



SPIRIT-LED NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

Aloha my Brothers and Sisters,

In the Catholic tradition, having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of faith and essential for Christian life. This relationship is not merely an abstract concept but a dynamic, lived experience nurtured through sacraments, prayer, and community. Below are some key aspects of why this relationship is considered vital from a Catholic perspective:

1. Source of Salvation and Grace

For Catholics, Jesus is the Son of God and the unique mediator between God and humanity. His life, death, and resurrection achieved salvation, reconciling humanity to the Father. A relationship with Jesus means accepting this gift of salvation and participating in the divine life he offers. Through this connection, believers receive God's grace, which enables them to live a holy life and grow in virtue.

2. Revelation of God the Father

Jesus fully reveals who God is. By observing his life—his compassion, his teachings, his miracles, and his obedience to the Father—Catholics learn about the nature of God's love, mercy, and justice. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, Jesus is the Father's "one, perfect, and unsurpassable Word," making a personal relationship with him essential for truly knowing God.

3. Guide for Morality and Vocation

A relationship with Jesus provides a moral compass for living ethically. His teachings, particularly the Beatitudes and the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor, offer a framework for authentic human flourishing. Following Jesus means striving to imitate his life and character. This relationship helps individuals discern their unique vocation or calling in life, whether to marriage, consecrated life, or priesthood, and to live their everyday lives with purpose.

4. Spiritual Communion through the Sacraments

Our Catholic faith emphasizes that the relationship with Jesus is uniquely nourished through the sacramental life of the Church. The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is considered the "source and summit" of our faith, where believers receive the true Body and Blood of Christ, establishing an intimate physical and spiritual communion. Regular participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) offers an encounter with Christ's mercy and forgiveness, restoring and deepening the relationship after sin has weakened it.

5. Membership in the Body of Christ

A relationship with Jesus inherently means belonging to his Body, which is the Church. We Catholics believe that faith is both personal and communal. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit and the Magisterium (teaching authority), provides the community, structure, and support necessary to sustain this relationship. Believers are connected not only to Jesus but also to one another as fellow members of the faith community.

In summary, the Catholic perspective views a relationship with Jesus Christ as the central, indispensable element of faith—a transformative communion that brings salvation, moral guidance, intimate union with God through the sacraments, and membership in the universal Church.

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	DEC 6/7
Sunday Collection	\$ 12,910.55
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 537.00
Online Donation (Pushpay)	\$ 3,683.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 902.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 50.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 150.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 7,784.46
Funerals	\$ 900.00
Candles	\$ 870.00
Preschool	\$ 100.00
Donation	\$ 25.00
Catholic Communication Campaign for Human Development	\$ 10.00
Retirement Fund for the Religious	\$ 110.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 230.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
All Soul's	\$ 20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 177.00
Statue	\$ 25.00

WEEKEND TOTAL \$ 28,524.01

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

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.



Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." "Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

~ MATTHEW 11:5



FATHER ANTHONY'S STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Aloha!

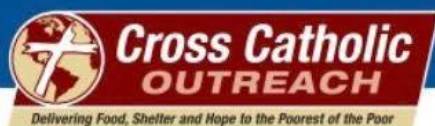
Our parish vision of stewardship is one that sees Stewardship as a Way of Life, that begins with Love, It is not about collecting money though; it is about sharing the gifts that God has given each of us. The financial needs of the parish have very little to do with our individual practice of living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

NUMBER 11 – THE STEWARDSHIP OF VOCATIONS

A vocation is truly a gift from God. It is a gift for the individual and it is a gift for the whole community. As stewards. It is our responsibility to care for and nurture our gifts, even our communal gifts.

Being called by God can be confusing. Discerning a call to a vocation can be difficult, especially in a vacuum. Someone may not realize that he or she is being called to be a priest, sister or deacon.

You can help! Do you know someone whom you suspect may have a vocation? If you do, I need to hear about it. Please contact me with the particulars, so I may be a support in case that individual is unaware of his or her gift.



Praying With the Ramirez Family

Angel and Leticia Ramirez are the proud parents of four children: Leticia, Angela, Gustavo and Alex.

The conditions inside their home in Guatemala are challenging. The rusted scrap-metal roof traps in heat, making the temperature almost unbearable. The family crams together inside a single bedroom and shares meals in a narrow space with one long bench.

Angel and Leticia pray their children can stay in school and that their family will live in a safer space. It hurts Leticia's heart when rain streams through holes in the roof and her children contend with mosquitoes, rats, snakes and spiders.

