

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 ROMEO GANIBE

As we near the end of this advent season, we remember the baby Jesus and His mother Mary, but now let us give a little more attention to his earthly father Joseph. We remember Joseph's courage and obedience in responding to the angel of the Lord in his dream to take the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife.

If we ourselves experienced an angel in our dreams, commanding us to do something life changing, how might we respond? The story reveals Joseph to be a man of faith and trust in God despite the unsettling situation. Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs, taking Mary to be his wife and accepting the child in her womb as his own. Both Mary and Joseph become the very models of faithful servants of God.

Now, what can we learn from Joseph's actions? Think of the times in your life when you have felt God calling you to do something important. For example, you sensed God's hand working in your life when volunteering to feed the homeless, visiting the home bound, being a Catechist to the children, or providing gifts to the church's Christmas Angel Tree. God sends you a message, working in your life, just as he did to Joseph.



Take the time now and reflect on your life and listen to when and where God calls to you. Act in faith even when the meaning is unclear.

Have a **Blessed Christmas** and say a prayer thanking St. Joseph for showing us how to respond to calls from God.

*Merry Christmas
and Peace to all*

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***Peace on Earth!***

With only a week to Christmas, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Church uses the fourth purple candle to symbolize peace, reminding us of the message of the angels: *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."* (Luke 2:14) This peace is ushered in by the good news proclaimed by the angel that night. *"...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord"* (Luke 2:10b-11).

The mystery of the Incarnation – God becoming human, God sending his Son to be born of the Virgin Mary on that first Christmas day, can only be understood from the perspective of God's love for us. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)

On these last remaining days of Advent, I wish you peace in your hearts and families that we all may live the message proclaimed by the angel *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace..."*

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

FACT OF FAITH: THE HURON CAROL

BY: FR. LARRY RICE, CSP (Director of the University Catholic Center at Univ. of Texas at Austin.)

We've been hearing Christmas carols in stores and shopping malls since Halloween. For those of us who are observing Advent, and struggling to put off Christmas, *at least until mid-December*, it's a bit of a strain to hear the same songs played over and over. Although it seems like we have a set list of about 20 or so Christmas carols that repeat endlessly, it's important to remember that these songs come from a variety of lands and cultures.

The first written accounts of Christmas carols in the *New World* speak not of songs imported from England, Germany, or France, but of carols composed in a language of one of the native peoples of North America. According to the Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs (Weiser), written reports from Jesuit missionaries near Quebec tell of the great devotion among the Huron people to the feast of Christmas.

The first American Christmas carol apparently was *"Jesus Is Born"*, adapted from a French folk tune with lyrics in the Huron language. It was written by Jesuit Missionary *St. John de Brebeauf* around 1645. Although de Brebeauf was killed when the Iroquois over-ran the Hurons in 1649, the carol was passed on, later to be published in France. The hymn is a good example of the enculturation of faith—using local forms and idioms to express a transcendent truth. The first stanza of the hymn has been translated into English like this:

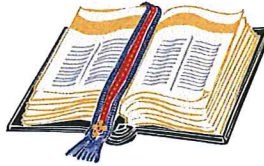


"'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled, that mighty Gitchi Manitou, sent angel choirs instead; before their light the stars grew dim, and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn: Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

Originally, this was a Jewish coronation hymn. The joy of the occasion is expressed by comparing it to the joy of harvest and of battle victory. In the original use of the hymn, the birth of a child was seen in terms of an enthronement of a king. God was said to adopt the monarch as his child. Thus, the newly enthroned king was hailed as the ideal king with many honorific titles. It is only in Christ that this ideal king is fulfilled, for to him all the messianic titles are rightly given. Thus, Christ is truly the prince of peace.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 3, 11-12, 13

Psalm 96 is a messianic hymn of praise after the temple was destroyed. The idea of singing a new song was used as a way of looking forward to the future in the hope of the Messiah who is already here. The psalm thus announces his salvation and tells of his glory among the nations for "Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord."

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Paul speaks of the first coming of Christ as the grace of God that "has appeared". He speaks of Christ as: "the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ..." The verb "appeared" is a testimony to divine revelation of God's grace which has already arrived. It is an accomplished fact. This grace takes the form of salvation in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Luke's version of the birth of Jesus is one of the best-known stories of the Bible. It has inspired both artists and musicians through the centuries. The story helps us on Christmas midnight to focus on the mystery of the Incarnation. The details of the story serve three purposes: 1) it situates Jesus in the first century history of the Roman Empire. 2) It links Jesus with the house of David as foretold by the prophets. That is why Jesus is born in Bethlehem – the city of David. 3) The birth of Jesus therefore is the fulfillment of God's promises.

