

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: DEACON WALLY MITSUI

As we begin the season of Advent, the Church invites us to *Wake Up* to something wonderful, to *Good News*! In the First Reading from Isaiah, we hear of his vision and promise of hope. Yahweh shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and nation shall not lift swords against nation. It presents an invitation for enemies to become friends and for weapons of destruction to become tools useful for gardening and farming. It is in this light and vision that God calls us to walk.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells the community of believers in Rome to *Wake Up*. Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first became believers. This is another invitation to get moving.

The words of Isaiah and Paul remind us that the best way for us to prepare to remember the celebration of God's coming among us in Jesus is through our conversion of hearts. The readings today call us to ask ourselves: *What keeps us from furthering God's dream presented to us through Isaiah? What is the darkness in us that needs to be put aside and replaced with armor of light?*

The *Scripture Readings* in the next four weeks will help us prepare for the coming of the Lord through the figures of Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary.



In today's gospel, we are reminded to *Stay Awake*, for you do not know on what day our Lord is coming. Advent is a time to *Wake Up* to God's love. God wants us to love one another as God loves us, unconditionally. It is a time, especially, to renew our hearts in and through love. May Isaiah's prayer guide our journey through Advent, "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Mon - Sat): 8:00 AM
Sunday: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM,
 (Sun) 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
 (or by appointment)

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.***

Parish Office Hours**Monday:** 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM**Tues. - Fri.:** 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**Outreach Office Hours****Monday-Wednesday:**

8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Thursday - Friday:

8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Saturday/Sunday: Closed**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF*****Pastor* (x 111)**

Msgr. John Mbinda

jmbinda@rcchawaii.org

***Parochial Vicar* (x 104)**

Fr. Ramon Francisco,

rfrancisco@rcchawaii.org

***Deacon* Wally Mitsui**

wmitsui@rcchawaii.org

***Deacon* Modesto Cordero**

mcordero@rcchawaii.org

***Deacon* Romeo Ganibe**

rganibe@rcchawaii.org

***Parish Office Administrator* (x 103)**

Jolly Guerrero-Tano

jollygt@rcchawaii.org

***Parish Office Secretary* (x 100)**

Lindsey Higa-Kohagura

lindseyhk@rcchawaii.org

Director of Liturgy

Nicholas Calzada

ncalzada@rcchawaii.org

Grounds & Maintenance

Robert Garnsey

rgarnsey@rcchawaii.org

***Outreach Department* (x 203)**

Pearl Bates (pebates@rcchawaii.org)

RCIA Coordinator

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

***Religious Ed. Director* (x 206)**

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

jquiroz@rcchawaii.org

***Religious Ed. Secretary* (x 204)**

Dominique Kekiwi

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***Preschool Director* (744-9538)**

Catherine Awong

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE**The Advent Wreath Tradition & Meaning*****DARKNESS AND LIGHT***

The Advent candles readily show the sharp contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and with him God's promise to make all things new through him. As his Advent, or "coming," draws nearer another candle is lit, each candle

dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

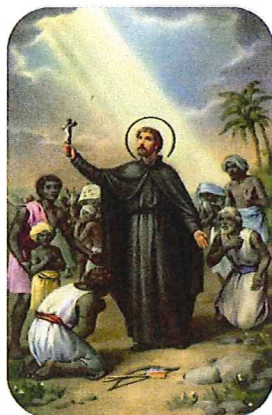
SHAPE, NUMBER, AND COLOR

Shape: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

Number: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. There is no tradition for a fifth Christmas Candle. Each of the four candles represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

Color: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Advent, also called "little Lent," is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return. On the third Sunday of Advent a desert rose color candle is used to symbolize joy as we are halfway toward Christmas. The vestments are also desert rose color for that reason.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