The family prays for a compassionate friend like you to set in motion the blessing of a safe home. **Scan the QR code or visit CrossCatholic.org/Advent to give.**



Father Alejandro, from the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, stands with the Ramirez family outside their home.

GIVE TODAY: CrossCatholic.org/Advent



Please annotate St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church on your envelope for accountability purposes. Mahalo!! Envelopes are located at the back of the church.

Advent Week Two Family Activity: Mary Candle

The "Mary Candle" is a traditional Advent activity that involves placing a single large candle in a special holder, often covered with white silk or a cloth, in front of an image or statue of the Virgin Mary. The candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World, who came from Mary, while the covered holder can represent the womb of Mary. This custom provides an eloquent reminder of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God born from the chaste womb of Mary.

How to set up the Mary Candle

- **Candleholder:** Use a candlestick or a simple holder to place a large candle.
- **Cover:** Drape the holder with a piece of white silk or a white cloth, which can be tied with a ribbon.
- **Location:** Place the decorated candleholder in front of an image or statue of the Virgin Mary.
- **Symbolism:** The candle represents Christ, the Light of the World, and the covered holder symbolizes Mary, from whom Jesus was born.

Using the Mary Candle during Advent

- **Prayer:** Light the candle each evening during Advent and use it as a focal point for family prayer.
- **Reflection:** Use this time to reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation, Mary's purity, and the joy of Christ's coming.
- **Storytelling:** You can share stories about Mary and her role in the Christmas story to help children understand the tradition.
- **Connection to the Advent Wreath:** This custom can be used alongside the traditional Advent wreath, which includes purple candles representing hope and faith, and a rose-colored candle for joy.



Advent Week Three Family Activity: Create a St. Lucy

The legends surrounding St. Lucy, a young girl who lived in Sicily, and was persecuted and tortured, and eventually blinded and killed, because she would not give up her Christian beliefs – were brought to Scandinavia by Italian sailors. Custom held that the eldest daughter in the family was dressed as St. Lucy in a white gown, red sash and crown of green leaves and candles. Carrying candles and small cakes, Lucy's sisters would join her, and together they would travel from home to home in their neighborhood, as Lucia's light was seen as a reflection of the greatest Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

One activity you can do as family is to create your own St. Lucy Doll. All you need is the following items:

- 1) Doll with blonde hair
- 2) A small white dress
- 3) Four candles
- 4) A red ribbon
- 5) Some evergreen and art foam
- 6) Push pins and glue



EPIC CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2025

Blue Masquerade

Saturday, December 27, 2025
Hawaii Okinawa Center

*Tickets Now
Available*



Honoring

Bishop Larry Silva

+

Young Adult of the Year Finalists

Alex Cook

Christine Licato

Dcn. Taylor Mitchell

Feast of Saint John Apostle and Evangelist

SAVE THE DATE We will be having our Annual St. John Feast Day on Saturday, December 27th after the 9:00am Mass in the OCC. There will be no 8:00am Mass. The celebration will be potluck style.

All are welcome, so please bring a dish to share.

St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2024 through June 2025

	Jul '24 - Jun 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40000 - OFFERTORY COLLECTION (Gross receipts fro	942,596.07	912,100.00	30,496.07	103.34%
42000 - OTHER REGULAR INCOME	48,420.99	44,700.00	3,720.99	108.32%
45000 - REVENUE SUBJECT TO GET	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
47000 - UNUSUAL (NON-SCHEDULED) INCOME	6,321.34	720.00	5,601.34	877.96%
Total Income	997,338.40	957,620.00	39,718.40	104.15%
Gross Profit	997,338.40	957,620.00	39,718.40	104.15%
Expense				
50000 - EMPLOYMENT COSTS	261,681.33	317,758.00	-56,076.67	82.35%
51000 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	66,524.67	38,287.00	28,237.67	173.75%
51500 - INSURANCE	79,462.50	94,720.00	-15,257.50	83.89%
51700 - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	12,542.59	17,600.00	-5,057.41	71.27%
52000 - SUPPLIES AND OTHER SERVICES	181,515.11	147,683.00	33,832.11	122.91%
53000 - REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	147,151.17	60,092.00	87,059.17	244.88%
54000 - UTILITIES	44,047.54	35,520.00	8,527.54	124.01%
55000 - CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS	195,839.53	177,450.00	18,389.53	110.36%
56000 - INTEREST EXPENSE	61,909.22	66,935.00	-5,025.78	92.49%
57000 - TAXES	985.13	660.00	325.13	149.26%
58000 - DEPRECIATION	285,561.94	0.00	285,561.94	100.0%
Total Expense	1,337,220.73	956,705.00	380,515.73	139.77%
Net Ordinary Income	-339,882.33	915.00	-340,797.33	-37,145.61%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
70000 - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS				
71100 - Temporarily Restricted Donation				
71120 - Other Restricted Donations	5,445.00	0.00	5,445.00	100.0%
71123 - Building & Maintenance Collecti	24,473.07	0.00	24,473.07	100.0%
71131 - Building Fund Collection - OCC	17,630.00	0.00	17,630.00	100.0%
71155 - Debt Reduction (Used to pay down OCC lo	124,099.86	0.00	124,099.86	100.0%
Total 71100 - Temporarily Restricted Donation	171,647.93	0.00	171,647.93	100.0%
Total 70000 - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS	171,647.93	0.00	171,647.93	100.0%
Total Other Income	171,647.93	0.00	171,647.93	100.0%
Net Other Income	171,647.93	0.00	171,647.93	100.0%
Net Income	-168,234.40	915.00	-169,149.40	-18,386.27%

