

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

95-370 Kuahelani Ave. Mililani, Hawaii 96789 • Office: (808) 623-3332 • Fax: (808) 623-3286

Email: sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org Website: www.stjohnmililani.org



NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: DEACON MODESTO CORDERO

This Advent we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. This requires both acknowledgement of our sins and true repentance – a change of heart. Unlike the Pharisees and Sadducees in the gospel reading, we need to sincerely approach our loving God with a true acknowledgement of our sinfulness, as well as a deep desire and firm purpose to sin no more. Sincerity is what it's all about. With sincere preparation, we will be able to approach the coming of the Lord both at the end of time and at Christmas with hearts ready for his gifts.

In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah anticipates a better future for his people. He speaks about the coming of a king filled with the spirit of the Lord who will bring benefits to the people that they had never known from previous rulers. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, invites us to become as welcoming as the Lord Jesus Christ, who welcomes all to the kingdom of God.

Matthew understood John the Baptist to be that voice in the wilderness proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. His mission is to prepare for the advent of the Lord. John the Baptist knew that sincere repentance was necessary for the kingdom of God to become a reality. He may have shared Isaiah's dream of a time when a just judge would rule a just people. But that time had not yet come, and he knew he needed to do his part to prepare for it – as we do.



During this Advent, when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Our Lord, what should our response be? There can be two responses on our part: First, we need once more to hear the challenging call of John the Baptist to baptism of repentance and forgiveness, and second connect ourselves to the ocean of God's mercy. Happy Advent!

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 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

dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org

Preschool Director (744-9538)

Catherine Awong

cawong@rcchawaii.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE***Staying Awake During Advent: "Therefore stay awake." (Mt. 24:42)***

During this joyful season of Advent, I would like to reflect on three ways of *staying awake* in the next three Sundays by:

- 1) Living a purpose driven life; 2) Putting on the armor of light; and
- 3) Being vigilant in prayer and joyful expectation.

Living a Purpose Driven Life

In the Gospel of last Sunday, Jesus uses a parable in which he quotes from the account on the days of Noah in the Book of Genesis and concludes, "so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." Before the flood, Jesus says, "they were eating and drinking; marrying and giving in marriage... they did not know until the flood came and carried them away." Jesus again concludes, "So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man." Then Jesus speaks of two people doing the same work and one is taken and one left. Have you ever thought why one would be taken and another left?

The one who is taken is focused and lives a purpose driven life, always aware of the reason why God has put him or her here on earth. A person like this is aware of the direction God wants us to go and has the inner light of God's grace. A purpose driven life is one whose vision and mission is aligned to that of Jesus Christ. Those who were taken were awake. Those who were left were surprised in their sleep! This Advent let us strive to be awake by living an intentional life with passion and purpose to meet the Lord when He comes into our lives.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

***Saint* of the WEEK St. Nicholas (270-343)**

Feast Day: December 6 - From the ninth century in the East and the eleventh century in the West, Nicholas has been one of the most popular saints in Christendom and in Christian art and is the patron of many countries, dioceses, churches, and cities. He was a Greek bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). According to folklore, he may have saved three girls from prostitution, restored to life three children who had been killed, and saved three unjustly condemned men from death. While some sources say that he may have been imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution, there is no historical certainty that he suffered persecution for his faith. Likewise, while some sources place him at the Council of Nicaea in 325, it is uncertain if he attended. His charity to the poor is commemorated in modern times by those who follow the tradition of stuffing a boot or a stocking with gifts on his feast day. "Santa Claus" comes from the Dutch form of his name, "Sinterklaas." He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, and children.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

The prophecy of Isaiah in this reading speaks in beautiful poetic images of the restoration of God's people after their return from exile. This renewal of life and nationhood is described in terms of God coming to save his people. Emphasis is placed on God's compassion for the less fortunate. There is a certain echo of joy, because the blind, the deaf, the lame and the dumb are healed as a sign of God's salvation of Israel.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Psalm 146, a prayer of praise, echoes the qualities of God's compassion and power as prophesied by Isaiah in the first reading. The response: "Lord, come and save us" is an affirmation of hope that the Lord will indeed come.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

The Letter of James appeals for patience and perseverance. "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand". This patience is like that of a farmer who plants and waits through the autumn rains, the winter months and the spring. During all those months, the farmer is not passively waiting or idle, but rather works patiently. Similarly, Christians are called to perseverance as they wait in hope for salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel reading from Matthew presents the peak of John the Baptist's mission. John's whole purpose in life was to prepare for and point to Jesus as Messiah. When John sends his disciples to ask Jesus whether He (Jesus) is the Messiah, Jesus responds: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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". In other words, there are no other credentials except what you see and hear. This is exactly what Isaiah had prophesied and confirms that the Messiah is already here among you. This discovery in faith invites us to rejoice.



Follow Msgr. John's Homilies!

