

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: Deacon Romeo Ganibe

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the Church's liturgical life. Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare our homes to celebrate the feast of Christmas and we prepare spiritually to greet Christ when he comes again. A time to prepare ourselves for God to break into our hearts and lives once again, starting us on a new chapter, a more meaningful and more faithful chapter. It is a golden opportunity to make a new start in our personal spiritual journey, through the choices we make during this new Church year.

In today's gospel from Luke, Jesus reminds us how easy it is to get lost in the busy activities of December. He warns us: Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. Without prayer and embracing intentional stillness in the season of Advent it is so easy to feel as if the weeks before Christmas are racing by at a breathless pace.

This Advent season, we pray for the strength to listen to those we do not want to hear, to reorder our priorities to allow ourselves to be present to those who need some attention, to focus on serving another rather than simply ticking one more item off our to-do list, to act for justice in our community and in our world.



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.***

SJAE **MOBILE APP**

Download our **FREE** app with these easy steps through *Apple App Store* or *Google Play Store*:

• Search keywords: **ST. JOHN MILILANI**

• Click "GET" or "Download"

• Open the App and Enjoy!

You can also find our app from the website below or use the QR Code

www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/JohnHI



Parish Rectory Hours

Monday: 12:00 PM-4:30 PM
Tues. - Fri.: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
Saturday/Sunday: Closed

Outreach Office Hours

Tuesday: 9 AM to 12 PM
Friday: 9 AM to 11 AM

FOOD PANTRY Hours

Tues.—Fri.: 9 AM to 11 AM

Religious Ed Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tues.—Fri.: 12 pm - 6:30 pm
Saturday: Closed
Sun: 7:00 am - 1:00pm

**PARISH CLERGY &
STAFF**

Pastor (ext. 111)

Msgr. John Mbinda

jmbinda@rcchawaii.org

Parochial Vicar (x 104)

Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

jayinpuusa@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 Secretary (x 100)

Dominique Kekiwi

dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org

Outreach Department (x 203)

Pearl Bates

pebates@rcchawaii.org

RCIA Coordinators

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

Dcn. Romeo Ganibe

Religious Ed. Director (x 206)

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

jquiroz@rcchawaii.org

Acting Preschool Director

Amytes Quiason (744-9538)

aquiason@rcchawaii.org

PASTOR'S CORNER

Advent: The Reason for the Season



The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is twofold: 1) a preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent; 2) the anticipation of the return of Christ the King. Advent helps us to reflect on the mystery of how God, in his divine providence, prepared the entire human race for salvation through God's gradual revelation of in Christ, born in history of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we prepare to remember this event, we relive that history and prepare ourselves spiritually. We relive in expectation of the birth of our Savior. The Advent days help to prepare us spiritually for the coming of Christ.

Thus, Advent is a spiritual journey that we as Christians take, through the truths of Scripture that point to the birth of Messiah. The themes we will meet during the four weeks of Advent are: Hope, Peace, Joy and God's love for his people. The readings of Advent in a special way prepare us for the journey towards Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent the Gospel from Luke underlines the urgency of our readiness. For the coming of our redemption. On the Second Sunday of Advent, the gospel will quote the prophecy of Isaiah drawing our attention to the preaching and ministry of John the Baptist who came to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." On the Third Sunday, (Laetare Sunday), the Gospel from Luke will speak about the message of John the Baptist to the crowds, tax collectors and the soldiers, exhorting them all to treat others with God's love and justice. On the Fourth Sunday, the Gospel from Luke will focus our attention on the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. May you have a blessed and fruitful Advent journey.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Be generous and you will be prosperous; help others and you will be helped." (Good News Translation) - Prov 11:25

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

There are two themes in this dramatic description of reversal of fortunes. Jerusalem is first described as a grieving, and is told to “put on the splendor of glory from God forever.” The second theme is that Jerusalem is told to stand on the heights and watch the resplendent return of the previously captured citizens. Both these themes are meant to bring about hope in a God who keeps his promise of salvation.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Psalm 126 is a threefold response of the exiles after they returned from captivity: amazement, laughter and joy. “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.” Their release from captivity was so extraordinary it was almost beyond their understanding. This was like a dream and a real reversal of fortunes which is described in symbolic language: sowing in tears and reaping in joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

In this passage, we find Paul’s affectionate prayer for the Philippian Christian community. This affection is more than just human sentiment. The longing he has for them is identified with the affection Christ has for them. The prayer is twofold: that their love for one another will increase, and that they will be pure and blameless for the coming day of Christ. The affection of which Paul speaks about here is a selfless love “agape”, like the sacrificial love of Christ. Paul concludes his prayer in the traditional Jewish and Christian prayers of thanksgiving: “For the glory and praise of God.”

