

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14/15, 2019



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 Modesto Cordero

Rejoice!

How often do we take time to rejoice in God and to celebrate with joy all that God has done for us? This “Third Sunday of Advent” - traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday – we are called to rejoice. We are called to take a break, to pause from all the pressures of the holiday season and to see the reality of God’s presence in our preparation for Christmas. In the first reading the prophet Isaiah reminds us not to be afraid but to be strong so we can serve God as his devoted children. He announces that God is approaching to deliver the people and to advance the plan of salvation. The second reading, Saint James urges us to be patient, even if Jesus has not yet returned, it is still expected and this expectation is the source of our Christian hope. The Lord will come just as surely as the harvest follows the end of the growing season. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the followers of John the Baptist to open their eyes to the world and see God at work. For those ready to listen to Jesus and follow his teaching, the reign of God has already arrived in their hearts. Yes, Advent is about getting ready for the Christ who is to come again. But it is also the time when we can open our eyes to see in new ways the presence of Jesus – in good actions, in the holiness of others, in forgiveness and healing. The challenge is to keep our hearts focused on the season. If we don’t do it we are in danger to lose the expectation and hope that advent brings to our lives. Let’s rejoice and be thankful for the ways our community already proclaims the presence of the Lord in our midst; let’s take full advantage of this special Sunday, this moment of joy and refreshment this Advent, but we must come back to the rest of the journey with vigor, diligence, and courage to succeed. Finally during the rest of this Advent and as we approach Christmas let us try to be the best Christians we can be. I wish you all a “Merry Christmas” and a Happy New Year!”

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**
www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/JohnHI

St. John Apostle & Evangelist Mililani

saintjohnmililani

We look forward to connecting with you!

Pastor’s Corner

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/ Friday: Closed Tues. & Thurs. 12 PM - 6:30pm Wednesday: 2 pm - 8:30 pm Sunday: 7 am - 2 pm
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

Gaudete Sunday: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4)



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,” taken 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 just like Lent for that reason, but Advent more focuses on expectant waiting.

Halfway through Advent, we pause this Sunday to celebrate the joy of what we anticipate. We express that joy with desert rose color vestments as well as by lighting the pink-colored Advent Wreath candle. The joy we celebrate on this Sunday is the difference between 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). As we look forward with joy to Christmas, we have another reason to rejoice. Next Saturday, December 21, Bishop Larry Silva will celebrate the 5 pm Mass, and thereafter bless and dedicate our One Community Center. At long last, we can sit inside and enjoy its beauty as we share our first meal there together. The dedication, however, is not the end of our capital campaign. We still need to continue our pledge.

Thank you for making this vision a reality.

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 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Lords 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 receives 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.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week
Monday, December 16, 2019
(8 am) Fr. Edmund Rivas
(Birthday Blessing)
†Brendan K. Cravalho
†Angelito Taglinao
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
(8 am) †Gloria Bernabe
†Paulina Wong
†Shirley Leong
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
†Shirley Leong
Linda Ward (Healing)
†Fr. Cletus Mooya
Thursday, December 19, 2019
(8 am) †Shirley Leong
Mel Kawahara
(Birthday Blessings)
Hildegard Borowitz (Healing)
Friday, December 20, 2019
(8 am) †Federico G. Badua
Saturday, December 21, 2019
(8 am) †Teodora Caliboso
†Carolyn N. Kalaukoa
†Ignacia V. Benitez
Msgr. John Mbinda
(51 yrs Anniversary of Ordination)
5 pm †Leonardo Pascua
Sunday, December 22, 2019
7am †Shirley Leong
9 am For the People
11 am M/M Berting Ramos
(Thanksgiving)
6 pm M/M Jaime Ulep
(Thanksgiving)
† RIP

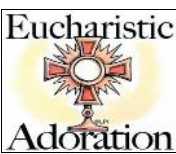
HEALING / BLESSINGS: baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Rosalie Tadda, Randy Arrojo-Manuwa & Family, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhi, Lillian Chalmers, John Durham, Maggie & Benjamin Bae Sr., Suzanna Foster, Shirley Pichon, Mary Anne Q. Llacuna, Caridad Ramiscal, RileyAnn Wills, Rebecca Wills, Laralyn Corthran, Dan Wills, Elaine Kahala, Sandra Gose, Ellen Cleghorn, Hildegard Borowitz, Linda Ward & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Federico G. Badua, Virgilio V. Benitez, Mary Ama, Shiloh John Aiu, Thelma Ruiz, Nestor "Jun" Tantamco, Lawrence Wilson, Anne Nishihara, Evelyn Bolosan, Ted Encarnado, Ted C. Abear, Kenneth Silva, Robert "Bob" Duncan Sr., Patricia J. Merideth, Shirley Leong, Leslie Fountain, Irene Moyles, Brian Ching, Marcelino Esdicul, Sr & Gloria Tolentino.