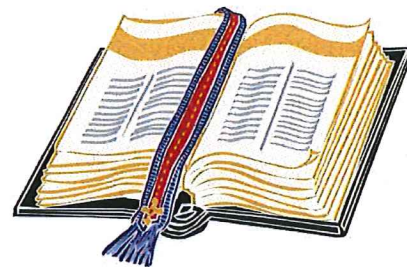
**Saint
of the WEEK****St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552)**

Feast Day: December 6 - Known as the Apostle to the Indies and to Japan, Francis was born in Spanish Navarre, the youngest in a large family. He studied at the University of Paris, where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola, and was among the first seven Jesuits who vowed to be spiritual soldiers for Christ. They were ordained as a group in 1537. For 11 years, from 1541 until his untimely death after only two weeks on the Chinese coast, Francis evangelized in the East Indies, Mozambique, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Japan. A missionary prone to seasickness who had trouble learning foreign languages, Francis is the patron saint of missionaries, Borneo, the East Indies, India, Pakistan, Japan, and Outer Mongolia.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. Therefore, out of the line of David a descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace. This peace would be so great and genuine that even wild animals would be able to lie down next to one another, a beautiful image of harmony in God's creation.



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

Psalm 72 is a coronation song that extols the qualities of the ideal ruler, whose reign is the sign of God's reign. Obviously, the psalm points to Christ. The Response: "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever," continues the theme of the first reading on the ruler who shall bring about reconciliation and peace.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

This passage from Romans is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading. Paul here focuses on God's purpose in Christ's mission to bring about reconciliation, unity and harmony. Therefore, God is to be glorified only by one heart and one voice rising from humankind. The unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ is a symbol that compels us to promote the same unity in Christ among all people, overcoming barriers of culture, distance and prejudice.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

This passage from Matthew is the heart of John the Baptist's ministry, namely, "preparing the way of the Lord". John uses the image of road building, a scene we can identify with today. We know the need for good roads in order to give access to all places remote as well as near. The building and repair of roads require planning. All these are images of the need for reform and repentance as preparation to allow the Lord to enter into our lives. Such was the message of John the Baptist.



Follow Msgr. John's Homilies!

Blog (text): <http://www.sundayhomily.com>

Podcast (audio): <https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

iTunes (audio): [Streaming Homilies](#)



24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will be held on *Friday, December 2*, immediately after the 8:00 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on *Saturday, December 3*.

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †

Paul S. Thames (RIP)

Tuesday, Dec. 6 — Mass: 10:30 am (SJAE)

Burial: 2:00 pm ~ NMCP (Punchbowl)

Antonio A. Bayona (RIP)

Sunday, Dec. 11 — Wake: 6:30 pm (Mililani Mem. Park)

Monday, Dec. 12 — Mass: 11:00 am (SJAE)

Burial: 1:00 pm (HI State Veteran's Cemetery)

Mass Intentions for the Week

† = Rest in Peace

Mon., November 28, 2016 (8 am)

† Benedict J. Balthazar

† Pedro Taglinao

† Paul S. Thames

Tues., November 29, 2016 (8 am)

Higa-Kohagura Family (Blessings)

Primo Pablo (Birthday)

† Asuncion A. Vitug

Wed., November 30, 2016 (8 am)

† Mary & William Waema

† Mel & Bob Knott

† Agnes Mutiso

Thurs., December 1, 2016 (8 am)

Elizabeth K. Gora Higa (Birthday)

† Frank J. Tadda, Jr. (Birthday Mem)

† Paul S. Thames

Fri., December 2, 2016 (8 am)

† Feliciano Dona

Two-Hearts Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving / Blessings)

Caridad Ramiscal (Birthday)

