



SPIRIT-LED NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

Aloha my Brothers and Sisters,

For Catholics, Advent is a four-week season of joyful preparation for Christmas, marked by reflection on both the birth of Jesus and his second coming. It is a time for spiritual preparation through prayer, fasting, and penance, with the liturgical color purple symbolizing the need for repentance and conversion.

Key traditions include lighting candles on an Advent wreath to represent hope, faith, joy, and peace, and preparing for Christ's return through spiritual vigilance.

Spiritual preparation

- **Twofold focus:** Advent prepares for both Jesus's first coming at Christmas and his future second coming.
- **Repentance and conversion:** The season is a time for introspection to acknowledge shortcomings and open oneself to God's grace. This can be done through prayer, almsgiving, and even receiving the sacrament of penance.
- **Vigilance:** Catholics are called to stay awake and spiritually alert, reflecting on the importance of being prepared for Christ's return.

Key traditions and symbols of Advent

- **Advent wreath:** A circle of evergreen branches with four candles. Each candle is lit on a successive Sunday of Advent.
- **Week 1: Hope:** The "Prophet's candle."
- **Week 2: Faith:** The "Bethlehem candle," representing the journey of Mary and Joseph.
- **Week 3: Joy:** The "Shepherd's candle," also called "Gaudete Sunday."
- **Week 4: Peace:** The "Angel's candle," symbolizing the angels' message of peace.
- **Color purple:** The primary liturgical color, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice.
- **Nativity scene:** Many families set up a nativity scene but wait to place the figure of baby Jesus in the manger until Christmas Day.
- **Advent calendars:** Often used to mark the days, with many featuring daily Bible verses or reflections.

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.

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
DEACONS Dcn. Romeo Ganibe
 Dcn. Mike Browning
*FULL Parish Clergy & Staff Directory
 available on our website.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 8AM Monday – Saturday
Sunday: 5PM (Anticipated Mass), 7AM,
 9AM, 11AM & 6PM

ADORATION TIMES:

Monday – Saturday 7AM – 8AM
 Friday after 8 AM Mass - 9:30 AM
 Wednesday 7 PM - 8 PM (Encounter Night)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30PM

PARISH RECTORY HOURS

Monday Closed
Tuesday - Friday 9AM – 1PM,
 2PM - 5PM
 Closed 1PM – 2PM
 for lunch
Closed *Saturday, Sunday,
 Holy Days & Holidays*

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	NOV 22/23
Sunday Collection	\$ 11,368.92
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 542.00
Online Donation (Pushpay)	\$ 3,203.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 224.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 50.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 390.00
Funerals	\$ 200.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 912.00
Candles	\$ 450.00
Preschool	\$ 75.00
Catholic Communication Campaign for Human Development	\$ 937.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 110.00
Retirement Fund for the Religious	\$ 5.00
All Soul's day	\$ 50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 15.00
'Ohana in Christ	\$ 12.00
WEEKEND TOTAL	\$ 18,593.92

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

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent — a season of preparation. For what are we preparing? The celebration of the birth of our Savior, and the anticipation of His second coming.

These are weighty tasks with eternal consequences. So, let us as Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: “Come, let us climb the Lord’s mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths.”



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace — all to create a “perfect” Christmas day. In contrast to this worldly pressure, the Church’s guidance to use these weeks as a time to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain climb.

But the intentional and wise use of the gift of time is exactly what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent.

How can we use our time to prepare for a holy celebration of Jesus’ birth on Dec. 25 and for his second coming at a date we do not know?

We can push back against the world’s pressure to have the “perfect Christmas.” Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for the spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let’s go climb the Lord’s mountain!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

“When the path you hoped for closes, step forward with grace — for dignity is the light that guides you to where you truly belong.”

~ Anonymous



FATHER ANTHONY'S STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Aloha!

Our parish vision of stewardship is one that sees Stewardship as a Way of Life, that begins with Love, It is not about collecting money though; it is about sharing the gifts that God has given each of us. The financial needs of the parish have very little to do with our individual practice of living out a Stewardship Way of Life.