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

Anointing of the Sick
Baptisms (Jan 19 & 26, Feb 16 & 23, March 22 & 29)
Baptism Preparation Classes: Jan 5, Feb 2 & Mar 1
Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc...)
Funerals
Homebound Communion
Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)

Online Giving – Stewardship is made easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account in 3 easy steps. 1) Visit our church website, www.stjohnmililani.org, and click on **Online Giving**. 2) Set up your account. 3) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.



The next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, January 3rd, immediately after the 8 am Mass to 7:30 am on Saturday, January 4th.

Let us serve one another in love!

The One Community Center (OCC) will help in many practical ways to welcome and to serve those who come to our church to encounter Christ. Please remember to contribute toward the completion of your pledge. Mahalo.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	DEC. 7 - DEC. 8
Sunday Collection	\$ 11,911.37
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 2,306.60
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 859.25
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 3,192.75
Donation- Stewardship	\$ 114.00
Donation- Children's Collection	\$ 6.00
Donation- Social Ministry	\$ 290.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 11.00
Donation- Angel Tree	\$ 30.00
Donation- Youth & Young Adults	\$ 90.00
Donation- Flowers	\$ 201.00
Donation- Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 1,559.00
Donation- Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,533.32
Candle Sales	\$ 675.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 130.00
Weekend Total:	\$ 23,909.29
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." - Proverbs 3:9	

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †

Leopoldo Maltezo Lorenzo (RIP)

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 ~ Visitation: 9:00am
Prayer Service: 11:00 am ~ Mililani Memorial-
Mauka Chapel ~ Burial: 12:30 pm

Betty Jane Mariano (RIP)

Saturday, January 11, 2020 ~ Visitation: 9:00am
Wake Service: 10:30 am ~ Mililani Memorial-
Mauka Chapel

Hipolito James Agustin (RIP)

Monday, January 13, 2020 ~ Visitation: 5:30 pm
Prayer Service: 6:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial-
Makai Chapel

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 ~ Visitation: 9:00 am
Wake Service: 10:00 am ~ Mililani Memorial - Makai Chapel
Burial: 11:00 am



Benefit Concert will be held on

Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the One Community Center. This event is sponsored by

Friends of St. John's Catholic Preschool.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

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

Dec. 16– Fr. Romple Emwalu
Dec. 17 - Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa
Dec. 18 – Fr. Arnold Ortiz
Dec. 19– Fr. Edmund Barut
Dec. 20- Fr. Ernie Juarez
Dec. 21- TBA
Dec. 22- Fr. Greg Honorio
Dec. 23- Bishop Larry Silva
Dec. 24 Msgr. John Mbinda

To fulfill your Christmas obligations, please plan on attending one of the Masses.

Christmas Eve Masses - December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight
Christmas Day Masses- December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am.
No 6:00 PM Mass.

Tuesday, December 21 - Dedication of the "One Community Center." 5 pm Mass, Presider: Bishop Larry Silva.

Central Vicariate Penance Services 2019

- Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa
- Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 PM - St. Michael, Waialua



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Christmas Flowers Offering Envelopes. Remember a loved one by making a flower offering this Christmas. 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.”

The traditional Filipino novena leading up to Christmas, **Misa de Gallo**, will begin on Monday, December 16th thru Monday, December 24th, at 5 AM. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this prayerful celebration.

Dedication of the One Community Center: Please join us on **Saturday, Dec 21 at the 5 pm Mass**, Presided by Bishop Larry Silva. Dedication of the OCC will be held after the Mass, followed by reception and entertainment.

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

St. John Apostle and Evangelist Feast Day is on Friday, December 27 at the 8 am Mass.

Food Pantry– If you or someone you know needs food assistance, we can help! Come and see us on **Friday, December 27, 2019 from 10am—12 noon** at St. John’s parking lot.

The Parish Health Ministry will be on the lanai, **resuming on January 11, 2020** after the 5pm Mass on Saturday and all morning Masses on Sunday to provide free blood pressure screening.

Rosary Making Ministry: The next gathering will be on **Saturday, January 18, 2020** at 10am on the church lanai.

Angel Tree gift’s are due. Please, turn them in and contact Ms. Pearl at (808) 623-3332 ext. 203.



Please support St. John’s Knights of Columbus, Council 14663 Fundraiser: Zippy’s tickets (Zippy’s Famous Chili.) Cost is \$9 per ticket. Please see a Knight on the church lanai after all Masses.

Love.. Friendship. Generosity. Selflessness. Forgiveness. Stewardship. Help. This season, check this list. Maybe even twice. **KEEPCHRISTINCHRISTMAS.**

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: 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 its ministry after your death?