Prayer: *Something in me wants to be born in winter.*

Lord of All Light. When my days are filled with doubt, something within me will not cease believing. When I feel despair, something in me still hopes. Even when I see hatred, something within me is still moved to love. I am not Mary: Sinless, blameless, ever-virtuous. **Yet, something in me wants to be born in winter.** Teach me to nourish it, protect it, give it life. Teach me to say "Yes" to faith, hope, and love. To your coming to live among us in this strange place. For even when I am broken, fragmented, shattered even, *something in me wants to be born in winter.* In that "Yes", beyond any mercy, I can imagine I am made whole. *Something in me wants to be born in winter. Amen*



HEALING / BLESSINGS: Elain Snowden, Julie Smith, Kim Novelo, 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 Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ron Thames, Gregory Castillo, Elaine Utu, Kathy Beaver, Fr. Paul Minchak, baby Liberty Seminara-Marrone, John E. Szlosek, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Mina DeJesus, and all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Lily Freitas, Peter Marling, Antonio A. Bayona, Paul S. Thames, Wanya Mercadante, and Sandra T. Woodward, and Hilaria Santos.



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



Friday, January 6, 2017,

immediately after the 8:00 am

Mass, ending at 7:30 am on

Saturday, January 7, 2017.



Masses For The Week

Mon., December 19, 2016 (8 am)

Mel Kawahara (Birthday)

† Paul S. Thames

Michael Bilello (Healing)

Tues., December 20, 2016 (8 am)

Margie Guerrero-Romasanta (Birthday)

† Pacita Mauleon

† Paul S. Thames

Wed., December 21, 2016 (8 am)

† Paul S. Thames

† Hilaria Santos

Thurs., December 22, 2016 (8 am)

Social Ministry

(Blessings/Thanksgiving)

† Paul S. Thames

Perlas & Valenzuelas Families

(Blessings/Thanksgiving)

Fri., December 23, 2016 (8 am)

Esperidion Domanguera (Birthday)

Norma & Ethan Belamide (Healing)

Two-Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima

Prayer Group

(Blessings/Protection/Guidance)

Sat., December 24, 2016

8 AM: Vallo Family (Thanksgiving)

Gora-Higa Family (Blessings)

Two-Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima

Prayer Group

(Blessings/Protection/Guidance)

5 PM: † Kathy Woodruff

Sunday, December 25, 2016

7 AM: Guerrero Family (Blessings)

9 AM: For the People

11 AM: † Abraham Miram

6 PM: † Tadashi & Mildred Furuta

† = Rest in Peace



***Upcoming Baptism Ceremony Dates** (Infants to Age 6): January 22 & 29, 2017 & February 12 & 16, 2017

***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

at 5:00 am.

Mass celebrants are as follows:

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 ~ Fr. Ramon Francisco

Saint of the WEEK John of Kanty

(1390-1473)



Feast Day: December 23 - Greatly revered in his native Poland, this saint, also known as **John Cantius**, spent most of his life teaching at the University of Krakow, where he was a noted professor of Sacred Scripture. He also spent an interval as a parish priest, reputedly forced on him because of academic jealousy. At the university, he impressed on students the need for moderation and good manners in controversy and was famous for his boundless generosity to Krakow's poor. A personal austerity contributed to his reputation for holiness: He ate no meat and slept on the floor.

MAHALO to all of our Christmas Angels!

May God bless each and every one of you for helping a person/family in need. You helped make Christmas blessed for them this year. Mahalo Nui Loa!



Stewardship of Treasure - December 10/11

Sunday Collection	\$18,699.91
- Online Donation (WeShare)	\$1,387.00
Candle Sales	\$656.00
Mass Intentions	\$170.00
Offering - Baptism	\$100.00
Offering - Funeral	\$200.00
Donation - YYA	\$30.00
Donation - Charity	\$20.00
Donation - Social Ministry	\$306.00
St. John Catholic Preschool	\$28.50
Offering - Christmas Flowers	\$231.00
Building Fund (non-assessed)	\$266.25
B.E.M.	\$904.00
Augustine Ed. Fund	\$47.50
Collection - Religious Ret.	\$220.00
Offering - Immaculate Conception	\$3,730.16
Offering - Thanksgiving	\$20.00
Weekend Total:	\$27,016.32

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

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Mass: 8:00 AM & 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

Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

Mass: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM - *NO 3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, January 1, 2017 - New Year's Day

Mass Schedule - 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (*NO 6 PM MASS)



Notary Public Service available by appointment only. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.



Planned Giving - You can share your faith beyond your life-time by careful estate planning that includes your church in your will. During your lifetime, you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your passing. Please remember **St. John A & E Church** in planning your will.

PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

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".



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.