NUMBER 9 – SACRIFICIAL GIVING

The term that is used in the Catholic Church that describes the process that leads to giving an acceptable sacrifice, to God, in our participation in the Eucharist is “sacrificial giving”. “Sacrificial giving” is how a mature disciple puts God first.

When we practice sacrificial giving, we give the first fruits of his gifts back to him. In order to do this, the Christian Steward plans his offering. After reflection and prayer, he decides well in advance.

When we fill out our commitment cards on commitment Sunday, we do exactly that. We commit in advance our offerings of our time in prayer, our service to God and our money. The use of on-line giving also encourages sacrificial giving.



**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 Alfred Guerrero	Dec 21 Fr Jojo Alnas
Dec 18 Fr Ed Barut	Dec 22 Fr Kurt Meyer
Dec 19 Bishop Larry Silva	Dec 23 Fr Manny Hewe
Dec 20 Fr Anthony Rapozo	
Dec 24 Fr Jojo Alnas & Fr Anthony Rapozo	

Mahalo! On behalf of Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) and St. John's, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who generously contributed to our Christmas Wish Drive for the less fortunate keiki on Kaua'i. Thanks to your kindness, we gathered nine large boxes of toys and over seventy gift cards.

The CCH staff were truly humbled by your generous spirit, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Ana's Dollhouse Dreams

In rural Laguna Seca, Guatemala, Ana wishes she lived in a home with a solid floor — a home just like her dollhouse. No more staining her dresses on the dirt floor. No more indoor mud puddles when it rains. No more illnesses from parasites and bacteria in the soil.

Her dream grows urgent as her mother's belly grows. In weeks, she'll become a big sister. Will the baby crawl on the same dirt floor? Can she protect the baby from snakes and scorpions hiding in their makeshift house? Will smoke from the stove hurt the baby's lungs?

Ana prays for a miracle — for friends like you to bless her family with a safe home. Together, we can be someone's miracle.

By joining our parish's Advent outreach, you can give children like Ana the opportunity to overcome poverty in the communities they know and love. **Scan the QR code or visit CrossCatholic.org/Advent to give.**



Ana with her dollhouse.

GIVE TODAY: CrossCatholic.org/Advent



Envelopes are located at the back of the church.

**38th Mililani Hawaiian
Ohana Holiday Parade!**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025



Please join us as we represent **St John Apostle & Evangelist** in the 38th Annual Mililani Holiday Parade. All participants are requested to bring 1 canned food item as a donation to the Hawaii Food Bank. All participating minors must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian.

Please be at the Mililani High School Stadium at 8am.

St. John's position in the parade is number 23.

The parade begins at 9am and will end at 10:30am, Town Center of Mililani.

There will be a Kupuna Trolley available, first come & first serve.

Don't forget to wear comfy walking shoes and a red shirt.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

During the month of November, we explored the seven continents and the various cultures within our ohana. The spirit of sharing was a delightful experience for our students.

December is a busy, yet short month for us. We will continue to explore the world through our study on Christmas traditions around the world. We'll examine the similarities and differences in the celebrations of Advent, Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. We will also talk about the true meaning of Christmas through the story of Jesus' birth.

Lastly, the teachers and staff would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year!

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support of St. John's Catholic Preschool.



"Children have a kind of instinct, a special sensibility, which urges them to acquire new words. Between three and five years especially, the child's mind continues to absorb words" - Maria Montessori

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 19...Christmas Pageant - Early Dismissal at 11:30am

December 22 - January 2
Christmas Vacation (No School)

LOOKING AHEAD

January 5...School Resumes

January 19...Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No School)

January 25-31...Catholic Schools Week

January 30...Teacher Workday (No School)