Gospel: Luke 3:4-6

This passage introduces us to the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist. We meet here a number of images that recall both the Exodus from Egypt and the return of the exiles from Babylon. The passage refers briefly to John’s of “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” That proclamation assumes urgency in the final part where Luke quotes Isaiah 40:3-5. In this quotation, John’s messianic character is clear for he is the voice that cries out in the desert urging conversion and transformation in readiness for the coming of the Lord. The passage therefore suggests that John was the herald ahead of the One who come to save his people. As announced by Isaiah, this salvation would be universal. “All flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Follow Msgr. John’s Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 3, 2018

(8 am) †Elise & Vallen Hara

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

†Vergelio Topinio

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

(8 am) †Felicidad Fernandez

†Vergelio Topinio

†Salvino Siarot

Camila Ramos (Birthday Blessing)

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

(8 am) †All Souls in Purgatory

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

†Thomas & Claudia Borowitz

Thursday, December 6, 2018

(8 am) †James & Mildred Mizoguchi

†Eric Umetsu

†Vergelio Topinio

Friday, December 7, 2018

(8 am) †Feliciano Dona

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

†Vergelio Topinio

Saturday, December 8, 2018

(8 am) Concepcion Amigo

(Birthday Blessing)

Connie Amigo (Birthday Blessing)

†Eusebio Carnate

(5 pm) †Albert Porras, Jr.

(Birthday Memorial)

Sunday, December 9, 2018

(7 am) †Kyung Soon Choe

9 am **For the People**

11 am †Richard P. Tesoro

(Birthday Memorial)

6 pm †Julieto “Jolly” A. Gamboa

†Rest in Peace†

HEALING / BLESSINGS: Shirley Del Rosario, Carol Towne, Darrlyn & Ron Bunda, baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Jack & Ellen Cleghorn, Ernesta Tolentino, Lester Wilson, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Jim Vangrinsven, Dollie McGarry, Suzanne Foster, Linda Eguchi, Mario Pichon, Leora Hernandez, Alan Cadiux, Rose McNorton, Rosalie Tadda, Bienvenido Roter, Randy Arrojo-Manuwa & Family, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhī & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: William Slocumb, Fr. Ed Turner, Raymond Akiona Sr., Anthony L. Dela Cuesta, Rodney Alfaro, Dolores Elema, Victor C. Librizzi, Santiago Tumpap, Jeremy M.H. Kunishige, Joseph Terry, Sr., Pablo Santos, Kyung Soon Choe, Alvin Yasui, Wayne Ursal, Hak Hoon Kim, Leo Keli, Cherie F. Castillo, Deacon Kin Borja, Asako Diana & Trixie Kato.

Please contact the parish office to set up an appointment & coordination for the following:

Anointing of the Sick

Baptisms (Upcoming ceremony date) **Dec 9 & 16, Jan 13 & 20, Feb 10 & 17, Mar 10 & 17, Apr (No Baptism), May 12 & 19.**

Baptism Preparation Class: Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5.

Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc...)

Funerals

Homebound Communion

Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)

Healing Mass

Monday, December 3, 2018

7:00 pm—9:00 pm, St. John A&E Parish

Praise & Worship begins at 7:00 pm

Mass starts at 7:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

Sponsored by St. John's Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

For information: Victoria Achaval 623-8860 and

Stephen & Helen Uyehara 623-7423



The Angel Tree: ATTENTION ALL Christmas Angels! ALL GIFTS are to be returned with the Angel Tag attached! The ABSOLUTE LAST WEEKEND to turn in your Angel Gift is Dec. 8/9. For more info, please call Pearl Bates 623-3332 ext. 203 or pebates@rcchawaii.org.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

11/24 —25

Sunday Collection	\$ 11,168.39
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,066.60
Children's Collection	\$ 10.16
Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 904.50
One Community Center	
Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 4,725.75
Candle Sales	\$ 470.00
Donation - Mass Intentions	\$ 280.00
Donation- Angel Tree Network	\$ 10.00
Donation- Wedding	\$ 350.00
Donation- Catholic Comm. Campaign	\$ 475.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 192.56
Donation- Social Ministry	\$ 10.00
Donation- Stewardship	\$ 95.00
Donation- All Souls' Day	\$3.00
Donation- Thanksgiving	\$ 120.00

Weekend Total: \$ 21,880.96

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

† **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT** †

Fr. Edward Turner (RIP)

Thursday, December 6, 2018 ~

Resurrection of the Lord Parish, Waipio

Funeral Mass: 7 pm

Celebrant & Homilist: Msgr. Gary Secor

The next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will be held on Friday, December 7, immediately after the 8 am Mass to 6 pm and 8 pm to 7:30am on

Saturday, December 8.



