



September 14, 1969, First Parish Mass • May 17, 1970 Ground-breaking • August 15, 1971, Dedication of the church

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Website: www.stjohnmililani.org • Email: info@stjohnmililani.org

DAILY MASS (Monday — Saturday): 8:00 a.m.

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: (or by appointment)

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 12:00pm-4:00pm

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Saturday & Sunday – Closed

Msgr. John Mbinda, Pastor, Ext.111

Fr. Boniface Waema, Parochial Vicar. Ext. 104

Fr. Victor Lanuevo, In Residence

Dcn. Modesto Cordero: RCIA Coordinator

(mcordero@rcchawaii.org)

Dcn. Wally Mitsui (wmitsui@rcchawaii.org) and

Gwen Mitsui (gmitsui@gmail.com), Youth &

Young Adult Coordinators

Jolly Guerrero-Tano, Parish Ofc. Admin, Ext. 113

Lindsey Higa-Kohagura, Parish Secretary, Ext.100

Stephanie Jamile, Bookkeeper, Ext. 101

Julie Quiroz-Zamora, Religious Ed. DIR, Ext.205

Terry Silva, Religious Ed. Asst., Ext. 204

Catherine Awong, Preschool Director, Ext. 200

Pearl Bates, Outreach, Ext. 203

Advent Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Advent people watch, wait, and prepare to receive the best gift God can ever give. On this First Sunday of Advent, we begin a journey; a journey to becoming true advent people, a people actively engaged in our faith and hope in the one who comes and why He comes. In Advent, we wait for the Lord who urges us to prepare ourselves to be active in our waiting and be engaged and dynamic in stewardship as a way of life, because we do not know when He might come suddenly. During these four weeks of Advent, our Sunday homilies will focus on how you and I can become more involved in our parish life and be transformed as we wait for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. The homilies will make use of Matthew Kelly's book: *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*. The reflections and stories in this book are captivating, engaging and transforming.

In the Gospel from Mark, Jesus offers a brief parable to highlight the importance of being alert, watchful, and vigilant for Christ's second coming. The point of the parable is that you and I, as disciples and stewards of Christ, are called to be the best version of ourselves and so transformed into more dynamic and engaged Catholics. Over the next four weeks towards Christmas, the readings will focus attention on spiritual transformation. As Matthew Kelly will propose, the best way to do that is by making use of four easy ways with which you can transform your life as a Catholic. Daily prayer, study of your faith, generosity in time, talent and treasure and evangelization (sharing your faith with others) can be a game changer for your life. Our homilies in the coming weeks will offer suggestions on how you and I can transform our lives by doing One Thing at a Time. Matthew Kelly asks: "How do you eat an elephant?" Bit by bit! The first thing is to ask, how is my spiritual health? To head towards being spiritually healthier, you need a routine of 10 minutes of daily prayer. Can you find 10 minutes? I think I can. Prayer, reading, and living my faith can lead to spiritual transformation. In the coming weeks, we will propose concrete ways of becoming a better version of yourself through prayer, study, generosity, and evangelization. These are our Advent signs of a dynamic Catholic. So stay tuned.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor

VISION STATEMENT

*We are called to **develop a deeper relationship with Christ**. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: the Sacraments, the Word, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service, Fellowship, and other **Spirit-led** activities.*

We will dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to install, in our Parish community, the basic building blocks of Christian living, to live out the Lord's commands and to preach the Good News to all through our words, deeds and lives.

Scripture for Next Sunday: December 7, 2014
Readings: Is. 40 1-5, 9-11; 2; Pt. 3:8-14; Mk. 1:1-8

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

This passage from "Second Isaiah" (chapters 40-55), intends to strengthen the faith and patience of the Chosen People held in exile in Babylon. The prophet offers consolation and hope that their deliverance and return to Jerusalem is at hand. This promised event is seen as a new exodus — God leading his people from slavery on a highway through the desert into the promised land of freedom. The passage contains words also quoted by writers of the New Testament though slightly altered, "a voice cries: 'In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!'"

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

Psalm 85 emphasizes that salvation is not from any human agency, but from the Lord alone. Response: "Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation."

