

# ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!**

## SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: FR. JOHN MBINDA

The Gospel this Sunday starts with John the Baptist in prison. John sends his disciples to ask Jesus whether he is really the Messiah or would there be another to come. Jesus refers to what Isaiah had prophesied in today's First Reading, and says that there is no need to keep waiting for salvation. It is already in our midst. There are already clear signs of joy, hope and new life. Jesus tells the messengers: "Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, the lame walk, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor". That is why we need not wait. That is why we need to rejoice and not just be happy.

The deeper question we need to ask on this Sunday is what constitutes real joy in our lives? I am a lover of high tech and cool gadgets, once I have them, I enjoy using them, but at the end of the day, they do not give me real joy. The happiness and excitement that many had in having the latest cool gadgets on Black Friday is already over. In other words, material possessions, no matter how cool, never give lasting satisfaction and joy. This Sunday, the readings help us see what Christ is already accomplishing in our midst, through the Church and through our own witness that makes the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk! Miracles do happen in our parish: just open your eyes and ears!



The message we take home is threefold. 1) The gospel draws our attention to the Messiah who is already in our midst. There are many signs of hope: the saving action of Christ is present in our parish. 2) The readings lead us to rejoice as we encounter the hidden "miracles" of today. Yes, "the blind see, the lame walk, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." 3) Let us pray that the Lord may open our eyes and ears of faith to see and hear what Jesus is already doing in our midst; that we may go and tell others what we have seen and heard.

## 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

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**Parish Office Secretary (x 100)**

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**Director of Liturgy**

Nicholas Calzada

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**Grounds & Maintenance**

Robert Garnsey

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**Outreach Department (x 203)**

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**RCIA Coordinator**

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

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

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

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

Dominique Kekiwi

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**Preschool Director (744-9538)**

Catherine Awong

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**PASTOR'S MESSAGE****Gaudete Sunday**

This Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday." Its name comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon or the Introit, "*Gaudete in Domino Semper*," which is the Latin for "*Rejoice in the Lord always*," from Philippians 4:4. Advent, like Lent, has a penitential aspect in view of making our hearts ready to receive our Savior. Liturgically, we use the same purple color vestments as Lent for that reason, but Advent focuses more on expectant waiting.

Halfway through Advent we pause to celebrate the joy of what we anticipate. We express that joy with desert rose colored vestments as well as by lighting the rose-colored Advent Wreath candle. The joy we celebrate this Sunday is different from the secular happiness of the season.

In 2013, during Mass at his residence in Rome, Pope Francis talked about the difference between happiness and joy: "*To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues: it is more profound. .. Joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord.*"

During these remaining days of advent, we are invited to live out that gift of joy as we get closer to Christmas. "*Rejoice in the Lord always*" (Phil 4:4).

*Msgr. John S. Mbinda*

## Saint of the WEEK

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

(16th Century)



**Feast Day: December 12** - Under this title, Our Lady is the patron of Mexico, the United States, and all of the Americas, as well as the protector of unborn children. In 1531, she appeared in a vision to the peasant Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City and charged him with asking the bishop to build a church on that spot. But the bishop demanded a sign, so Our Lady had Juan gather flowers in his cloak in December to take to the bishop. When Juan opened his cloak, the colorful image of Guadalupe was emblazoned on the cactus cloth. That icon is preserved in the most famous shrine in the Western Hemisphere, and Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to inspire poor and oppressed people worldwide.

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

In this passage, king Ahaz of Judah faces the threat of invasion from the northern kingdom of Israel. Isaiah encourages him to rely on God, not on other nations, for strength. First the king was hesitant to ask for a sign of God's favor. The prophet gives a sign of a young maiden's child whose name would be "God with us." Originally, this statement referred to Hezekiah, son of the king's wife, who would rule Judah, and would be a sign that God had not forsaken his people. The prophecy was later given a new context of hope for the future in reference to the Messiah, God-with-us.



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

Psalm 24 was usually sung by worshipers as they approached the temple in Jerusalem, the sign of God's dwelling among his people. The response affirms the Lord's presence: "Let the Lord enter, he is the king of Glory."

### Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

The second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans presents Jesus as a "descendant of David", which means that he is fully human and that he is the fulfillment of the promises made to David. Paul sees a link between the incarnation and the Paschal mystery when he says that Jesus is "established as Son of God in power" through his resurrection. In other words, Jesus manifests his divinity by rising from the dead.

### Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In the Gospel from Matthew, Joseph is presented as a "just" (upright) man, who wanted to do everything according to the will of God. Obviously, he knew that the child was not his. While he was wondering what to do, he received a message in a dream that the child is of the Holy Spirit. Joseph is told more about the child to be born: his name will be Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading. At the end of his dream, Joseph decided to follow his faith and proceeded to take Mary as his wife.



### Masses For The Week

† = Rest in Peace

#### Mon., December 12, 2016 (8 am)

Chanee Shockley (Birthday)

Gail Estanque (Birthday)

† Gladys Grace (Bday Mem.)

#### Tues., December 13, 2016 (8 am)

Craig & Rowena Hara (Wedding Anniv.)

† Lillian Freitas

† Maximo Cadelina

#### Wed., December 14, 2016 (8 am)

Msgr. John S. Mbinda (Anniversary)

† Celestina O. Dela Cruz (Mem. Anniv.)

Patrick Mayock (Birthday)

#### Thurs., December 15, 2016

† Florencio Bernal

† Paul S. Thames

† Richard Burgess

#### Fri., December 16, 2016 (8 am)

† Jesse Pangelinan (Bday Mem.)

† Angelito Tablinao (Anniv.)

† Jacob I. Estoesta

#### Sat., December 17, 2016

8 AM: † Apolinario Bernal

† Paul S. Thames

† Barbara Yadao-Petit

5 PM: † Jaime Maldonado, Sr.

#### Sunday, December 18, 2016

7 AM: † Fr. Cletus Mooya

9 AM: *For the People*

11 AM: † Richard C. Dela Cruz

6 PM: † Dennis Kirby

### 2016 Central Oahu Vicariate Advent Penance Services:

**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)



**Follow Msgr. John's Homilies!**

Blog (text):

<http://www.sundayhomily.com>

Podcast (audio):

<https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

iTunes (audio): **Streaming Homilies**

### † FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †

**Antonio A. Bayona (RIP)**

Sunday, Dec. 11 — Wake: 6:30 pm

Mililani Memorial Park ~ Mauka Chapel

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.**



**Prayer Requests**

**HEALING / BLESSINGS:**

Fritz Campbell,

Elaine Snowden, Kim Noveloso, Modesta

Yadao, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Mina

DeJesus, Chelsea Anne Ramiro, Darrylyn &

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, baby Liberty Seminara-

Marrone, John E. Szlosek, and all names

in the Prayer Intentions Book.

**DECEASED:** 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, and Hilaria Santos.



**\*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.

## Misa de Gallo

will begin on **December 16** thru  
**December 24** at **5:00 am**. The Mass  
celebrants are as follows:

**Friday, Dec. 16 ~ Msgr. John Mbinda**

**Saturday, Dec. 17 ~ Fr. Rex Rilveria**

**Sunday, Dec. 18 ~ Fr. Ramon Francisco**

**Monday, Dec. 19 ~ Fr. Edmund Barut**

**Tuesday, Dec. 20 ~ Fr. Sam Lorterte**

**Wednesday, Dec. 21 ~ Fr. Rheo Ofalsa**

**Thursday, Dec. 22 ~ Fr. Bong Agoo**

**Friday, Dec. 23 ~ Bishop Larry Silva**

**Saturday, Dec. 24 ~ Msgr. John Mbinda**

## Parish Advent Retreat: December 12-14 | 7:00 PM

### Drawing Closer to God & Letting God's Love Heal Us.

*Presenters: Deacon Eddie Ensley & Deacon Robert Herrmann*

**Monday, December 12:** "How Do We Handle the Everyday Stresses and Pressures of Life." *Letting God Lighten Our Lord/Taking Refuge in God.* In Matthew's Gospel we hear of Jesus calling to us to place our cares at his feet and, take his burden upon our shoulders, for "it is light and will give you rest". Come and learn how God can take your worries and fears and turn them into fuel for living a joy filled life of grace.