Sat., December 3, 2016

8 AM: † Thelma Vilareal Dangao

† Mel & Bob Knott

† Yoko Aki

5 PM: † Thelma Vilareal Dangao

Sunday, December 4, 2016

7 AM: † Felicidad A. Fernandez
(Memorial Anniversary)

9 AM: *For the People*

11 AM: † Lillian Ramos

6 PM: Vallo Family (Thanksgiving)



Prayer Requests

HEALING / BLESSINGS: Fritz Campbell, Elaine Snowden, Julie Smith, Kim Noveloso, Modesta Yadao, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Mina DeJesus, Chelsea Anne Ramiro, Darrlyn & Ron Bunda, Matt Farris, Mona DeCosta, John Bates, James Kahala, Ken Enomoto, Ellen Cleghorn, baby Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Ron Thames, Gregory Castillo, Elaine Utu, Kathy Beaver, Fr. Paul Minchak, and all names in the Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Ilariya Debebar, Geraldine A. Pasco, Victor A. Paruginog, Jacob I. Estoesta, Bob & Mel Knott, Agnes Mutiso, Lorita Aguillon, Berlina Mindoro, Yoko Aki, Irene S. Lanuevo, Peter Marling, and Paul S. Thames.



***Upcoming Baptism Ceremony Dates (Infants to Age 6):** Dec. 11 & Dec. 18.

***Baptism Preparation Classes:** December 4, January 8, 2017, February 5, 2017, March 5, 2017

**** Please contact the Parish Office to make all arrangements in advance. ****

Marriages are scheduled by meeting with a clergy, at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc.), Anointing of the Sick, Homebound Communion,

Funeral Services/Notices: Please call the parish office for further coordination.

2016 Central Oahu Vicariate Advent Penance Services:

Tuesday, December 6 - 7:00 PM

Resurrection of the Lord (Waipio)

Wednesday, December 7 - 7:00 PM

St. Elizabeth (Aiea)

Monday, December 12 - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Good Counsel (Pearl City)

Tuesday, December 13 - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Sorrows (Wahiawa)

St. Michael (Waialua)

Wednesday, December 14 - 7:00 PM

St. John Apostle & Evangelist (Mililani)

Mililani Holiday Parade: December 3, 2016

Please join us as we represent **St. John Apostle & Evangelist** in the 31st 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 by 8:15 AM. The parade begins at 9 AM.

For more call 623-3332, ext. 204 / 206.

Stewardship of Treasure - November 19/ 20

Sunday Collection	\$16,035.19
- Online Donation (WeShare)	\$3,211.00
Candle Sales	\$594.00
Offering - Funeral	\$200.00
Donation - Charity	\$54.00
Donation - Social Ministry	\$130.00
Mass Intentions	\$130.00
Building Fund (non-assessed)	\$385.75
All Souls Day	\$7.50
St. John Catholic Preschool	\$28.50
Stewardship Development	\$109.50
B.E.M.	\$809.75
Additional Collection	\$266.00
Immaculate Concepcion	\$100.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$220.00
Weekend Total:	\$22,281.19

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

SAVE THESE DATES!

Thursday, December 8 - Masses: 8 am & 7 pm
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)

December 12-14 @ 7:00 pm in the Church
Advent Retreat with
Deacons Eddie Ensley & Robert Herrmann

December 14 @ 7:00 pm in the Church
Parish Penance Service
*following the Advent Retreat

December 16 @ 7:00 pm in the Church
Christmas Nativity Play

December 16-24 @ 5:00 AM
Misa de Gallo
(Sponsored by the Fil-Am Catholic Group)

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
5:00 PM
*NO 3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Mass Schedule - 12:00 am (Midnight), 7:00 am,
9:00 am, 11:00 am (*NO 6:00 PM Mass)

Tuesday, December 27 - Mass: 8:00 AM
Feast Day of St. John Apostle & Evangelist

Planned Giving - Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship - saying thanks to God, expressing your love for family, and showing charity toward others. Please remember **St. John A & E Church** in planning your will.



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Little Bethlehem Christians (LBC) 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, representing this group, will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items for sale after all Masses this weekend. All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.