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

The author of Second Peter in this passage underlines the apparent delay in Christ's second coming as actually manifesting God's patience, in order to allow greater numbers to come to repentance. The Christians are advised to hasten the coming of Christ by living a life of holiness, "eager to be found without spot" on that day.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

These first eight verses of Mark's Gospel go directly to affirm that Jesus is the Son of God. The quotation from our First Reading Isaiah 40:3 aptly describes the role of John the Baptist, who not only prepares the way for Jesus by his preaching, but also underlines Jesus' uniqueness by the contrast of his lifestyle. John lives a most austere existence to be sure that nothing would distract from his mission to preach the coming of the kingdom of God. His own limited role is highlighted by his simplicity. Jesus who is to come after John is more powerful. John's Baptism immersed repentant sinners as a sign of their sincere change of heart, preparing oneself to receive the gift of forgiveness and new life. Christ's Baptism further immersed the repentant sinner into the Holy Spirit, who fills the repentant sinner and assures God's mercy, forgiveness, and gift of new life in Christ.

*Msgr. John's Sunday homilies are available on the following updated links: **Blog (text):** <http://www.sundayhomily.com>
Podcast (audio): <http://streaminghomilies.podbean.com>
On iTunes, under Podcast search for: ***streaming homilies***
subscribe free to get the homilies weekly.*

"If our prayer is resolutely united with that of Jesus, in trust and boldness as children, we obtain all that we ask in his name, even more than any particular thing: the Holy Spirit himself, who contains all gifts." (CCC 2742)

PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Healing/Blessings: Salve Galman, Eileen Hayase, Mike Culkin, Frank Tadda, Tom Nestor, Karla Richardson, Andrew D. Rossi, Jane & Ray Beauchemin, Richard Butz, Ashley Nawahine, Kamakoa Almasin, Carmen Fajota, Ellen Cleghorn, Helen Uyehara, Linda Watson, Maya Higgins, BJ Sagocio, and everyone mentioned in our Prayer Intentions Book.

Deceased: Severino A. Valencia, Gail M. Furtado, Roy Dahlin, Jr., Lori E. Cabacungan, Lorrain Jozaitis, Anthony Scarpelli, Roman P. Perez, Consolacion Leonoras, Herschel Esperas, Bernard Fabrao, Marlene Izumigawa, Stanford W. Papas, Emilia S. Taclan, and Sandy Padilla.

Mass Intentions:

Monday, December 1, 2014

8am Mass Cyril & Molly Pereira (RIP)
Feliciano Dona (RIP)
Thomas Cirmo (RIP)

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

8am Mass Paulina Wong
(Thanksgiving / Blessings)
Chris & Debra Perez
(Thanksgiving / Blessings)

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

8am Mass Patricia Owens
(Thanksgiving / Blessings)
Faith Cabingabang (RIP)

Thursday, December 4, 2014

8am Mass Felicidad Fernandez (RIP)
Juana Sison (RIP)

Friday, December 5, 2014

8am Mass Mari Page (RIP)
Linda Fishel (Healing)
Joaquin Cruz Fejarang (RIP)
Bernard Fabrao (RIP)

Saturday, December 6, 2014

8am Mass Rafaela Candelorio Jimenez (RIP)
Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Group
(Thanksgiving / Blessings)
5pm Mass Dionisio Locquiao (RIP)

Sunday, December 7, 2014

7am Mass Michael Morano (RIP)
9am Mass For the People
11am Mass Lawrence Borelis (RIP)
6pm Mass Damon Kanoho (Thanksgiving)

Parish News & Announcements

24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, December 5th immediately after the 8:00 am Mass and ending at 7:30 am on Saturday, December 6th. This beautiful devotion allows us to spend time in quiet adoration of our Lord and feel the infinite love present in His heart. Come and adore Our Risen Lord!

The Hui O Laulima Food Trolley will be out next weekend. Please kokua.

Parish Advent Retreat with Fr. Felix Just will take place in the church Monday, Dec. 1 to Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7:00 pm. Come and join us as Fr. Felix talks about *The Spirituality of Stewardship*. Free admission! All interested parishioners, friends, and family are welcome to attend.