**Tuesday, December 13:** "How to Cope with Life Losses." *Mary, the Womb of God is Our Model of the Christian Response to Life's Challenges and Call to Follow Jesus in Genuine Discipleship.* Mary, by her yes to God became the dwelling place of the Savior. Because of her yes Mary's womb expanded to contain the uncontainable God. Mary's yes to God demonstrates for us our own call to receptivity to the Holy Spirit in our lives. She points us always in the direction of Jesus saying, "Do whatever he tells you." Mary's faithful and direct response to her grief can enlighten our own response and speed us on our pathway to recovery after our losses.

### Wednesday, December 14: "Forgiving As God Forgives."

*Reconciliation in Relationship/How to Heal and Repair Our Relationships.* Bitterness and hostility can rob us of true happiness and wound the soul; separate us from one another and even from God. We re-examine how God forgives us, how he forgives and forgets our offenses and empowers us to do the same in our relationships. Learn the way of peace making in families, friendships, and parishes. We will never have to forgive another person as much as God has forgiven us.

## Stewardship of Treasure - December 3/4

|                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sunday Collection</b>                | <b>\$15,872.35</b> |
| - Online Donation (WeShare)             | <b>\$3,315.50</b>  |
| <b>Candle Sales</b>                     | <b>\$521.00</b>    |
| <b>Mass Intentions</b>                  | <b>\$110.00</b>    |
| <b>Offering - Baptism</b>               | <b>\$100.00</b>    |
| <b>Donation - YYA</b>                   | <b>\$30.00</b>     |
| <b>Donation - Charity</b>               | <b>\$207.00</b>    |
| <b>Donation - Social Ministry</b>       | <b>\$187.00</b>    |
| <b>St. John Catholic Preschool</b>      | <b>\$28.50</b>     |
| <b>Stewardship Development</b>          | <b>\$104.50</b>    |
| <b>Offering - Christmas Flowers</b>     | <b>\$95.00</b>     |
| <b>Building Fund (non-assessed)</b>     | <b>\$100.75</b>    |
| <b>B.E.M.</b>                           | <b>\$1,266.00</b>  |
| <b>Augustine Ed. Fund</b>               | <b>\$76.00</b>     |
| <b>Offering - Immaculate Conception</b> | <b>\$255.26</b>    |
| <b>Offering - Angel Tree</b>            | <b>\$50.00</b>     |
| <b>Weekend Total:</b>                   | <b>\$22,318.86</b> |

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

SAVE THESE DATES!

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

### Christmas Nativity Play

*(Sponsored by the Religious Education Department)*

**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



**Notary Public Service** available by appointment only.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## Planned Giving - How long has it been since you updated your will?



Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on it's ministry after your passing? Please remember **St. John A & E Church** in planning your will.

## PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Parish Advent Retreat** will take place on **December 12 - 14** at **7 pm** in the church; see page 4 for more information. **December 14th** will conclude with a **Penance Service**. Come and join 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!

**Catholic Youth Ministry: Christmas Works of Mercy** - Attention all LifeTeen & Confirmation Students. Join us on Saturday, December 17 at 9 am to deliver the Angel Tree Gifts to the Next Step Shelter (Kakaako) and to participate in Christmas crafts & Kanikapila with the Ann Pearl Elderly Home (Kaneohe). Please contact the Religious Education Office for your permission form and more information: 623-3332, ext. 206 or [sjaeRE@rcchawaii.org](mailto:sjaeRE@rcchawaii.org).



**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.

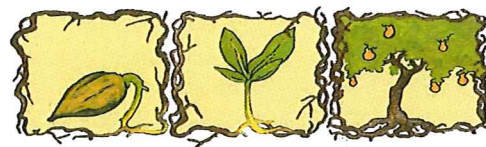
**The next Catholic Book Club** meeting will be held on **Thurs., Jan. 19, 2017**, 7-9 pm in classroom 6. The title of the discussion book is **The Rhythm of Life** by **Matthew Kelly**. Open to everyone! Call **Linda Ward (277-1307)** for more.