St. John Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner Fundraiser! The Knights will be pre-selling tickets for a **chicken dinner plate** for \$10.00 starting this weekend, Nov 26/27, through New Year's. The plate includes 1/2 huli-huli chicken, 2 scoop rice, and choice of either potato-mac or green salad. Tickets will be redeemed on **January 14th**, from **12-4 pm** in the **Church Parking Lot**. All the proceeds will assist the Knights in their charitable works for the parish & community. For more info on tickets, visit their table after Mass or contact Mike Hanson at 626-1335.

Reminder to all Christmas Angels!

Gift collection will continue each weekend until **December 3/4**. Please be sure to add the **Angel Tag** to your gift when you drop it off. For more, contact Deb Zedalis at 348-2973 or dzedalis@hawaii.rr.com



The Hui O Laulima Food Trolley will be out next weekend. There is a need for **non-perishable** foods: single servings of *cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jam, fruit, ramen, rice (5lb), canned goods (meats, soups, pasta, vegetables, beans, fruit)*, mac & cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, etc. Please kokua.

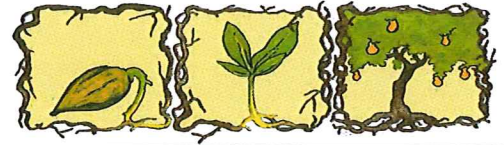
Parish Advent Retreat with Dcn. Eddie Ensley & Dcn. Robert Herrmann will take place on **December 12-14** at **7 pm** in the church. Come and join us as Deacons Eddie and Robert talk about "Drawing Closer to God and Letting God's Love Heal Us. Free Admission! All parishioners, friends, & family are all welcome!

Christmas Nativity Play - We invite children, teens, parents and all parishioners to join us in making this year's Nativity Play great! We are looking for participants as a character role, scene/set builder, costume dressers, refreshment servers, or hospitality. We encourage you to invite your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends to this enjoyable evening on **December 16th** at **7:00 pm** in the Church. Call the Religious Education Department for more, 808-623-3332, ext. 204 / 206.

The next Catholic Book Club meeting will be held on **Thurs., Jan. 19, 2017**, 7-9 pm in classroom 6. The title of the discussion book is **The Rhythm of Life** by **Matthew Kelly**. Open to everyone! Call **Linda Ward** (277-1307) for more.

In the Footsteps of Sts. John & Paul! Journey on a **12-day Pilgrimage to Greece & Turkey** with Msgr. John Mbinda, Spiritual Advisor, & Dr. Timothy Mullner, Pilgrimage Host, from **October 5-16, 2017**. For more, contact Jolly at 623-3332, ext. 103 or jollygt@rcchawaii.org.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection - Thank you for your contributions to the Collection for CCHD! Your gifts will help break the cycle of poverty in the USA through better education, improved housing, and economic development.



THIS WEEK: Nov. 28– Dec. 4

Monday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rectory)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 6)
6:30 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)
7 pm - Charismatic PG (CH)

Tuesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)
3 pm - Cenacle PG (CH)
6 pm - Children's Choir Pract. (CH)
6:45 pm - Combined Choir Pract. (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Mtg. (Rm 6)

Wednesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
6 pm - OLPH PG (CH)
6 pm - Combined Music Ministry
Practice for Midnight Mass (CH)
7 pm - RCIA (Rm 4/5)
7:30 pm - NA Mtg. (Rm 6)

Thursday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
9 am - Church Cleaning (Grp. 1)

Friday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 5)

Saturday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8 am - Rosary PG (Church)
9 am - Mililani Holiday Parade
1 pm - KofC Assemble Nativity Scene
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm - Mass (Saturday Vigil)
LBC Religious Article Sale
Angel Tree Collection

Sunday - Religious Ed: "B" Schedule

7 am, 9 am, 11 am, & 6 pm - Mass
Aloha Sunday - Health Ministry Blood
Pressure Screening - Angel Tree
Collection - LBC Religious Article Sale
9 am - RCIA Dismissal
2 pm - Baptism Preparation Class
(Rm 4)
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

THE COMING OF

Joy

The First Sunday

Always Be Ready

Matthew 24:37-44

The focus of our Scripture readings for the first two weeks of Advent is not on the infant's coming in Bethlehem but on the resurrected Christ's final coming at the end of history. Jesus tells us in this passage from Matthew that no one knows the day or the time when the end will come.