REMINDER TO OUR "CHRISTMAS ANGELS": A big MAHALO to all of you who took "Angel" tags to fulfill a child's Christmas wish. **Please remember to RETURN ALL GIFTS next Sunday, Dec. 6th & 7th.** Confirmation students will be on the fellowship lanai at all masses to receive your gifts. Also, please check your tag for specific directions as some gifts are to be returned wrapped and some are to be unwrapped. Tags should be attached to all gifts.

The Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 8, at the 8:00 am and 7:00 pm Masses. Please join us on this Holy Day of Obligation.

The Parish Advent Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The PPC distributed a parish survey earlier this year asking parishioners to rank space needs to be able to address the growing needs of the parish. The majority of parishioners responding pointed out the need for a multi-purpose Parish Hall to be the highest priority. Please join the parish leadership on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in the church for a very important informational Town Hall meeting which will discuss the realization plans for the multi-purpose Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATES!

December 16 - 24, 2014 5:00 AM Mass	Misa De Gallo (Sponsored by Fil-Am Catholic Group)
Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Masses 6:00 PM (Children's Mass), 9:00 PM, 12:00 Midnight	
Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day Masses 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM <i>*No 6:00 PM Evening Mass*</i>	
December 27, 2014 8:00 AM Mass	St. John Apostle & Evangelist Feast Day (Breakfast potluck to follow Mass, please bring a dish to share.)
December 31, 2014 10:00 PM Mass	New Year's Eve Mass of Thanksgiving

Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website and clicking the "Online Giving" icon.

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED for Christmas Midnight Mass: Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to praise God through song? Join our Christmas Midnight Mass Choir! All interested parishioners are welcome to join. The next practice is on Sunday, November 30th, at 2pm in the church. "He who sings prays twice." - *St. Augustine*

Give thanks for religious. Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the December 13/14 weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious Collection. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website and clicking the "Online Giving" icon. Please be generous.

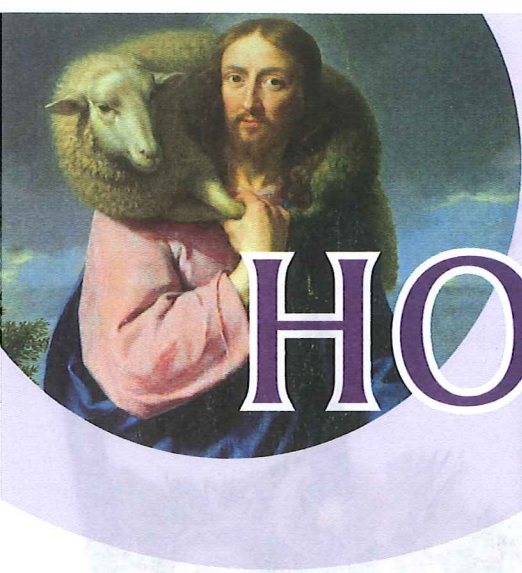
Thank you for your generous contributions to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Your gift will help CCHD end poverty in the United States through better education, improved housing, and economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we can help keep Catholic social teaching alive and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).

In the Footsteps of Jesus! Journey on a 12-day Pilgrimage to The Holy Land with Msgr. John Mbinda, Spiritual Director, and Dr. Timothy Mullner, Pilgrimage Host, from **April 14 - 25, 2015**, designed especially for St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church. *Space is limited!* For more information, please contact Jolly Guerrero-Tano at 623-3332, ext. 113 or info@stjohnmililani.org.

Collection for November 22/23

Sunday Collection	\$16,555.56
Candle Sales	\$428.00
Offerings - Baptism	\$20.00
Offerings - Funeral	\$300.00
Donation - Outreach	\$184.00
Mass Intentions	\$390.00
Holiday Fund	\$30.00
Stewardship Development	\$1,027.00
BEMO	\$1,567.50
Hui O Laulima	\$102.00
Human Development Campaign (CCHD)	\$1,297.22
Catholic Charities	\$281.50

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9



HORIZON OF HOPE

The First
Sunday

You Do Not Know the Time

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus tells his disciples to "Be watchful! Be alert!" because they do not know when the Lord will come. As we begin the season of Advent, we are reminded that we, too, must be watchful as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

