



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

95-370 Kuahelani Ave. Mililani, Hawaii 96789

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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

Prepare the Way of the Lord

It is Advent time again, a time for slowing down, for waiting, and being. It is a time to actually believe that God is present in our midst and acting on our behalf, a time to put a stop to our driven activity of shopping and busyness, and at the very least, to experience a slowing down and to be in a place of powerlessness and perhaps even emptiness but always open and listening to the voice within us.

The fear of emptiness can often be difficult for us as we are accustomed to the noise of the shopping malls, Christmas parties, and the daily noise that surround us. Henri Nouwen, wrote in one of his books:

“It is very hard to allow emptiness to exist in our lives. Emptiness requires a willingness not to be in control, a willingness to let something new and unexpected happen. It requires trust, surrender, and openness to guidance. God wants to dwell in our emptiness, but as long as we are afraid of God and God’s action in our lives, it is unlikely that we will offer our emptiness to God. Let’s pray that we can let go of our fear of God and embrace God as the source of all love.”

John the Baptist, might be a symbol for us today, encouraging us to allow ourselves to be still and quiet and listen to the voice of God speaking words of comfort, encouragement, and challenging us to be the “best version of ourselves” so we might prepare the way of the Lord.

I believe God is begging us today in the readings to do this: Find some time each day to pray, time for silence and reflection. Let God’s spirit consecrate you in this emptiness and waiting, and allow Jesus Christ to love and quietly comfort you.

It is Advent once again, listen to the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins.”

Blessings,
Deacon Wally Mitsui

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.

“...Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, according to your means.” Sirach 35:7-10

Scripture for next Sunday: December 14, 2014

**Readings: Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24;
Jn 1:6-8,19-28**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah reflects upon his own mission, the effect of his message, and the joy of all people in the fulfillment of God's word. Jesus would later appropriate to himself that description of the prophet's role in the opening verses: to proclaim the good news, which has power to heal and set free in the Spirit of the Lord (cf. Lk. 4:16-22).

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Mary's canticle – the *Magnificat*, a hymn of praise at the awareness of God's overwhelming favor toward his "little ones," picks up and continues the theme of the last verses of the first reading. Response: "My soul rejoices in my God."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul in the second reading exhorts the Thessalonians to rejoice always and pray that they remain holy and blameless as they await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The joy Paul speaks of here is not merely an empty and superficial joy, but a deep and enduring quality of a Christian life in community and in love. For Paul, joy is a gift of the Spirit and is derived from thankful prayer and gives rise to it.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-20

In this passage, John's Gospel intends to do two things. First the passage introduces John the Baptist, depicting him professing strongly that he is not the Christ. Thus, the negation of John as a personality of importance throws the importance of Jesus into sharp relief. John the Baptist is not the light, but only a witness to the light. Secondly, John's purpose is to point to Jesus as the important figure. The identity and personality of Jesus, not John, is at issue here. John the Baptist clarifies his own identity further when he says, quoting Isaiah, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." We also note that John's Gospel here contrasts the baptism of water with the baptism of the Spirit, but elsewhere he unites water and the Spirit as one (see Jn 3:5).

*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 Santos "Sandy" Padilla.

Mass Intentions:

Monday, December 8, 2014

8am Mass Sofronio Propios (Birthday)
Johnny Gallogly (RIP)

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

8am Mass Richard P. Tesoro
(Birthday Memorial)
Clova Ramos (Thanksgiving)

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

8am Mass Bea Ramos (Thanksgiving)
Angelito Taglinao (Death Anniv.)

Thursday, December 11, 2014

8am Mass Nikki Kawahara (Birthday)
Gail Estanque (Birthday)

Friday, December 12, 2014

8am Mass Kenneth Flores (RIP)
Chanee Shockley (Birthday)
Elsie Thames (RIP)
Marlene L. Izumigawa (RIP)

Saturday, December 13, 2014

8am Mass Fred Ramos (RIP)
Roman P. Perez (RIP)
5pm Mass Gladys Grace (RIP)

Sunday, December 14, 2014

7am Mass Msgr. John Mbinda (Anniversary)
9am Mass For the People
11am Mass Melvin Yadao (Blessings)
6pm Mass Emmanuel & Celestina dela Cruz
(RIP)

Parish News & Announcements

REMINDER TO OUR "CHRISTMAS ANGELS": A big MAHALO to all of you who took "Angel" tags to fulfill a child's Christmas wish. **ALL GIFTS should be returned this weekend on Saturday, Dec. 6th & Sunday, Dec 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, Dec. 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, December 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.

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.

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, December 7th, at 2:00 pm in the church. "He who sings prays twice."
-St. Augustine

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 *No 6:00 PM Evening Mass*	
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

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.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Santos "Sandy" Padilla (RIP)

Sunday, December 28, 2014 ~ Mililani Memorial Park
Wake Service: 6:30 (Mauka Chapel)
Monday, December 29, 2014 ~ St. John A & E
Viewing: 9:30 am ~ Mass: 11:00 am
Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Collection for November 29/30

Sunday Collection	\$13,875.21
Candle Sales	\$540.00
Donation - Outreach	\$144.00
Christmas Flower Offering	\$31.52
Mass Intentions	\$120.00
Christmas Fund	\$26.00
Holiday Fund	\$20.00
Stewardship Development	\$10.00
BEMO	\$1,393.80
Hui O Laulima	\$208.00
Human Development Campaign (CCHD)	\$72.00
Retirement for the Religious	\$5.00
World Mission Sunday	\$45.00
<i>"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9</i>	