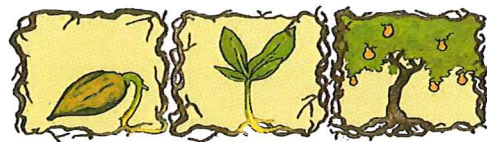
The March for Life Rally & Luminary Prayer Service will be held on **Friday, January 20, 2017, 3:00-8:00 pm** at the **Hawaii State Capitol Building**. The March reminds our elected leaders and community that the unrestrained destruction of life, of pre-born babies, is not only a tragedy of moral indifference, but a legacy of shame for future generations. The luminary prayer vigil supports two pregnancy care centers in our community. Your donations will assist in keeping their doors open. Join pastors, religious leaders, youth, friends, and neighbors who choose to cherish life. There will be free bus transportation. Registration will begin on **Monday, December 26**. Space is limited. Contact Melissa: alohamc@yahoo.com 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.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Thank you for supporting the Senior Religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by you generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

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*!

Online Giving – Stewardship is made easier with our online WeShare system. Make a one-time or recurring donation using either your debit or credit card or your checking or savings account in 3 easy steps. 1.) Visit our parish website and click "Online Giving". 2.) Set up your account. 3.) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.



THIS WEEK: Dec. 19—25

Monday - Misa de Gallo (5 AM)

8 am - Daily Mass
8:45 am - Rosary PG (Rectory)
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Rm 6)
5 pm - KofC Window Cleaning (CH)
6:30 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)
6:30 pm - Marriage & Family Life Commission (Rm 6)
7 pm - Charismatic PG (CH)

Tuesday - Misa de Gallo (5 AM)

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

Wednesday - Misa de Gallo (5 AM)

NO RCIA Class

8 am - Daily Mass
8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
6 pm - OLPH PG (CH)
7 pm - NA Mtg (Rm 6)

Thursday - Misa de Gallo (5 AM)

8 am - Daily Mass
8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)

Friday - Misa de Gallo (5 AM)

8 am - Daily Mass
8:45 am - Rosary PG (CH)
4 pm - 2-Hearts PG (CH)

Saturday - Christmas Eve

**NO 3:30 pm Confession **

5 am - Misa de Gallo
8 am - Daily Mass (CH)
8:45 am - Rosary PG (Church)
9 am - Church Cleaning (Grp. 4)
5 pm - Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday - Christmas Day

Religious Ed & Lifeteen: No Classes

12 am (Midnight) 7 am, 9 am,
& 11 am - Mass
NO 6:00 pm Mass

THE COMING OF

Joy

The Fourth Sunday

Saying Yes Together

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph is trapped in an unthinkable scenario: Mary, to whom he is betrothed, is pregnant. Joseph is faced with a decision. Then he receives a sign from God. In a dream an angel reassures him that the child to be born is part of God's plan and that Joseph is called to care for him and his mother.

When we think of the Annunciation, usually Mary and her response to God come to our minds. In Matthew's story,

Joseph is brought to the forefront. God's plan depends upon both Mary and Joseph.

Isn't the same true for us? God's presence in our world is dependent upon our "yes"; God's presence is often revealed in our lives through people who are close to us. Often, it is difficult to say "yes," to be the persons we're created to be, without the partnership, support, and encouragement of others.



"If God, in the Christmas mystery, reveals himself not as One who remains on high and dominates the universe, but as the One who bends down, descends to the little and poor earth, it means that, to be like him, we should not put ourselves above others, but indeed lower ourselves, place ourselves at the service of others, become small with the small and poor with the poor."