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

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

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

† 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)

24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Friday, January 6, 2017, immediately after the 8:00 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon., December 5, 2016 (8 am)

Rhys Higa (Birthday)

† Marshall Sunajo (Mem. Anniv)

Sharon Scott

(Blessings/Thanksgiving)

Tues., December 6, 2016 (8 am)

† Lilian Ramos (Mem. Anniv.)

† Bob and Mel Knott

† Paul S. Thames

Wed., December 7, 2016 (8 am)

Rogelio Crisostomo (Birthday)

† Agnes Mutiso

† Yoko Aki

Thurs., December 8, 2016

Earl Domanguera (Birthday)

† Victor A. Paruginog

† Johnnie Gallogly

Fri., December 9, 2016 (8 am)

Corazon & Rogelio Crisostomo

(Anniversary / Healing)

Norma Belamide (Birthday)

† Richard P. Tesoro (Birthday)

Sat., December 10, 2016

8 AM: † Yoko Aki

† Florence Bernal

† Paul S. Thames

5 PM: † Peter Marling

Sunday, December 11, 2016

7 AM: Ramos Family

(Thanksgiving / Blessing)

9 AM: For the People

11 AM: † James & Mildred Mizoguchi

6 PM: Vallo Family (Thanksgiving)

† = Rest in Peace



Prayer Requests

HEALING / BLESSINGS:

Fritz Campbell, Elaine Snowden, Julie Smith, Kim Noveloso, Modesta

Yadao, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Mina DeJesus, Chelsea Anne Ramiro, Darryln & Ron Bunda, Matt Farris, Mona DeCosta, John Bates, James Kahala, Ken Enomoto, Ellen Cleghorn, baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ron Thames, Gregory Castillo, Elaine Utu, Kathy Beaver, Fr. Paul Minchak, baby Liberty Seminara-Marrone, John E. Szlosek, and all names in the Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Jacob I. Estoesta, Bob & Mel Knott, Agnes Mutiso, Lorita Aguillon, Berlina Mindoro, Yoko Aki, Irene S. Lanuevo, Lily Freitas, Peter Marling, Antonio A. Bayona, Paul S. Thames, Wanya Mercadante, and Sandra T. Woodward.



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

***Baptism Preparation Classes:** 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)

Stewardship of Treasure - November 26 / 27

Sunday Collection	\$14,403.83
- Online Donation (WeShare)	\$1,605.50
Candle Sales	\$566.00
Mass Intentions	\$30.00
Donation - YYA	\$30.00
Donation - Charity	\$223.00
Donation - Social Ministry	\$45.00
Building Fund (non-assessed)	\$195.75
All Souls Day	\$10.00
St. John Catholic Preschool	\$28.50
Stewardship Development	\$104.50
B.E.M.	\$940.10
Augustine Ed. Fund	\$171.00
Offering - Angel Tree	\$222.00
Weekend Total:	\$18,575.18

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



Notary Public Service available by appointment only.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Reminder to all Christmas Angels!

This weekend is the **LAST WEEKEND** to return your Angel Gifts. 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



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

Wednesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm in the Church

Parish Penance Service
*following the Advent Retreat

Friday, December 16 @ 7:00 pm in the Church

Christmas Nativity Play
(Sponsored by the Religious Education Department)

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 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

(CORRECTION) 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 Alsahouri Family, representing this group, will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items for sale after Mass **this weekend, Dec. 3/4**. All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.

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!

St. John Catholic Preschool (SJCP) Christmas Program will be held on **Friday, December 16th at 10:30 am** in the Church. Come and enjoy the musical stylings of the SJCP students. Everyone is welcome!



St. John Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner Fundraiser! The Knights will be pre-selling tickets for a **chicken dinner plate** for \$10.00 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.

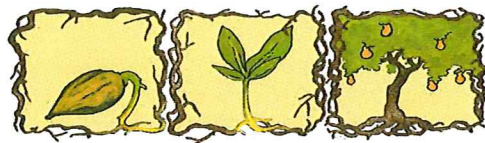
The next Catholic Book Club meeting will be held on **Thurs., Jan. 19, 2017, 7-9 pm** in classroom 6. The title of the discussion book is **The Rhythm of Life** by **Matthew Kelly**. Open to everyone! Call **Linda Ward (277-1307)** for more.

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.

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

Retirement Fund for Religious: Your Donation Works for Aging Religious. "I read that roughly 95% of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to work." Your gift works for elderly religious by assisting in furnishing medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement for Religious, and give those who have given a lifetime. Please drop your donation during offertory. Additional envelopes are available at the entrance to the church or you can also donate online through the parish website, clicking "Online Giving."

Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card! We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card, you still can mail it to the parish or drop it in the box provided near the church entrance. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of St. John Apostle & Evangelist. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with you *time, talent, and treasure!*



THIS WEEK: Dec. 5-12

Monday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rector)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 6)
6:30 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)
7 pm - Charismatic PG (CH)
7 pm - KofC 4th Degree Mtg (Rm 5)

Tuesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rector)
9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)
3 pm - Cenacle PG (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)

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
9 am - Church Cleaning (Grp. 2)
6:30 pm - Youth Ministry (Rm 4)
7 pm - Mass
7 pm - PPBC Mtg. (Rector)

Friday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 5)
4 pm - 2-Hearts PG (CH)

Saturday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8 am - Rosary PG (Church)
9 am - Respect Life Ministry Mtg (Rm 6)
1 pm - Catholic Scouting Board of Review (Rm 5)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm - Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday - Religious Ed: "A" Schedule

7 am, 9 am, 11 am, & 6 pm - Mass
9 am - RCIA Dismissal
2 pm - Baptism Ceremony (CH)
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand

Matthew 3:1-12

Who is the strange character in today's Gospel who lives in the desert, wears camel's hair clothing, and eats wild food? Even though he seems eccentric, people flock to hear him and to be baptized.

In challenging the Pharisees and Sadducees, and in pointing to the One who is to come after him, John the Baptist paints a picture of an ideal world. While doing that, John is convinced that the One to come isn't going to bring about this world alone. The new world, God's kingdom, will only come when each person courageously lives his or her life as Jesus lived his. For instance, John tells

his followers that the Messiah they're expecting to transform this world will actually be concerned with judging their attempts to change this world. Jesus' image and expectation of the ideal world is that it will be a do-it-yourself venture, but not a solitary do-it-yourself project. The Baptist assures the people (and us) that the Holy Spirit will always be the spark enkindling all we do to live God's kingdom.

This strange man, John the Baptist, is a prophet, judge, and precursor; he visions, assures, and challenges: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"



"Feeling sorry, acknowledging guilt, and prolonging regret may be components of the human condition, but they are not what Jesus means by repentance. Repentance is the response to grace that overcomes the past and opens out to a new future.... The message of Jesus is not 'Repent,' but 'Repent for the kingdom of God is near.'"

— John Shea, *A Star at its Rising*

POINTS TO PONDER

How does the message of John the Baptist sound today — like a warning? Praise? Reprimand?

What is the good fruit that God is calling me to produce this week?

How do I make it easier for others to see the kingdom of God in our midst?



ADVENT FEAST DAYS

The feast of the **Immaculate Conception**, proclaimed on December 8, 1854, celebrates the belief that Mary was uniquely blessed from the very beginning with the gift of grace. Often we say that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her birth — very true. Another way of saying it is that Mary was filled with grace, surrounded from the beginning in the love of God. Mary then lived her daily life — the joys and sorrows as well as the challenges — in and with grace, in a trusting relationship with God, and continually aware of the presence of God, always and everywhere.

5 Ways

to Practice Advent Joy

Ask a trusted friend or family member their thoughts about what you need to “repent” from (drawing attention to yourself, inattentiveness to those who are bothersome, etc.).

John shouted his message to the people. Decide on one thing you can do that “shouts” to your world that you are a disciple of Jesus.

We can’t wait for others to do something to bring about the kingdom of God. What things are not what they ought to be? Write a letter to the editor or to politicians; become involved in grass-roots efforts for change.

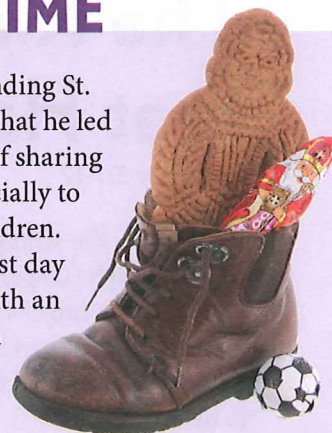
To celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, place out-of-season flowers at your Mary statue as a reminder that “nothing is impossible for God.”

Grace isn’t a thing; it’s a relationship. Grace doesn’t have to be extraordinary; it can be very ordinary. Grace-filled times aren’t only in church; they’re everywhere. Be very aware today. Be alive to the wonder, the gift, and the presence of grace.



FAMILYTIME

Legends surrounding St. Nicholas tell us that he led a life of giving, of sharing his wealth, especially to families and children. Celebrate his feast day (December 6) with an ancient tradition — leaving small gifts in your children’s shoes (such as chocolate coins). Also invite your children to “help St. Nicholas” by giving to children in need some of their toys and books that they no longer use.



Catechism CONNECTION

“*St. John the Baptist* is the Lord’s immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way.... He inaugurates the Gospel.... Going before Jesus ‘in the spirit and power of Elijah,’ John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 523

Advent Prayer

God of challenge, you raised up John the baptizer as a messenger calling us to change. Nudge us to conversion, to change, and to repent so that all our actions will reflect and intensify the presence of the kingdom of God.