

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: Deacon Romeo Ganibe

Today is "*Gaudete Sunday*," Rejoice Sunday.

The Church gives us this Third Sunday of Advent to remind us how close we are to celebrating the Incarnation, how close we are to Christ's coming at Christmas. The words of St. Paul in the second reading give the day this name: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"

That same sentiment is echoed in the first reading from the prophet Zephaniah: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!" "Sing joyfully, O Israel!" We're only nine days away from Christmas, and so we light a rose-colored candle, we use rose colored vestments, we hear these enthusiastic words of rejoicing and joy.

This season, for our joy to be complete, we have our own role to play. This role is what John the Baptist spelt out in today's gospel. For our joy to be complete this season we must be charitable, forgiving, caring, just, modest in all our actions, seek reconciliation and peace. We must shun all acts that are capable of making life difficult for others. We need patience and constancy which are very important spiritual virtues. Patience and constancy in the practice of God's commandments this Advent will lead us very soon to sanctity and the fullness of joy.

As we wait joyfully for the fulfillment of Christ's promises to us this season, may the Almighty God fill our hearts with charity and goodwill.

Peace be with you!

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/JohnHl



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)

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Deacon Modesto Cordero

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Deacon Romeo Ganibe

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RCIA Coordinators

Dcn. Modesto Cordero

Dcn. Romeo Ganibe

Religious Ed. Director (x 206)

Julie Quiroz-Zamora

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Acting Preschool Director

Amytes Quiason (744-9538)

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018**Fourth Sunday of Advent****First Reading: Micah 5:1-4**

This prophecy from the prophet Micah contains several important theological themes: salvation will come from an insignificant village (Bethlehem Ephrathah) rather than from the royal city; the power of the ruler comes from God; a time of trial will be followed by a time of security and peace. The message sound startling, but can be trusted because it comes from God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

Psalm 80 is a communal prayer of lament. There are several images of God: attentive shepherd and imperial ruler (vv.2), military captain and cultivator of vines (vv 5-6). Therefore, God is addressed here as shepherd of Israel; the responsible for the nation of Israel; the one who cares for the flock, leading it to verdant pasture and protecting it from danger. Similarly, God understood as a military ruler also cared the subjects and protected them from enemies.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

This passage expresses a contrast between the Old Testament ritual sacrifice and the sacrifice of Christ. In the reading, the author places words in the mouth of Christ giving the words we find here a certain authority since they come from Christ. Actually Christ's words are a commentary on Psalm 40:7-9 that mentions four different types of sacrifices that represent the entire sacrificial system. The author makes a contrast between adherence to the law and Christ's obedience to God's will. The author's point is that we are sanctified through the sacrifice of Christ and not through any sacrifice required by the law.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Luke's account of Mary's encounter with Elizabeth can be divided into three parts: Mary's journey into the hills in the south (vv.39-40); her greeting and its effects on Elizabeth and on her unborn child (vv. 40-41); Elizabeth's jubilant response (vv. 42-45). There is a certain sequence of recognition that begins and ends with Mary. At the sound of Mary's greeting, the child in Elizabeth leaped for joy, thus signaling to her the presence of the Lord in the womb of Mary. That leads Elizabeth to recognize the blessedness of Mary's unborn child, and through him, Mary too is blessed. In a certain sense the readings this Sunday anticipate Christmas only in two days. They give us a glimpse into the mystery we will soon celebrate.

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

50th Anniversary of Priesthood Pilgrimage to Rome



In this article I just want to briefly share my own reflections on the pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Siena on the occasion of my 50th Anniversary of my priesthood. All together we were 25 pilgrims from St. John's and 2 from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH). The pilgrimage was from December 2-12, 2018. Those 10 days were fascinating with certain highlights on each day. Here I just want to share my three top highlights:

My first highlight was, Wednesday, December 5 at the Weekly General Audience with Pope Francis. We were all anxious to hear the message of the pope. On this day he started a new series of his catechesis on "The Our Father" sub-titled "Lord, teach us to pray". In his usual simplicity, Pope Francis underlined Jesus as a person of prayer; in his life, it was prayer that energized everything; there was a profound mystery about his prayer to the Father, and that was why his disciples asked Him: "Lord teach us to pray." We too need to ask the Lord to teach us how to pray. The pope concluded by asking us during Advent to repeat the prayer of the disciples: "Master, teach us to pray."

My second highlight was the private Mass with Pope Francis at Santa Marta, on Tuesday, December 11. In his brief homily (5 minutes) commenting on Isaiah 40:1-11, the pope started by "Let us allow ourselves to be consoled by God" The entire homily was a beautiful synthesis of the pastoral ministry of consolation, which should always be practiced by Christians. We console other people by tenderness, just as the Lord does to us. After Mass the pope greeted all priests one by one as well as the lay faithful present at the Mass.