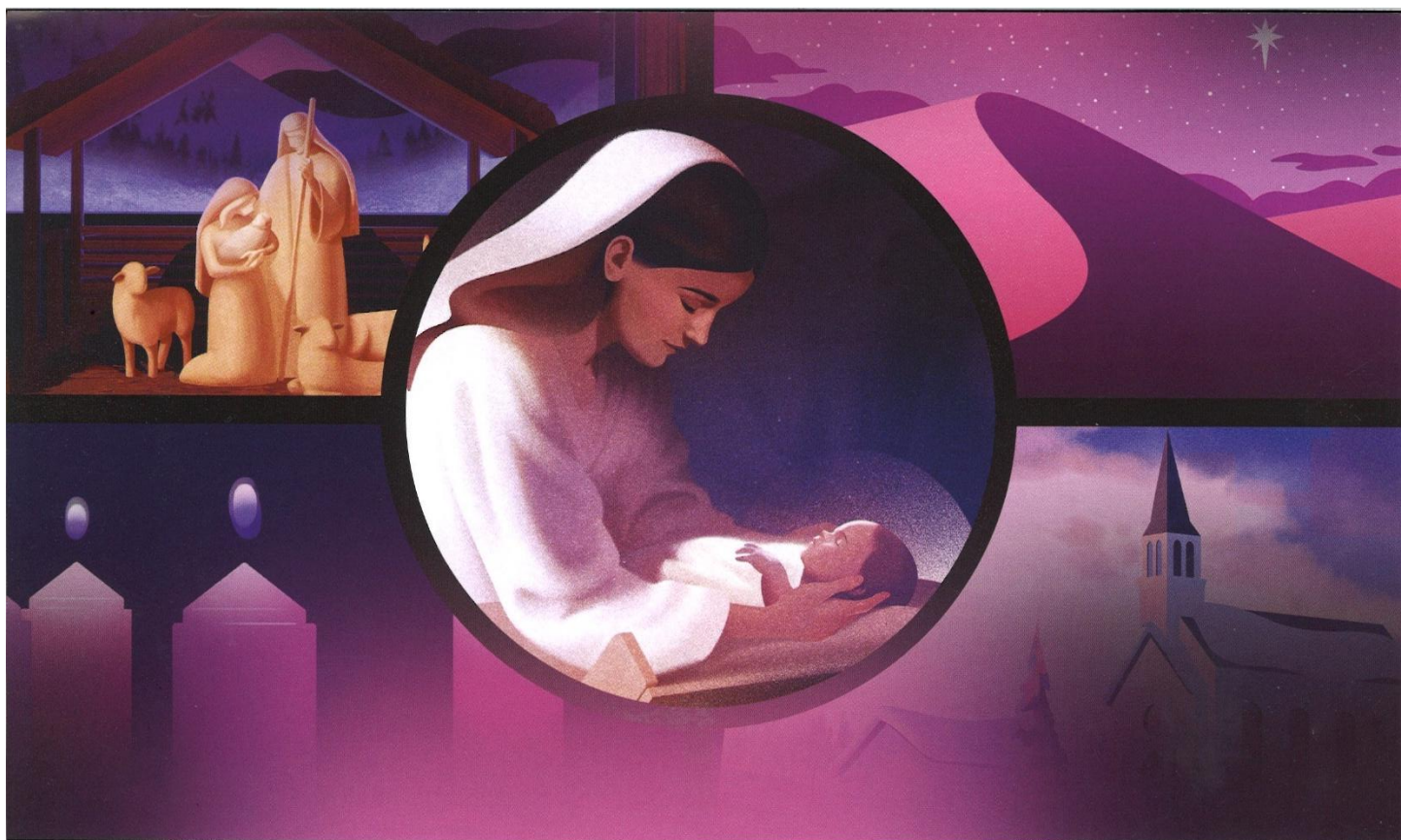
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Olivia W...December 8

Korbyn...December 17

Stella...December 25

Otto...December 27



Prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent with daily prayer on **Hallow**

"My morning meditation and prayer time have increased substantially since I heard about and joined Hallow during Advent. My faith has deepened in ways that words just cannot describe. I am blessed and so grateful!"

"This Advent challenge pierced my heart. My heart wasn't open enough to Christ before, but now it's like a spark of light came into it."

"I am so much more aware of God's presence in my everyday life because of Hallow's Advent Challenge."



Join us in
prayer this
Advent!

DAILY PRAYERS

Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, imaginative prayer or one of **over 10,000 sessions**, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.