Advent & Christmas Schedule



Misa de Gallo- December 16-24 (5:00 am)

Dec. 16- Msgr. John Mbinda

Dec. 17- Fr. Edmund Barut

Dec. 18- Fr. Norlito Concepcion

Dec. 19- Fr. Rheo Ofalsa

Dec. 20- Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

Dec. 21- Fr. Paul Li

Dec. 22- Fr. Alfred Guerrero

Dec. 23- Fr. Zeno Katua

Dec. 24- Bishop Larry Silva

St. John's Penance Service—Thursday, Dec 13th – 7 pm

To fulfill your Christmas Obligation, please plan on attending one of the following masses:

Christmas Eve Masses- December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses- December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am

No 6:00 PM Mass

Dec. 27- St. John Apostle & Evangelist Feast Day and Celebration of Msgr. John's 50th Anniversary of Ordination.

Mass of Thanksgiving, 6 pm. Presider: Bishop Larry Silva



Please be advised the breezeway leading to the Parish Center is closed. Please use the church lanai to get through to the Parish Center.

Central Vicariate Penance Service

Wednesday, December 5, 2018—7 pm,
Resurrection of the Lord, Waipio

Wednesday, December 12, 2018—7 pm
St. Elizabeth, Aiea

Thursday, December 13, 2018—7 pm
St. John A&E, Mililani

Tuesday, December 18, 2018—7 pm
Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa

Wednesday, December 19, 2018—7 pm
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City

Thursday, December 20, 2018—7 pm
St. Michael, Waiialua



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Next weekend, the Parish Health Ministry will be on the lanai after the 5pm Mass on Saturday and all morning Masses on Sunday to provide free blood pressure screening.

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

Second Collection: Retirement for Religious Special Collection December 8th & 9th. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes-- often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also give online through our parish website, click "Online Giving". Please be generous.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Honolulu. Masses: Friday, December 7, 7 pm (Vigil) and Saturday, December 8, 8am.

SJAE Seniors- Next weekend is the Senior Adult Ministry Christmas Party! Come and enjoy the holiday season with fun, food, fellowship, games and prizes. "Wear your favorite HOLIDAY attire and win a prize for best dressed!" Sign in will be at 9:30 am and the PARTY begins at 10:00 am (ends at 12 noon) in rooms 2 & 3. Have questions? Call Connie Murphy at 625-7773.

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 on **December 22nd & 23rd after all masses.** All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.

Please support St. John's Knights of Columbus, Council 14663 Fundraiser: Zippy's tickets (Zippy's Famous Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, Meat Sauce or Zippy's Pancake Mix.) Cost is \$9 per ticket. Please see a Knight on the church lanai on Dec 15/16, Dec 29/30, Jan 5/6 and Jan 12/13.

St John A&E Marriage Validation

- Are you a Catholic who exchanged marriage vows in the presence of an authorized civic official or a minister from another religious tradition?
- Are you seeking to have your marriage officially recognized and blessed by the Church known as *Convalidation of a Marriage*?

SAVE THE DATES:

- Marriage Validation Retreat: Sat. Feb. 2, 2019 at 9am—3 pm.
 - Rehearsal: Thurs. Feb. 7, 2019 at 7 pm.
- Marriage Validation Ceremony: Sat. Feb. 9, 2019 at 5 pm in the Church.

For more information, contact Deacon Modesto at mcodero@rcchawaii.org or Deacon Romeo rganibe@rcchawaii.org.



Planting Seeds for the Future: When your attorney prepares your estate planning documents, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive remaining benefits after other beneficiaries are remembered.

Please remember *St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church* in planning your will.

THIS WEEK:

Dec 3 – Dec 9

Monday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm - Charismatic Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm— Family Rosary Prayer Group (Chapel)
7 pm— 4th Degree Knight (Rm 3)

Tuesday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am— Church Cleaning—Environment (CH)
9 am— Women's Bible Study (Rm 2)
3 pm— Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
5:30 pm— Children's Choir Practice (CH)
6 pm— OLPH Prayer Group (Rm 2)
6:30 pm— Young Adult Faith Night (Rm 4)
7 pm— Combined Choir Practice (CH)
7 pm— RCIA #14 Incarnation/ Mary Model of the Church (Rms 2/3)
7:30 pm - NA Meeting (Rm 6)