**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](mailto: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: Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives to service to others - educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for the Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's collection. 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. 12—18**

#### **Monday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rectory)  
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 6)  
7 pm - Parish Advent Retreat (CH)  
7 pm - OLG C Penance Service

#### **Tuesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rectory)  
9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)  
3 pm - Cenacle PG (CH)  
7 pm - Parish Advent Retreat (CH)  
7 pm - OLS Penance Service

#### **Wednesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

##### **NO RCIA Class**

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)  
6 pm - OLPH PG (CH)  
7 pm - Parish Advent Retreat /  
Penance Service (CH)

#### **Thursday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)  
9 am - Church Cleaning (Grp. 3)  
6 pm - Religious Ed Christmas Play  
Rehearsal (CH)  
7 pm - Knights of Columbus Meeting  
(Rm 5)

#### **Friday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

5 am - Misa de Gallo (CH)  
8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)  
10:30 am - SJCP Christmas Program  
4 pm - 2-Hearts PG (CH)  
7 pm - Religious Ed Christmas Play  
(CH)

#### **Saturday - Daily Mass (8 AM)**

5 am - Misa de Gallo (CH)  
8:45 am - Rosary PG (Church)  
9 am - CYM Christmas Works of Mercy  
3:30 pm - Confession  
5 pm - Mass (Saturday Vigil)

#### **Sunday - Religious Ed: "B" Schedule**

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

# Joy

*The Third Sunday*

## THE COMING OF

### Called to Action

*Matthew 11:2-11*

We meet John the Baptist again, but this time he is in prison. Imagine his feelings and thoughts: "What has this all been about?" Having awaited the Messiah with much anticipation, Jesus does not meet the expectations of those of his day.

John sends his disciples to ask, "Are you the one who is to come?" and Jesus gives a startling answer. He tells of an unexpected worldview, and he is very different from what they anticipated (a messiah who would make them a powerful and prosperous nation with victory over their enemies). Rather than answering their question with a

yes or no, Jesus points them to what is taking place because of his ministry: "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."

We often think of the Incarnation as the birth of Jesus. It is that, but Jesus' words here tell us that the Incarnation is primarily about his ministry — Jesus' identity is revealed through what he does. We are called to be Jesus' followers. It's not just about telling people that we are his followers but also having our actions speak so people will have no doubt.



#### The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels  
is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes  
are home,  
When the shepherds are back  
with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among brothers  
To make music in the heart.