FAMILY CONTENT & KIDS CHALLENGE

Pray as a family with weekly **Mass Prep, Saints Alive, Kids Holy Hour** and guide your little ones through the season with our Advent challenge for children.

BIBLE STORIES & SLEEP CONTENT

Close your day with **Christ with Night Prayer, an Examen, or a Rosary** with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.

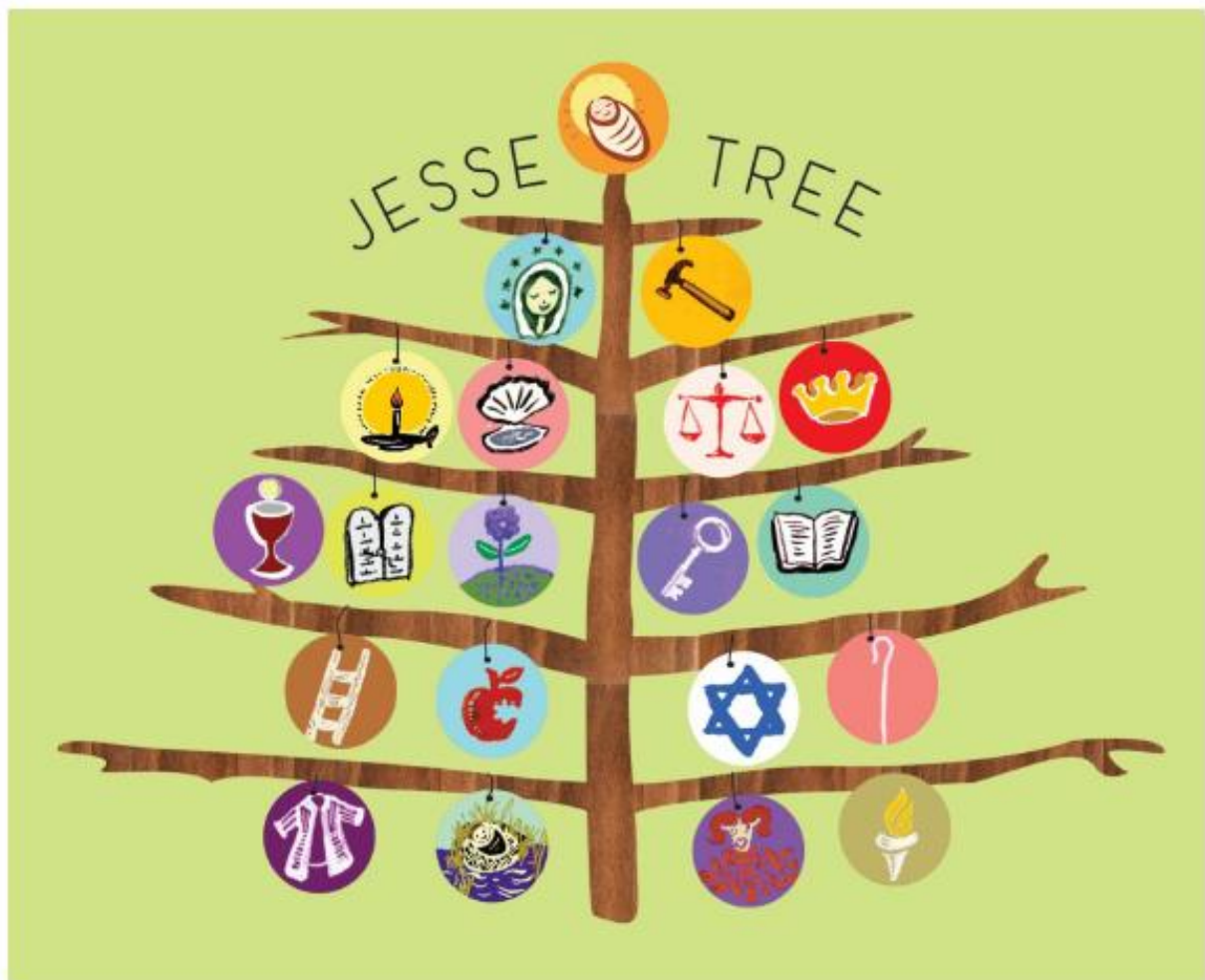


Advent Week One Family Activity: Create a Jesse Tree

Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: *"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."* Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

Each day of Advent, add a new ornament with a related Bible story or scripture reading. The ornaments can be handmade from various materials like paper, felt, or clay, and hung on the tree with ribbon or yarn.