My third highlight was our celebration of the Holy Mass at the Catacomb of St. Callistus on the Appian way. The main highlight here was the celebration of the Holy Mass at one of the altars underground, surrounded by thousands of saints of 3rd and 4th centuries buried there.

The pilgrimage was meant to help us deepen our faith through the prism of the many sights we visited, in Rome, Assisi and Siena.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com
Podcast (audio):
<https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 17, 2018

(8 am) †Jaime Maldonado, Sr.

†Vergelio Topinio

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

(8 am) †Fr. Cletus Mooya

†Asako Ono Diana

†Stanley Miranda

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

(8 am) †Santiago & Tessie Aquino

Mel Kawahara (Birthday Blessing)

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

Thursday, December 20, 2018

(8 am) †Rosario C. Bautista

†Demetrio P. Perez

Margie Romasanta

(Birthday Blessing)

Friday, December 21, 2018

(8 am) †Martha Rivera

(Death Anniversary)

Modesta Yadao

(Thanksgiving/Blessing)

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

Saturday, December 22, 2018

(8 am) †Stanley Miranda

†Leonardo Pascua

†Asako Ono Diana

(5 pm) Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo

Gasmen & Family

(Thanksgiving)

Sunday, December 23, 2018

(7 am) †June Ramelb

9 am **For the People**

11 am †Wayne K. Ursal

6 pm †Rosa Simone Favis

†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: 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 Ono Diana, Trixie Kato, Claro P. Bumanglag, Jodie J. Mendes, Vergelio C. Topinio, Clara Diane White, Lydia S. Agbayani, Fredrico Soliven & Annette Mitchell.

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

Anointing of the Sick

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

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

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

Funerals

Homebound Communion

Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)

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



The next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will be held on *Friday, January 4*, immediately after the 8 am Mass to 7:30am on *Saturday, January 5*.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

**12/8—
12/9**

Sunday Collection	\$ 13,204.85
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 4,541.95
Children's Collection	\$ 2.00
Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 836.50
One Community Center	
Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 5,319.75
Candle Sales	\$ 511.00
Donation— Blessings	\$ 50.00
Donation - Mass Intentions	\$ 710.00
Donation— Angel Tree Network	\$ 191.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 68.00
Donations- Christmas Flowers	\$ 141.00
Donation— Christmas	\$ 275.00
Donation— Social Ministry	\$ 38.00
Donations—	\$ 40.00
Donation— Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,338.85
Donation— Retirement Fund	\$ 290.00

Weekend Total: \$ 28,557.90

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

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †

Jodie J. Mendes (RIP)

Saturday, December 22, 2018 ~ Mililani Memorial Park-Makai Chapel

Visitation: 5:30 pm — Prayer Service: 6:30 pm

Vergelio C. Topinio (RIP)

Sunday, January 6, 2019 ~ Mililani Memorial Park-Makai Chapel

Visitation: 5:30 pm — Prayer Service: 6:30 pm

Monday, January 7, 2019 ~ Mililani Memorial Park-Makai Chapel

Visitation: 10:30 am — Funeral Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Clara Diane White (RIP)

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 ~ Mililani Memorial Park-Mauka Chapel

Visitation: 9:00 am — Funeral Prayer Service: 10:30 am

Burial: 12:30 pm— Mililani Memorial Park

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.

Central Vicariate Penance Service

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, Waialua





PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

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."

Food Pantry– If you or someone you know needs food assistance, we can help! Come and see us on **Tuesday, December 18, 2018 from 10am–12 noon** at St. John's parking lot.

CANCELLATION: The Parish/Advent Christmas Concert scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 19 has been cancelled.

Want to volunteer as a chairperson for Kūpuna Kokua Ministry? Must be 55 years of age. Please contact Yolanda at (808) 220-8997.

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

Rosary Making Ministry: The next gathering will be on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 10am on the church lanai.

Love.
Friendship.
Generosity.
Selflessness.
Forgiveness.
Stewardship.
Help.