Thursday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am— Church Cleaning (Group 2)
7 pm— Faith Matters

Friday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:30 am— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am— Church Cleaning (Environment)
7 pm— Mass: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8 pm— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

Saturday— 7:30 am— Rosary
8 am— *Daily Mass*
8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group
9 am— Catholic Women's Bible Study (Rm 1)
9:15 am— Liturgical Movement Ministry (Rm 4)
10 pm— Senior Ministry Christmas Party (Rms 2-3)
3:30 pm - Confession
4 pm— Women's Guild Christmas Party (Rms 1-3)
5 pm— Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday— Masses

7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
12:30 pm— Baptism Ceremony (CH)
Blood Pressure Screening— Church Lanai
"B" Schedule Religious Ed. Classes
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

Awaiting His Presence

The Gift of Holiness

Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

It is the First Sunday of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of anticipation. The word “Advent” stems from the Latin *Adventus*, which means “coming.” During this special season, we await two important events — the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas and the return of Jesus at the end of the world.

Advent is also a time to reflect on the gift of holiness. Today’s readings tell us the path of holiness is truth, justice, humility, kindness, and consistency. We are encouraged to grow in love, to strengthen our hearts, and to conduct ourselves in ways that are pleasing to God. We are reminded to stay alert, be vigilant, and pray for strength because our redemption is at hand.

Holiness is a gift of grace that begins at our baptism and invites us into deeper union with God. How we respond to the gift of holiness is always a free choice. If we accept, God draws us more deeply into his love. If we refuse, God continues to extend the invitation with the hope that one day we will respond.



“Do not be afraid of holiness,” Pope Francis tells us in his latest apostolic exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*. “It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self” (32).

Each person is called to holiness in a way that is personal and unique. Everyone has a God-given mission in life, and the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts and talents we need to accomplish our mission. Pope Francis suggests that we become holy when we live our mission with joy.

“Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church,” he explains. “Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain” (14).

Pope Francis encourages us to “allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today’s world” (23).

POINTS TO PONDER

In what ways will you explore the gift of holiness during Advent?

What is your God-given mission in life?

How does your God-given mission reflect Jesus Christ in today’s world?



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

• **December 6 — Feast of St. Nicholas.** St. Nicholas, a third-century bishop, was known as a miracle worker and a giver of secret gifts. In some countries, children put their shoes by the door the night before the feast of St. Nicholas. They wake the next morning to find sweets and small toys left by the great saint.

• **December 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** This holy day of obligation honors Our Lady, conceived without original sin. This feast day is exactly nine months before our celebration of Mary's birthday on September 8. Our Lady, under the title Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States.



The Advent Wreath

For centuries Catholics have lit an Advent wreath as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The evergreen branches represent everlasting life promised to us by Jesus. The candles remind us that Jesus came into the world to dispel darkness and radiate the light of God's love.

To make your own Advent wreath, you'll need four candleholders, three purple candles, one pink candle, and real or artificial evergreen branches to circle the candles in the shape of a wreath. Some families like to add a white candle in the center which is lit on Christmas Eve.

Here is a simple candle-lighting ceremony to use each week:



1st week: The first purple candle signifies hope. Light the candle and pray: *Dear God, help each member of our family to wait patiently for the coming of Jesus. Fill us with hope. Amen.*



2nd week: The second purple candle signifies peace. Light two purple candles and pray: *Dear God, help each member of our family to wait in wonder and awe for the coming of Jesus. Fill us with a deep sense of peace. Amen.*



3rd week: The pink candle signifies joy. Light two purple candles, one pink candle, and pray: *Dear God, help each member of our family understand the true meaning of Christmas. Fill us with joy as we wait for the coming of Jesus. Amen.*



4th week: The fourth candle signifies love. Light all the candles and pray: *Dear God, help each member of our family grow in appreciation of others as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Fill us with love. Amen.*

Advent Prayer

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the gift of holiness. Give us the grace we need to respond to your love. Help us to understand our God-given mission in life. Allow us to use our gifts and talents in ways that are pleasing to you. Amen.

Happy New Year

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church. Unlike the secular year, which merely marks the passage of time, the liturgical year celebrates the sacred mysteries of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We begin the liturgical year in anticipation with reflections on the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah.

FAMILYFOCUS



Reflect on Advent as a time of waiting. The idea of waiting is not valued in our contemporary culture, which expects immediate gratification. But waiting is important because it creates in us self-discipline, helps us to appreciate the present moment, and allows us look to the future with hopeful anticipation.

Talk about the mission that God has given to each member of your family. How does your God-given mission provide meaning and purpose to your lives?