"The season of Advent, which we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint because it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"

— Pope Francis,
Angelus, December
1, 2013



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There are two temptations behind today's Gospel. The first is to presume that since we have been waiting for so long the Second Coming won't be anytime soon and that we have more than enough time to get ready. The other is to assume the Second Coming is imminent and to live in fearful predictions of the end of days. But neither of these is the Catholic position. As Catholics, we use the opportunities of our daily lives to grow in our relationship with God, while still being aware that this world is not our final home. The season of Advent calls us to live in the present while looking forward to the future. We both celebrate the season of waiting while anticipating the happiness of Christmas.

- What am I waiting for this Advent?
- How can I make this Advent season a new beginning?
- How can I pay full attention to the grace of the present, while remembering the past and anticipating the future?

POINTS TO
PONDER



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SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Barbara Branches

Barbara branches are named after Saint Barbara, one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, whose feast we celebrate on December 4. (The Holy Helpers are a group of saints who are invoked for aid against disease.) On her feast day, a small branch from a fruit tree is placed in a vase and kept in a warm, well-lit area. According to the custom, if the branch flowers before Christmas Day, the family will have good fortune all year. Barbara branches call to mind the prophecy from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom."

A modern variation on this tradition is to plant amaryllis or paperwhite narcissus bulbs early in December and watch them bloom for Christmas!



FAMILY FOCUS Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath customarily has three purple candles, symbolizing penance and waiting, and one pink candle (for the third Sunday) representing hope. This year, consider adding a different-colored pillar candle in the center of the ring each week. On the first week, use a blue candle for the Old Testament prophets who heralded the coming of the Messiah. On the second Sunday, place a white candle for the angel Gabriel who announced the virgin birth. On the third Sunday, use a green candle for the shepherds who were watching their flocks in the field. Then, on the last Sunday, light a gold candle for the Magi who brought their precious gifts to the Christ child.



Catechism CONNECTION

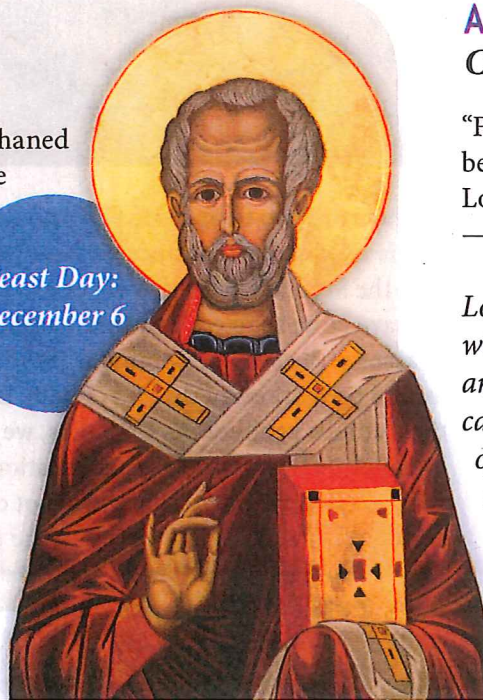
"When the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming (cf. *Rev 22:17*). By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: 'He must increase, but I must decrease (*Jn 3:30*).'" — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 524

HEROES OF HOPE

SAINT NICHOLAS

Saint Nicholas (280-343), the patron of children, was orphaned at an early age and raised by an uncle, and, like his uncle, he later became a bishop. After entering the priesthood, he became renowned for his charity and good deeds. Tradition says that he secretly filled the stockings or shoes of a few young women with enough money to ensure a decent dowry and marriage. This is the origin of our custom of hanging stockings at Christmas. In other parts of the world, on the eve of his feast day children put their shoes outside the door for him to fill with small treats. He is sometimes referred to as "Nicholas the Wonderworker," because he is believed to be the cause of many miracles. *Saint Nicholas, pray for us!*

Feast Day:
December 6



ADVENT PRAYER Come, O Lord!

"For they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord's return to Zion."
— Isaiah 52:8

Lord, help us to wait with patience and anticipation, not caught up in the rush of the season, but resting in your ever-present love.