who sang in the 11 a.m. choir and was an active Women's Guild member for many years passed on August 28. Her Memorial service will be on Monday, December 16, 2024, Sat 9 a.m. at Mililani Memorial Park, Mauka Chapel. Graveside service following at 1 p.m. at Hawaii State Veterans Memorial in Kaneohe.

ERNESTO GARCIA (RIP): Tuesday, December 17, 2024 – St John, Mililani; Visitation: 10:00am; Mass: 11:00am; Burial: 12:30pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park.

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, John Bates, Cindy Abernathy, Dr. Luis Raguton, Manny Rodil, Aida Antalan, Barbara Ursal, Hildegard Borowitz, John Basug, Claire Pilar, Roland Crisostomo, Addie Pablo, Margie Romasanta, Jim Guzior, Freddy Willems, Florence Willems, Ross Licare, Butch Corpuz, Noemi Angeles, & Julius Magio.

DECEASED

Dominador Rulloda, Dan & Clemente Flojo, Alejandro Rodriguez, Richard Cross, Marcela S. Escamilla, Eduardo E. Islao, Helen Mendez, Hermina Dosztal, Dale Cox Jr, Virginie Amo, Clarita Martinez, Dr. Tom Nestor, Alvin Cordura, Roberto Dael, Ellen Guay & Amelia Santos.

