

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: Monsignor John Mbinda

On this final Sunday of Advent, God through the prophet Micah promises a unique Savior, born in David's town of Bethlehem; a Savior who will stand and feed his flock and establish peace. The prophet speaks of God bestowing on Bethlehem the distinction of being the birthplace of an ideal ruler of Israel. However, only God knows when this ruler will come. When he does come, he will be the true shepherd of Israel and the servant of God. Significantly, the Messiah "shall be peace" and bring about total harmony among the nations and the ends of the earth will hear of his wisdom.

Luke in the gospel very skillfully sets the stage for the coming of the Messiah. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth focuses on meeting of the two expectant mothers which is also the meeting of their sons. Before the mystery of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and praises Mary for her faith and trust in God. This beautiful meeting leads us into the very center of Advent, namely the prayerful anticipation of the mystery already among us. As we approach Christmas, we are called to imitate Elizabeth who recognizes and rejoices in the humble presence of Christ our Savior. Like Mary in her obedience of faith, we are called to believe that the promise made to us by the Lord will indeed be fulfilled in the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives. We are constantly challenged in our faith to take Christ to others as Mary did, so that Christ who is secretly present in us, may touch the lives of others. Like Mary, we are called personally and as parish community to go out and share the Good News of salvation with others. As we approach Christmas, like Elizabeth we recognize and rejoice in the presence of Christ our Savior.

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

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www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/JohnHI



PASTOR'S CORNER

Christmas Message 2018



“Glory to God in highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Lk. 2:14)

With these inspiring words sung by the angels announcing the

birth of our Savior on that blessed night, I offer my Christmas message and greetings to every parishioner and those visiting our parish over this Christmas Season. Along with the angels we sing that hymn of “Glory to God in the highest” in praise and thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior who ushers in a new era of peace on earth. It was first the shepherds who heard this message of peace proclaimed by the angels on that First Christmas.

During the four weeks of Advent, we have all been preparing for an openness of heart and mind to let in God’s favor into our hearts. May we reap the fruits of our waiting in hope for the gift of peace that the Nativity of our Savior brings to us at this Christmas. May we find true peace, joy and happiness as we celebrate the fulfilment of God’s promise of a Savior who come to bring each of us the gift of true peace in our hearts, families, parish community and in the world.

In the Gospel of Luke for the midnight Mass, try to focus on one short familiar phrase: “there was no room for them in the inn.” Christmas is about making room in the inn of our hearts. It is about making room for all people in our lives, especially the less fortunate; the ones who find no room in the inn; the homeless and the rejected. As we try to welcome Christ “in the stranger” into our hearts, may Christ bring us true peace, joy and happiness this Christmas.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Yew Year 2019!

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

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

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

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Parish Secretary (x 100)

Dominique Kekiwi

dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org

Outreach Department (x 203)

Pearl Bates

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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)

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

This passage recounts how Hannah and her husband Elkanah faithfully kept the vow they had made with God after being blessed with their child Samuel. Unusual in a patriarchal society, the vow made and carried out by Hannah rather than by her husband. Both Hannah and Elkanah are depicted

here as having recognized that a child is God's gift and thus they return that gift to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10

Psalm 84 is usually classified as a song of Zion. It praises the marvels of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. The opening words are words of praise: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!" The response to the psalm expresses the belief that those who live in the Temple as well as those who visit the Temple as pilgrims are blessed.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24

There are two main themes in this reading. The first one is the love (*agape*) that God has for believers. The second theme is the future fulfillment of that love. That fulfillment therefore depends on God's love for the believer. That is why believers are addressed as "beloved" and the Greek word for that is *agapetoi*. God's love therefore transforms those who believe into God's children; it offers the hope of the glory to come. That offer depends on two things: belief in Jesus Christ and loving one another. Those who live this way will be further transformed: they will remain in God and God in them.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

This passage is the only account that speaks about the years between the infancy of Jesus and the time of his public ministry. The main context is that Jesus is not just an ordinary child. He makes his self-declaration: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The thrust of the passage however is to show that in a very religious family like that of Mary and Joseph, one will find an obedient child. The parents however were astonished that Jesus chose to remain behind in the Temple and he argues his case. The parents do not understand; "and his mother kept all these things in her heart."

Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog

(text): www.sundayhomily.com

Podcast (audio):

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 24, 2018

(8 am) †Tadashi & Mildred Furuta

†Stanley Miranda

Sacred Hearts (Thanksgiving)

(6 pm) Josie, Nimit, Nicholas

Howcumfu (Blessing)

(12 midnight) Suzanne Foster

(Healing/Blessing)

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

(7 am) †Stanley Miranda

(9 am) Joshua Mercer

(Special Intentions)

(11 am) Suzanne Foster

(Healing/Blessing)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

(8 am) †Harold Jones, Sr. & Jr.

†Stanley Miranda

†Cralina Tacderan

Thursday, December 27, 2018

(8 am) Primo & Joey Pablo

(Anniversary Blessing)

George, Michele Dona & Family

(Blessing)

Retired Cmdr. Roger Mercer

(Healing)

Friday, December 28, 2018

(8 am) Ben, Lily & Family

(Blessing)

Keith & Cecilia Danielson

Suzanne Foster (Healing/Blessing)

Saturday, December 29, 2018

(8 am) †Asako Ono Diana

†Mother Mary

Carol A. Kurasaki (Blessings)

(5 pm) †Hilarion C. Savet

(Death Anniversary)

Sunday, December 30, 2018

(7 am) †Adela Mojica

9 am **For the People**

11 am †Lordes Malig

6 pm †Annette Mitchell

†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 Ural, 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).**

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)

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	12/15— 12/16
Sunday Collection	\$ 13,545.82
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 1,404.10
Children's Collection	\$ 3.00
Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 742.50
One Community Center	
Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 14,621.09
Candle Sales	\$ 535.00
Donation— Misa de Gallo (Dec 16)	\$ 375.00
Donation— Misa de Gallo (Dec 17)	\$ 348.00
Donation— Misa de Gallo (Dec 18)	\$ 342.00
Donation— Misa de Gallo (Dec 19)	\$502.00
Donation— Baptisms	\$ 185.00
Donation - Mass Intentions	\$ 270.00
Donation— Funerals	\$ 200.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 45.00
Donations- Christmas Flowers	\$ 391.00
Donation— Christmas	\$ 858.00
Donation— Social Ministry	\$ 10.00
Donations- Immaculate Conception	\$ 530.00
Donation— Retirement Fund	\$ 25.00

Weekend Total: \$ 34,932.51

"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 ~ St. John's A&E

Visitation: 10:30 am — Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Federico N. Soliven (RIP)

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

Visitation: 10:00 am — Prayer Service: 11:30 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

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



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.



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 24 in observance of Christmas Eve and Tuesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.

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."

Want to volunteer as a chairperson for Kūpuna Kōkua 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.

In the spirit of joy and gratitude, please join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Msgr. John Mbinda on the Feast of St. John Apostle and Evangelist, Thursday, December 27th. Bishop Larry Silva will preside at a Mass of Thanksgiving at 6 PM. A reception will follow after the Mass.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

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

Dec. 23– Fr. Zeno Katua

Dec. 24– Bishop Larry Silva

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 Mass



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.



THIS WEEK:

Dec 24 – Dec 30

Monday– Christmas Eve: Church Closed

5 am- Misa de Gallo

7:30 am– Rosary

8 am- Daily Mass

8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)

6 pm– Mass

12 midnight– Mass

Tuesday- Christmas: Office Closed

7am– Mass

9 am– Mass

11 am– Mass

7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday– 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– 7:30 am– Rosary

8 am– Daily Mass

8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)

6 pm– SJAE Feast Day & Msgr.

John's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Friday- 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- 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)

3:30 pm - Confession

5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday– Masses

7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm

NO Religious Ed. Classes

4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

Planting Seeds for the Future: Who needs estate planning? Every adult who is legally competent, who owns anything and cares about who receives it at the time of his or her disability or death.

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



Awaiting His Presence

The Gift of the Lord

Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



It is the last Sunday in Advent, and our spiritual journey is about to culminate in the celebration of Christmas. Today's readings are filled with joy and encourage us to reflect on how the gift of the Lord will impact our lives.

The first reading tells us that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem. The second reading reminds us that Jesus came into the world and was obedient to God's will. And the Gospel invites us into the intimate meeting of Mary, who will give birth to Jesus, and her cousin Elizabeth,

who will give birth to John the Baptist.