Today's Gospel seems filled with judgment; yet, placed with the other two readings and the responsorial psalm it surprises us with an opportunity to be prepared. Even though we don't know how

or when the Son of Man will come, we're invited to live in joyful hope, to prepare, to be attentive, to always be ready, because our lives are lived generously, kindly, and peacefully.

The early Christians believed they were already living in the "end time," that any day the risen Jesus would return to establish his kingdom on earth. Thus they tried continually and constantly to live in joy and readiness, to be aware of and appreciate the present moment — for that is where God is now (and always will be).



"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive presents that demand time and money. We can transmit this joy simply: with a smile, with a kind gesture, with some small help, with forgiveness. Let us give this joy and the joy given will be returned to us.... Let us pray that this presence of God's liberating joy will shine out in our lives."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
Dec. 18, 2005

POINTS TO PONDER

How might my other preparations for Christmas day add to my heart's preparations during this Advent season?

Am I prepared for the ways God comes to me each day? Does joy or negativity reign in my heart and home?

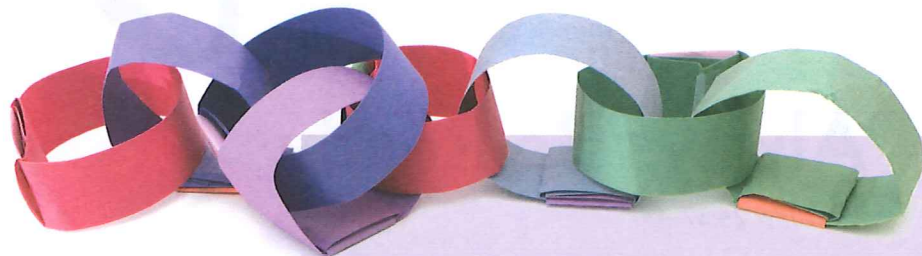
How do I stay awake to God's coming and presence in the needs of the people around me?





ADVENT FEAST DAYS

St. Andrew (feast day November 30) was a fisherman. We know very little about Andrew from the Gospel accounts, but his feast day during this Advent season invites us to reflect on how quickly he answered Jesus' invitation to "Come after me" (see Matthew 4:19). With his brother, Simon Peter, Andrew immediately left his fishing nets to follow Jesus. During this Advent are we waiting for just the right moment? If we're waiting for the perfect time, might we miss the down-to-earth ways God invites us to be generous followers of Christ in all the ordinary happenings of our days?



5 Ways

to Practice Advent Joy

Think of one thing you might do each day to prepare for the second coming of the Son of Man.

As this Advent begins, start or deepen a specific prayer ritual, an intentional time for prayer, during your day. This designated time with a particular prayer you enjoy can set the atmosphere for your day: recognizing all the ways God is already — and always — with you.

God comes each day through the people in our lives. Show your joy and appreciation of others by placing welcome mats at the doors of your home.

Rather than participating in Cyber Monday, join the many who are part of Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. For more information, visit www.givingtuesday.org.

Decide on one thing to do each day to be more aware of the present moment.



Advent Prayer

Ever present God, open my heart to welcome you. Help me to always be prepared — prepared to see you all around me and prepared to live as Jesus taught us: with care, compassion, generosity, and peace.

FAMILYTIME



Connect the celebration of Thanksgiving with Advent. Each evening during Advent, talk about what each family member is thankful for. Write these on paper strips to make into links (perhaps red and green), slowly assembling a paper chain to place on your tree or around your Nativity at Christmas time.

Catechism CONNECTION

"The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the 'First Covenant' (Heb 9:15). He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming."

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 522