Meditations for Advent

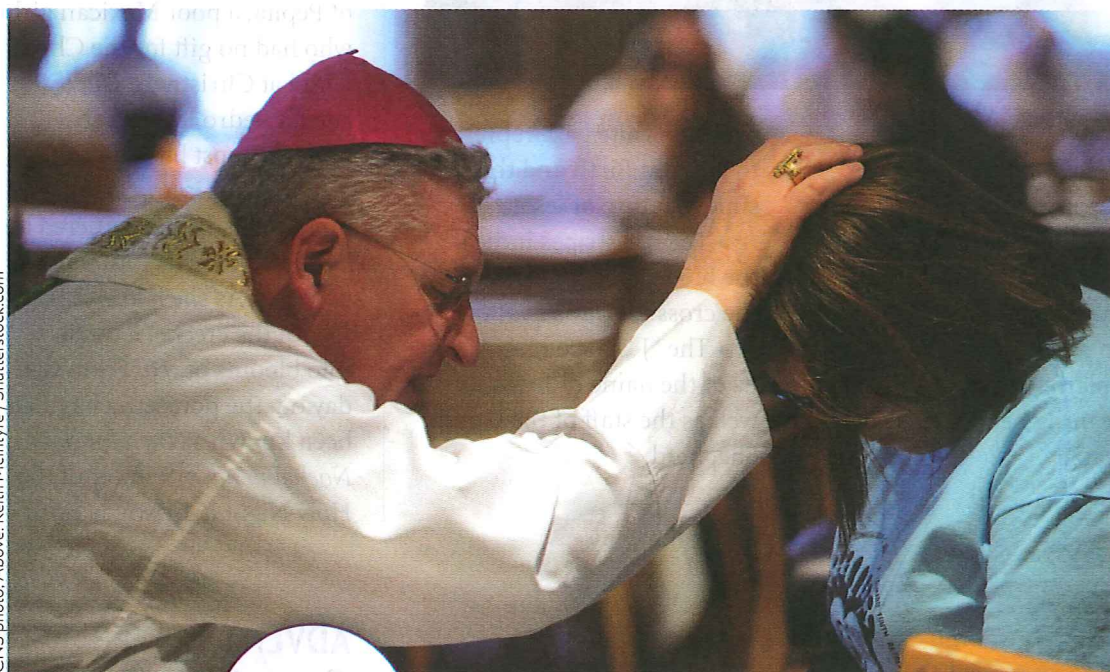
HORIZON OF HOPE

The Second
Sunday

They Acknowledged Their Sins

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist appears in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah that a messenger would appear ahead of the Messiah. One of his messages was to acknowledge humanity's sinful nature and encourage repentance. This same call is extended to each of us this Advent.



CNS photo, Above: Keith McIntyre / Shutterstock.com

POINTS TO PONDER

- How can I use this Advent season as a way to grow more deeply in my faith?
- How long has it been since my last confession?
- Am I more caught up in the cultural expression of the "holiday season" than I am of the "holy day season"?

The Jordan River runs through the hot and harsh landscape of the Judean desert. Why would John choose such a distant locale to proclaim the coming of the Messiah? Perhaps it is precisely because the area is so desolate. There, away from all the distractions of everyday life, the people were able to focus on what really mattered and acknowledge their own sinfulness. Stripped of all the comforts of home and family, they could look at their lives and feel the pressing need for salvation.

Similarly, during this Second Week of Advent, we are called away from the lures that the season places before us to consider that God so loves each of us that he was willing to send his only son for our salvation.

"Advent is here. What a marvelous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia, your real longing for Christ to come — for him to come every day to your soul in the Eucharist. The Church encourages us: Ecce veniet! — He is about to arrive!"

— Saint Josemaría Escrivá



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HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Immaculate Conception

During the Second Week of Advent we celebrate one of the holy days of obligation — December 8, the Immaculate Conception. Commemorating Mary's conception without the stain of original sin, this feast is an ideal time to renew our baptismal promises — and remember that through our baptism we, too, are brought into new life with Christ.

FAMILY FOCUS A Taste of the Season



Thinkstock. Top left: The Crosiers

Special sweets are a part of many families' Advent preparations. One all-time favorite is the candy cane with its distinctive red and white stripes. As you enjoy the peppermint flavor, explain to your family the meaning behind this sugary treat:

- The white base represents the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus.
- The red stripes indicate the blood shed by Jesus on the cross for our salvation.
- The "J" shape reminds us of the name of Jesus, as well as the staff of the Good Shepherd.



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

The Legend of the Poinsettia

The brilliant red leaves of the poinsettia are a common decoration at this time of year. Its association with Christmas began many years ago when the story developed of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for the Christ Child at Christmas. Her cousin Pedro told her that even the most humble gift given in love is a welcomed present. So, Pepita gathered a handful of weeds into a small bouquet. As she laid it at the foot of the crèche, it burst into blooms of red. From that day on, the poinsettia has also been known as the *Flor de Nochebuena*, or Flower of the Holy Night (Christmas Eve).

HEROES OF HOPE

SAINT JUAN DIEGO

Saint Juan Diego never expected to see the Virgin Mary as he walked the 15 miles to attend Mass on December 9, 1531. Much to his shock, a beautiful young woman dressed like an Aztec princess appeared to him and, speaking in his own language, told him to go to the bishop and request that a chapel be built on the hill where she was standing. When the bishop resisted, the young woman gave Juan Diego a sign — roses blooming in winter — which he gathered into his *tilma*, a long cloak. When he presented them to the bishop, an image of Our Lady miraculously appeared on the *tilma*. The image, which has not deteriorated over the centuries, is called Our Lady of Guadalupe. *Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!*

Feast Day:
December 9



Getty Images

ADVENT PRAYER *Come, O Lord!*

"Attend to the sound of my cry, my king and my God! For to you I will pray."
— Psalm 5:3

My God, I know that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. This Advent season, forgive me, wash away my sins, and make me whole again.