When Elizabeth sees Mary, the baby in her womb leaped for joy, and Elizabeth recognized that Mary would become the mother of the Messiah. When we pray the Hail Mary, we repeat Elizabeth's faith-filled words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:42).

Like Mary, who bore Jesus in her own body, we who are baptized are also a dwelling place for the Lord. Jesus comes to us in prayer, in the words of Scripture, in the priest and the people

around us at Mass, but in a unique and unparalleled way in his Body and Blood that we receive at the Eucharistic table. The gift of the Lord today, and every day, molds us, comforts us, blesses us, and challenges us.

"God's presence in our lives never leaves us tranquil: it always pushes to do something," Pope Francis reminds us. "When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love."

POINTS TO PONDER

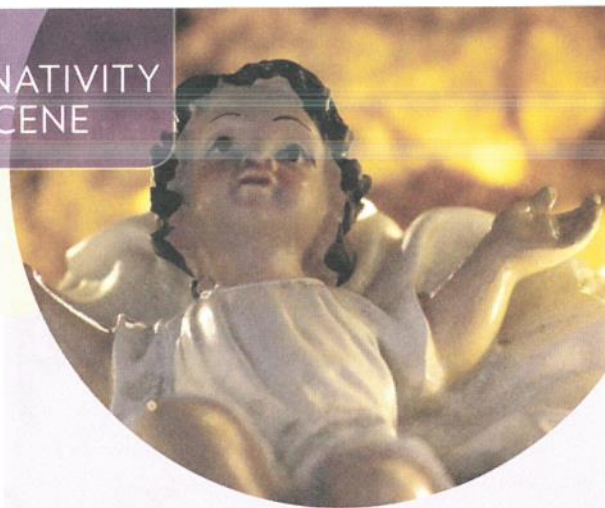
How do you recognize the gift of the Lord in your life?

Elizabeth knew immediately that Mary was blessed. How do we recognize holiness in other people?

In what ways do you bring the gift of Jesus to other people?

The first Christmas crèche was set up in a cave in Italy by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. When people from the village came to see the manger with hay, an ox, and a donkey, St. Francis spoke to them about the newborn babe in Bethlehem. Take time during this Christmas season to visit the Christmas crèche in your parish church. Pray to the baby Jesus for your special intentions.

THE NATIVITY SCENE



A Christmas Resolution

Promise yourself that you will set aside some quiet time during the next two days to prepare a place in your heart for the Christ Child. Imagine yourself in the stable at Bethlehem. Picture yourself holding the Christ Child. Allow feelings of peace and joy to fill your heart.



The Not So “Perfect” Family

When you think about the “perfect” family, the Holy Family might come to mind. If you’re thinking that your family could never compare, perhaps it’s time to take a closer look!

Put yourself in Mary and Joseph’s situation. Think about how difficult it must have been to take care of a newborn infant in an animal shelter. Think about the smells, the noises, the dirt, and the scratchy straw. Think about how helpless Joseph must have felt. Did he remember that he almost divorced Mary? Did he worry about how he was going to take care of her and the baby? Did he wonder how his life would change?

When you look beneath the surface of the Nativity scene, you see tensions, discomfort, worry, and fear. These are the same kinds of struggles modern-day families face. Spouses misunderstand each other. There are problems to overcome and decisions to make in daily life. People experience stress, discomforts, worry, and fear.

When you live through these kinds of difficulties with trust in God, you become holy in the same way that Mary and Joseph were holy. When you believe there is a purpose for your life, when you seek God’s will, when you raise your children to rely on God, when you reach out to other people with compassion, you become perfect in God’s eyes because you are living lives of love.

Advent Prayer

Lord God, open our hearts so that we can receive the gift of the Lord with peace and with joy. Help us see the many ways the presence of Jesus in our lives will comfort us, form us, bless us, and challenge us. Give us the courage to carry Jesus with us all the days of our lives. Amen.

FAMILYFOCUS

One of the best ways to prepare for Christmas is to read to your children the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus. You can find the stories in the New Testament: Matthew 1:18–23 and Luke 2:1–20.



Teach your children to sing traditional Christmas carols that celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Set up an interactive Nativity scene. Start with the stable and the animals. Place the figures of Mary and Joseph on the other side of the room, and then let your children move them closer to the crèche each day. On Christmas Eve, add Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the angels and the shepherds. Then let the Wise Men begin their journey so they can arrive on the feast of the Epiphany.