The Jesse Tree Ornament Order

1. December 1 - Creation: Gen. 1:1-31; 2:1-4 Symbols: sun, moon, stars, animals, earth
2. December 2 - Adam and Eve: Gen. 2:7-9, 18-24 Symbols: tree, man, woman
3. December 3 - Fall of Man: Gen. 3:1-7 and 23-24 Symbols: tree, serpent, apple with bite
4. December 4 - Noah: Gen. 6:5-8, 13-22; 7:17, 23, 24; 8:1, 6-22 Symbols: ark, animals, dove, rainbow
5. December 5 - Abraham: Gen. 12:1-3 Symbols: torch, sword, mountain
6. December 6 - Isaac: Gen. 22:1-14 Symbols: bundle of wood, altar, ram in bush
7. December 7 - Jacob: Gen. 25:1-34; 28:10-15 Symbols: kettle, ladder
8. December 8 - Joseph: Gen. 37:23-28; 45:3-15 Symbols: bucket, well, silver coins, tunic
9. December 9 - Moses: Ex. 2:1-10 Symbols: baby in basket, river and rushes
10. December 10 - Samuel: 1 Sam. 3:1-18 Symbols: lamp, temple
11. December 11 - Jesse: 1 Sam. 16:1-13 Symbols: crimson robe, shepherd's staff
12. December 12 - David: 1 Sam. 17:12-51 Symbols: slingshot, 6-pointed star
13. December 13 - Solomon: 1 Kings 3:5-14, 16-28 Symbols: scales of justice, temple, two babies and sword
14. December 14 - Joseph: Matt. 1:18-25 Symbols: hammer, saw, chisel, angle
15. December 15 - Mary: Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 Symbols: lily, crown of stars, pierced heart
16. December 16 - John the Baptist: Mark 1:1-8 Symbols: shell with water, river
17. December 17 - The Church begins to intensify the preparation for Christmas with the use of the "O" Antiphons during the Liturgy of the Hours. The symbols for the Jesse Tree from December 17 to 23 are based on the "O" Antiphons.
18. December 17 - Jesus is Wisdom: Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus in old Bibles) 24:2; Wisdom 8:1 Symbols: oil lamp, open book
19. December 18 - Jesus is Lord: Ex. 3:2; 20:1 Symbols: burning bush, stone tablets
20. December 19 - Jesus is Flower of Jesse: Isaiah 11:1-3 Symbols: flower, plant with flower
21. December 20 - Jesus is Key of David: Isaiah 22:22 Symbols: key, broken chains
22. December 21 - Jesus is the Radiant Dawn: Psalm 19:6-7 (in older Bibles this will be Psalm 18) Symbols: sun rising or high in sky
23. December 22 - Jesus is King of the Gentiles: Psalm 2:7-8; Ephesians 2:14-20 Symbols: crown, scepter
24. December 23 - Jesus is Emmanuel: Isaiah 7:14; 33:22 Symbols: tablets of stone, chalice and host
25. December 24 - Jesus is Light of the World: John 1:1-14 Symbols: candle, flame, sun

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come and join the **Women's Guild for their 2025 Holiday Party in the OCC on Dec 5, 2025, from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm.** Cost is \$50 which includes the Prime Rib Buffet, entertainment, music, dancing and gift giving!! For more information and tickets see Georgette Ane @georgette.ane@gmail.com or Erlinda Nishimura @etn575@aol.com.



DEBT REDUCTION SECOND COLLECTION: We will have a second collection, next weekend, **December 6/7**, for debt reduction. Your donation will help pay for the mortgage of the **One Community Center**. Envelopes are available at the back of the church, or you may donate on our parish website, give online. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Next weekend, **December 6/7**, The **PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY** is sponsoring Free Blood Pressure screenings after all Masses on the church lanai.