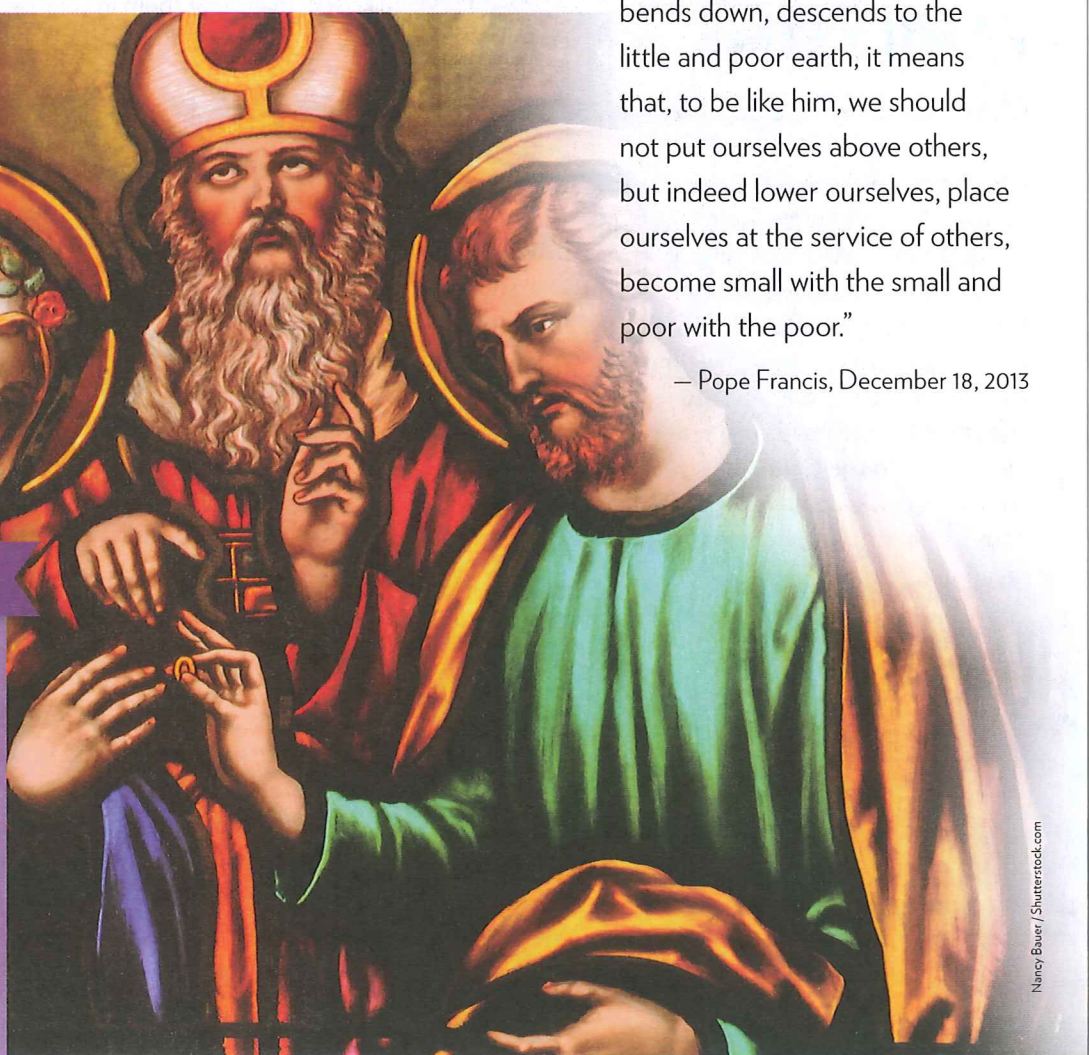
— Pope Francis, December 18, 2013

POINTS TO PONDER

Have I ever felt guided by angels or by God in making decisions?

When have I said "yes," enabling God to become present in a very real way in my life or the life of another?

Who are the persons who are/ have been intertwined with my holiness, my response to live as a follower of Jesus?



ADVENT FEAST DAYS



The feast of **St. John Kanty** (d. 1473), a lesser-known saint, is tucked in just before Christmas, on December 23. As a professor of theology in Kraków, Poland, he was a serious, humble person, totally at the service of the poor. One day, John Kanty was robbed. He replied “no” when the thieves asked if he had more money hidden that they were not finding. Later that day, he discovered a few coins buried deep within his pocket. He quickly set out to find the robbers, giving them these remaining coins. Experiencing this mind-boggling generosity, the robbers’ response was to return all that they had originally taken.

Be excessive this week, not in purchasing more gifts, additional decorations, or more food, but in the giving of your time, presence, and response to the needs of others.



FAMILYTIME

Christmas doesn’t end on December 25. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days from Christmas until the Epiphany (traditionally January 6th). These twelve days are an opportunity to continue reflecting on Christ’s incarnation among us, celebrate several important feast days, and celebrate family rituals. Take time this week to decide on something you will do on each of the days. For example, read a book about the Christmas story; visit a living Nativity; picnic next to the Christmas tree; go through your Christmas cards, praying for each person by name; visit an elderly person; or take Christmas bread to a shut-in.



3 Ways to Practice Advent Joy

Place the word “yes” on your nightstand, your refrigerator, etc., to remind yourself how you say yes to God.

Write a letter of thanks to someone who has walked with you in your journey of the Catholic faith.

Do you know someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, chronically ill, worried, unemployed, or discouraged? Think of some way to include them in your twelve-days-of-Christmas plans.

Advent Prayer

God of Love, thank you for the people in my life who support my relationship with you. Together may we continue to answer “yes,” bringing your love to our world at Christmastime and each and every day.



CatechismCONNECTION

“Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this ‘marvelous exchange’: ‘O marvelous exchange! Man’s Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity’ (*Liturgy of the Hours*).”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 526