This season, check this list.
Maybe even twice.
KEEPCHRISTINCHRISTMAS



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 29/30,
Jan 5/6 and Jan 12/13.*

THIS WEEK:

Dec 17 – Dec 23

Monday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo
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)

Tuesday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– Daily Mass
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Church Cleaning–Environment (CH)
10 am– Food Pantry (CH Pkg Lot)
3 pm– Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm– PPBC (Rm 1)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday– 5 am– Misa de Gallo
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– Daily Mass
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (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– NO RCIA
7:30 pm - NA Meeting (Rm 6)

Thursday– 5 am– Misa de Gallo
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– Daily Mass
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
7 pm– Faith Matters (Rms 1-3)
7 pm– 11 am Choir Practice (CH)

Friday– 5 am– Misa de Gallo
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– Daily Mass
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Church Cleaning (Environment)
4 pm– 2 Hearts (CH)

Saturday– 5 am– Misa de Gallo
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– Daily Mass
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group
9 am– Catholic Women's Bible Study (Rm 1)
9 am– Church Cleaning (Group 4)
9:15 am– Liturgical Movement Ministry (Rm 4)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday– Masses

5 am– Misa de Gallo
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
NO Religious Ed. Classes
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

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: Good stewardship requires us to think of the future. Have your estate plan prepared now and express your good stewardship in ways that will bless your family and your church.

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

Awaiting His Presence

The Gift of One Another

Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the halfway point in our Advent journey. The word *Gaudete* means rejoice, and today's readings invite us to lift our spirits because the coming of the Lord is drawing near. In the midst of our joy, we are called to recognize the gift of one another.

In the first reading, the prophet Zephaniah urges us to “shout for joy,” to “sing joyfully,” to “be glad,” and to “exult” with all our hearts. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us to “rejoice in the Lord always” and to let our kindness “be known to all.”

In the Gospel, St. John the Baptist is with us once again. Last week, he challenged us to repent. This week, he warns that repentance is not just a matter between ourselves and God. True repentance means that we must change our lives, and the change we are called to make is directly related to how we treat other people.

He tells us that we must share food and clothing with people in need. We



POINTS TO PONDER

In what ways do you rejoice in the Lord?

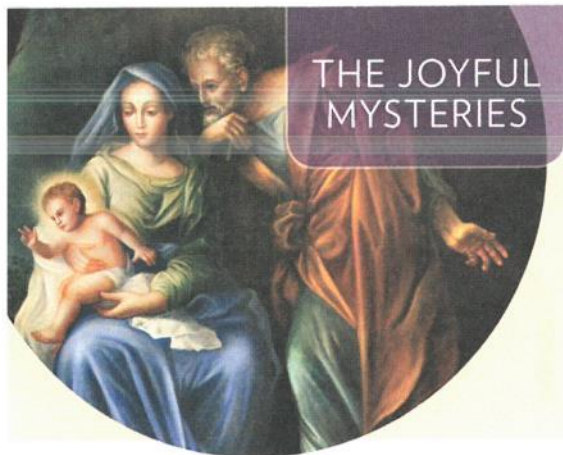
How do you show kindness to people in need?

How do you recognize other people as a gift from God?

must live and work honestly, never cheating or threatening anyone. When we act justly — according to God's will — we will find joy not only in our own lives but in our relationships with others. We must begin to see other people as our brothers and sisters. We must see them as a gift from God.

In his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis echoes the message of St. John the Baptist: “We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply

by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God's gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters” (104).



THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Third Week of Advent is the perfect time to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, which take us back in time to the birth and childhood of Jesus.

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–56)

Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1–21)

Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22–40)

Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

The O Antiphons

The O Antiphons are seven verses in the Liturgy of the Hours that contain powerful pleas for the coming of the Lord. They are chanted or recited during vespers on the last seven days of Advent. You might want to pray the O Antiphons this week with your family or reflect on them privately during personal prayer time.

December 17: *O Sapientia (O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.)*

December 18: *O Adonai (O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.)*

December 19: *O Radix Jesse (O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.)*

December 20: *O Clavis David (O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.)*

December 21: *O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.)*

December 22: *O Rex Gentium (O King of all the Nations, the only joy of every human heart; O keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.)*

December 23: *O Emmanuel (O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.)*

If you take the first letter of each Latin title starting backward at December 23, you will form the Latin words *Ero Cras*, which means, "Tomorrow I will come."

Advent Prayer

Lord, help me to recognize the gift of other people. Open my eyes to the needs of others. Instill in me a spirit of generosity. Help me to recognize your presence in every person who touches my life. Amen.

Joy-filled Resolutions for the Third Week of Advent

1. Decide to do something nice for someone every day. It might be an encouraging word, a phone call, a note of appreciation, or a little act of kindness.
2. Get rid of grudges. Let go of any anger or resentment you might be holding onto.
3. Pray for patience. If you find yourself becoming anxious or upset with another person, ask the Lord for the gift of patience.

FAMILYFOCUS



One of the best parts of family celebrations is sharing family stories. Storytelling sharpens children's listening skills and activates imaginations. Stories about sacramental moments in the family — baptisms, first Communions, etc. — help children put faith into a family context.

Encourage family members to reach out to people in need during this holiday season. Donate food, clothing, or toys as Christmas gifts. Teach children to give the gift of themselves by visiting someone who is elderly or homebound.