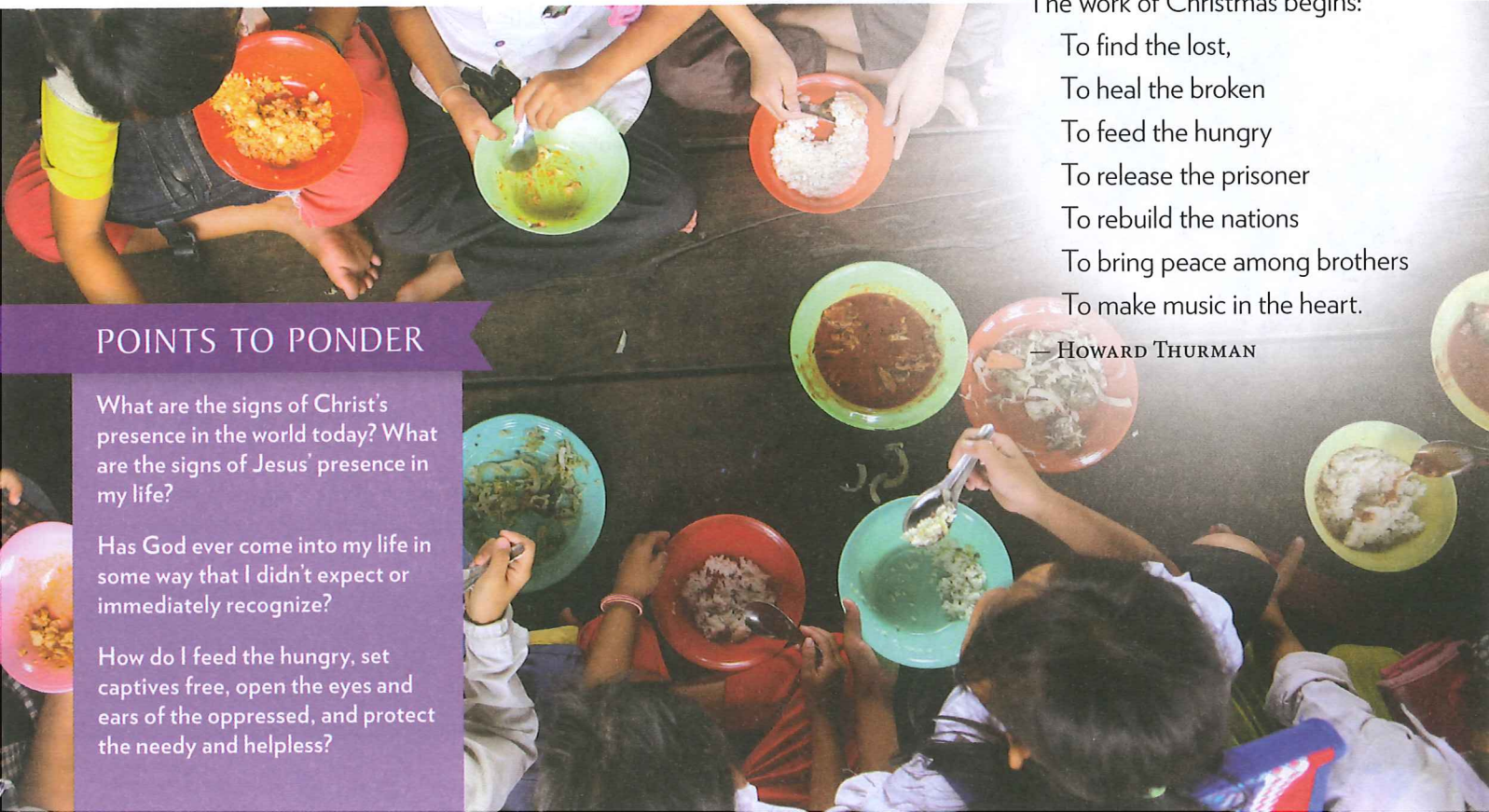
— HOWARD THURMAN

#### POINTS TO PONDER

What are the signs of Christ's presence in the world today? What are the signs of Jesus' presence in my life?

Has God ever come into my life in some way that I didn't expect or immediately recognize?

How do I feed the hungry, set captives free, open the eyes and ears of the oppressed, and protect the needy and helpless?





Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

## ADVENT FEAST DAYS

December 12 is the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**: On December 9, 1531, Mary appeared to a poor, 57-year-old Aztec Indian convert named Juan Diego. Mary left a marvelous portrait of herself on his mantle. This miraculous image has proved to be ageless and is kept in the shrine built in her honor, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. In 1910 Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of Latin America, and in 1945 Pope Pius XII declared her to be the Patroness of all the Americas.

## FAMILYTIME

December 17 begins a “season within a season.” During the last seven days of Advent, the Church prays the O Antiphons. Based on the prophecies of Isaiah (heard in the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”), the O Antiphons praise the Messiah with a different title each day: Wisdom, Ruler of the House of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Dawn, King of the Nations, and Emmanuel. In Latin the initials of the titles make an acrostic which, when read backward, means “Tomorrow I will be there.” During these days, sing “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” at dinner and learn about the O Antiphons by visiting [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com) for more information.



# 3 Ways to Practice Advent Joy

**Today is *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday**; yet, there are people around us who are sad. Do a random act of kindness to bring joy to someone today.

**Join a celebration** of Our Lady of Guadalupe with one of the Hispanic parishes in your diocese. Continue to learn about the Church’s vision of comprehensive immigration reform (for example, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)).

**A custom in the monasteries of old** found monks providing treats during the O Antiphon days to the community. The gardener might share his finest fruits when they prayed: “O Root of Jesse....” The wine steward might unlock the best wine for “O Key of David....” Give a simple gift — related to the titles of one of the O Antiphons — to someone who is not expecting one from you.

## Catechism CONNECTION

“Christ’s whole life is a mystery of *redemption*. Redemption comes to us ... throughout Christ’s entire life: ... in his Incarnation ... in his hidden life ... in his word ... in his healings ... and in his Resurrection.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 517

## Advent Prayer

*God of Compassion, let my life not just be about words. Strengthen in me your grace and compassion so that I may be Jesus’ disciple, a disciple of action, making peace, sharing the Good News, and reverencing all life.*