Remember a loved one by making a flower offering this Christmas. Envelopes are available at the back of the church, or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, online giving. Mahalo!



JOIN US FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PRAYER GROUP is sponsoring a Novena in the OCC on

Wed Dec 3 – 5 pm	Thurs Dec 4- 5 pm	Fri Dec 5 – 5pm
Sat Dec 6 – 4pm	Sun Dec 7 – 5 pm	Mon Dec 8 – 5pm
Tues Dec 9 – 5pm	Wed Dec 10 – 5pm	Thurs Dec 11 – 5pm
For more information, contact: Zoila (808) 799-7856 zoilahorta@gmail.com Patricia (808) 256-0830	FRIDAY DEC 12 – 5:00 PM – MAÑANITAS 6:00 PM – MASS	

SAVE THE DATE!! Friday, Dec 19, 6:30pm in the OCC. Please join the parish to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season at our 4th “Journey to the Inn” event. It will be a program of Prayer, Meditation, Singing, and Pageantry as we remember the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph during the time of our Savior’s Birth. Potluck and fellowship to follow. No registration is required, please bring your family and friends and a dish to share.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: Are you an adult parishioner who missed receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? Preparation of Confirmation for parishioners who want to receive this Sacrament will be offered in January 2026. **First class:** Tuesday, Jan 20 | 6:30pm | OCC Conference Room. We are now accepting registration for these classes. To register, visit our website, stjohnmililani.org. **Registration will close on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.** For more information, please contact Fr Anthony, sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org or (808) 623-3332. Mahalo!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 1, 2025

8 AM Robert Daguio (Healing)
Wayne Costa (Healing)
M/M Reymundo & Encarcion Agpalza (RIP)

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

8 AM Emma Infante (RIP)
Gilbert Canales (RIP)

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

8 AM Linda Ward (Healing)
Mike Kozelka (RIP)

Thursday, December 4, 2025

8 AM Camila D. Ramos (Birthday Blessing)

Friday, December 5, 2025

8 AM Feliciano Dona (RIP)
Guerrero Family (Blessings/Thanksgiving)

Saturday, December 6, 2025

8 AM The Kelii Family (Special Intentions)

5 PM Xavier P. Belleza (Birthday Blessing)

Sunday, December 7, 2025

7 AM Nancy Laforga (RIP)

9 AM *For the People*

11 AM Alvin Cordero (RIP)

6 PM Suzanna Foster (RIP)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANGELITO ACZON (RIP)- Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – St John, Mililani; Visitation: 10:00 am, Eulogy: 10:30 am, Mass: 11:00 am; Burial: 1:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park.

REMEGIO DOMINGO JUAN (RIP)- Friday, December 5, 2025 – St John, Mililani; Visitation: 9:30 am, Mass: 11:00 am; Burial: 1:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park.

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Thomas Ramos, John Bates, Cindy Abernathy, Barbara Ursal, Hildegard Borowitz, Roland Crisostomo, Margie Romasanta, Felicia Routon, Adam & Rosie Olivares, Dolly Lapinad, Violet Mayock, Jim Murphy, Priscilla Sy, Maria & Sam Aguirre Sr., Dolores Roccia, Oscar Gatdula, Maluhia Yoho, Marigil Sabado, Gus Benitez & those mentioned in the Parish Book of Prayers.

DECEASED

Stephanie Rapozo, Edna Corniel, Clarita Martinez, Antonio J. Saguibo Sr., Bunny Estera, Beth Simon, Ben Topinio, John L. Williams, Geraldo "Gerry" Uytingco, Dolores Villanueva, Wayne Rapozo, Alice Secor, Frank Thompson, Rose Garcia, Ricardo Bautista Sr., Sheena Marie Ciarlante-Villanueva & Jose L. Villanueva.



ST JOHN CREMATION NICHES is available, and space is limited. For more information about reserving your niche please contact Duane Pavao, Director of Cemeteries (808) 783-6778 or dpavao@cfsmission.org.