In fulfillment of our stewardship virtues of accountability and transparency, the Parish Finance Council presents this financial statement. All questions may be addressed to the Finance Council.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT A LIFETIME OF SERVICE! Women and men religious have spent their lives servicing others in prayer, ministry, education, and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. **THIS WEEKEND (12/13-12/14)**, please support them by giving to the **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give 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 “Give Online.”

LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS is a group that represents Christian Families who live in the Holy Land of Bethlehem that make their living as wood carvers. The Alsaouri Family will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items for sale on December 13th & 14th after all Masses. All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.

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!! 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.



ST JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST CHURCH

95-370 KUAHELANI AVENUE, MILILANI, HI 96789

Mass Schedule for Christmas and New Year's

Christmas Eve – 6pm

Christmas Day – 12am midnight, 7am, 9am, 11am,
(No 6pm Mass)New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, the Holy
Mother of God – 8am

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 15, 2025

8 AM Trudy Debusca (RIP)
Cipriano Dulay (RIP)
Gilbert Canales (RIP)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

8 AM Angelito Taglinao (Death Anniversary)
Cipriano Dulay (RIP)
Dion Cortel (RIP)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

8 AM Diane Wong (Death Anniversary)
Jaime Maldonado Sr. (Death Anniversary)
Cipriano Dulay (RIP)
Joan Madsen (Birthday Blessing)

Thursday, December 18, 2025

8 AM Fr. Cletus Mooya (RIP)
Rafael Mauleon (Death Anniversary)
Cipriano Dulay (RIP)

Friday, December 19, 2025

8 AM Pearl Bates (Thanksgiving)
Narciso & Pacita Redoble (RIP)
Cipriano Dulay (RIP)

Saturday, December 20, 2025

8 AM Margaret Romasanta (Birthday Blessing)
Catherine Datuin (RIP)
Daniel Lopez Sr/Jr (RIP)
Lydia & Sam Rodrigues (RIP)

5 PM Cipriano Dulay (RIP)

Sunday, December 21, 2025

7 AM Cipriano Duly (RIP)
9 AM *For the People*
11 AM Fernando & Lucia Malicay (RIP)
6 PM Ignacia V. Benitez (RIP)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

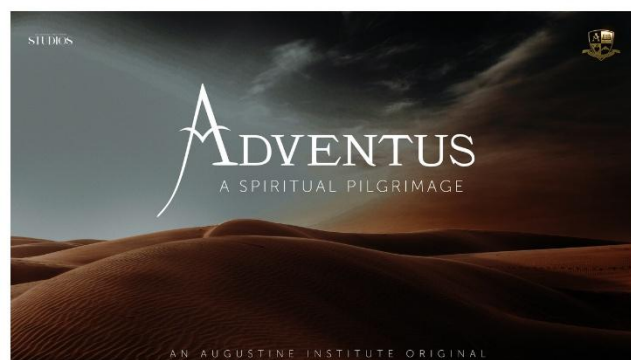
ROSITA A. GARCIA (RIP)- Thursday, December 18, 2025 – St John, Mililani; Family Visitation: 9:00 am; Public Viewing: 9:30am; Eulogy: 10:30 am, Mass: 11:00 am; Burial: 1:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park.

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, 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, Mark Ortogero & Dion Cortel.



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!