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

THIS WEEK: DEC 16 – DEC 22

Monday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am—Rosary
8 am- *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
6:30 pm- PPBC (Rm 3)
7 pm– Family Prayer Group (Rm 4)
7 pm– Troop 144 (Rm 5)
7 pm– Charismatic (CH)
Tuesday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
3 pm– Cenacle Prayer (CH)
7 pm- 5 pm Choir Practice (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)
Wednesday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
6 pm- OLPH Prayer Group (Rm 2)
7 pm- RCIA- Session #17: Christmas Overview (Rm 3)
7 pm- 9 am Choir Practice (CH)
7:30 pm—NA Meeting (Rm 6)
Thursday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- Church Cleaning (Group 2)
6 pm- 11 am Choir practice (CH)
Friday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
4 pm - Two Hearts (CH)
6: pm- ACTS Ministry Core Mtg (Rm 3)
Saturday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group
9 am- Catholic Women’s Bible Study (Rm 2)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)
5 pm- Dedication of the OCC (OCC)
Sunday– **Masses**
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
NO Religious Education
10 am- RCIA Dismissal (conf rm)
12:30 pm- Baptism Ceremony (CH)
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

KEEPING WATCH

Meditations for Advent | Week 3

Awaiting Emmanuel

An Encounter with Christ

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11

Do you know what to look for? John the Baptist wasn't sure. He thought Christ would arrive in a big way, like a king, and with fire, as he told his followers in last week's reading (see Mt 3:10, 12). But Jesus hadn't brought wrath, nor ax, nor winnowing fork.

He asked Jesus, by way of his disciples, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:3).

Jesus responds by pointing out how the miracles and works he has performed have fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah (see Is 35:5–6). Those are pretty clear signs of he who is to come. But what do we have today to help us see Christ?

"Jesus is not a personage from the past; he is a person living today," Pope Francis said in his Easter Vigil homily on April 20, 2019. "We do not know him from history

books; we encounter him in life."

Today begins the third week of Advent, known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, and we light the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath. "Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4,5).

What an amazing thing to celebrate!

Christ is alive, even now. We are awaiting Emmanuel, recalling with joy his arrival as a humble infant and preparing with hope for the Second Coming. At the same time, we can keep watch for him in the daily acts of kindness, the miracle of life, and the beauty of his creation all around us.

Let us see Jesus in *all things* — in all of creation.

When you come to know Christ, you can find him amid the sadness, hurt, and evil that still exist in the world today. And you can live out the joy of his promise that he will come again.



Rejoice and Be Glad

"Go up onto a high mountain, / Zion, herald of good news! / Cry out at the top of your voice, / Jerusalem, herald of good news" (Is 40:9). "Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, / break forth into song, you mountains / For the LORD comforts his people / and shows mercy to his afflicted" (Is 49:13). "Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! / Shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem! / Behold: your king is coming to you; / a just savior is he" (Zec 9:9).

Nor should we forget Nehemiah's exhortation: "Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD is your strength!" (Neh 8:10).

POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ Where, in your daily life, is it more challenging to see Christ alive and at work?
- ▶ In what ways do you serve as a sign of Christ in the world today?
- ▶ Where did you see Jesus today?





Meet St. John the Baptist

Even while John the Baptist questioned whether Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus in return offered his friend the highest praise.

Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist, Jesus said (see Mt 11:11).

So who was this man whom Jesus held in such high esteem? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives us some background: “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” [Jn 1:6]. John was ‘filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb’ [Lk 1:15] by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people [Lk 1:68]” (717).

John became a prophet, drawing

large crowds to hear his preaching about the coming of Jesus. He was baptizing followers at the Jordan River when Jesus arrived and asked to be baptized. John believed himself unworthy to do this, but Jesus insisted. When Jesus arose from the water, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove. Those present then heard a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 3:17).

Soon after, John was arrested for criticizing King Herod’s marriage to his brother’s wife, Herodias. Angered by John’s disapproval and wanting to avenge her mother, Herodias’s daughter took advantage of Herod’s offer to grant a wish and asked for John’s head on a platter. John was beheaded in prison.

Keeping Watch *Together*

Signs of Jesus are all around. Consider these ways to grow more aware, as well as to bring evidence to others.

- Make it a habit after dinner to list the ways you or your family saw Christ in a person or a situation today. Be specific!
- Put technology to work. Set a reminder several times a day on your phone, laptop, or tablet to stop and consider what signs you might have seen in the world around you. If you spot something that calls to mind Our Lord, take a photo with your smartphone or jot a few words in your notes app.
- Look for the spaces in which Jesus’ love is needed and bring it. Defuse tension in angry circumstances. Offer the benefit of the doubt. Hold the door longer for the slower person walking behind you. Pick up trash or tidy a public space. Handle someone else’s chore for them.



An Advent Prayer

Jesus, thank you for your magnificent works that heal and bring hope. I’m opening my heart to the good news and great joy that you offer. May I provide an encounter of Christ to everyone I meet! Amen.

