

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21 / 22, 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 Romeo Ganibe

We're in the final few days of Advent. Christmas is just around the corner. And you may be wondering what all of this has to do with what we're about to celebrate. The truth is, we're not simply preparing to celebrate a birthday. It's so much more than that. The real purpose of Advent is for each of us in this time and place to prepare for Jesus to be born once again --- not in a manger, but in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives. Think about that for a moment. Mary brought Jesus into the world long ago, and we are invited to do the same thing.

Making that sort of total commitment to Jesus, inviting him into our lives in the way he desires, allowing him to be "born" within us takes real courage. And yet, the Lord Jesus is asking us to do precisely that --- to open up our hearts and minds to him, no matter what **fears** or concerns we may have. It isn't without struggles and ups and downs.

Yet, God still wants us to say yes to him as both Joseph and Mary did --- for he knows that there are things we will never experience if we don't allow the Lord to dwell in our hearts and minds in a profoundly deep and complete way. And not only that --- there are things that others won't get to experience except through the God that is at work in us, a God shaping the world for his purposes, as he sees fit --- provided we, you and I, in faith and obedience, continue to move past our fears and say "**yes**" to him.

Emmanuel, "God is with us."

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

Christmas Message 2019



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

With these beautiful words sung by the angels announcing the birth of our Savior on that blessed night, I offer my last Christmas message and greetings to every parishioner and those visiting our parish over this Christmas Season.

In about six months, I will be retiring after more than 51 years of ordained ministry. Christmas is a special season to be grateful for the many blessings from God. You are part of that blessing for having come into my life. You have given me the opportunity to serve you in many ways, but above all to celebrate the Holy Mass with you. I am most grateful to all who have shared their time, talent and treasure so that the work we do in this wonderful parish may continue.

On December 21, just 3 days before Christmas, we dedicate the One Community Center, which is perhaps the best facility in the Diocese. We give thanks to God for enabling us to complete this magnificent facility in which we have all invested for our use and for future generations. I want to thank our anonymous donor and all who have contributed to the campaign for the One Community Center. May God bless you for your generosity.

In the Gospel of Luke for the midnight Mass, try to focus on one short familiar phrase, for example, “there was no room for them in the inn.” Christmas is about making room in the inn of our hearts. It is about making other people welcome in our lives, especially the less fortunate; the ones who find no room in the inn; the homeless and the rejected. It is in giving that we receive, and in welcoming that we are welcomed. May the homebound and the lonely experience the joy of Christmas through the presence of others. May this Christmas bring true peace, joy, and harmony into our lives and families. Be assured of my special prayer for you at all Christmas Masses for God’s abundant blessings this Christmas.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Yew Year 2020!

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 29, 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

The Book of Sirach offers practical wisdom. Thus the fear of the Lord is considered to be wisdom. For example, the person who fears the Lord respects his parents. The reading offers practical advice on family relations between Fathers, Mothers, and Children. In the Middle East, children were seen as a blessing because they contributed to the total resources of the family.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

In Psalm 128 is a beautiful description of the oriental family: The wife is like a fruitful vine....the children like olive plants....happy the person who fears the Lord. The response: "Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways" underlines the same theme found in the first reading.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Paul in the second reading argues that we have been called to be members of Christ's Body. Therefore we must manifest the holiness of Christ. The manner of doing this differs with our particular calling: Wives, husbands, and children have different callings, but the same imperative to manifest the love of Christ. For this reason, husbands must sacrifice themselves for their wives and families; children must be obedient; Fathers must not nag; wives must serve the husband who sacrifices himself for them!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

In the Gospel passage, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph though presented as a model family, they too faced some of the hardships other families in today's society must face: escape from tyranny, poverty, displacement, homelessness, alienation, and fear. Therefore, in the story of their flight into Egypt, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus are a model family because they experienced the same struggles we encounter even today, but more particularly the inconvenience of being refugees in Egypt.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week
Monday, December 23, 2019
(8 am) †Dorothea Suan Agustin
†Jun Tantamco
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
(8 am) †Dorothea Suan Agustin
†Paulina Wong
(6 pm) Jake, Joshua & Juliette Ramos (Blessings/Thanksgiving)
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
(12 am midnight) Jordan & Chloe -Belle (Blessings/Thanksgiving)
(7 am) †Brigido V. Duque (Birthday Memorial)
(9 am) †Federico G. Badua
(11 am) Richard & Maria Amaral (Thanksgiving)
Thursday, December 26, 2019
(8 am) †Harold Jones Sr./ Jr.
†Dorothy Suan Agustin
Friday, December 27, 2019
(8 am) †Dorothea Suan Agustin
Primo & Joey Pablo (Wedding Anniversary Blessing)
Saturday, December 28, 2019
(8 am) †Jacob Ringor
†Dorothea Suan Agustin
5 pm †Betty Jane Mariano
Sunday, December 29, 2019
7am †Jacob Ringor
9 am **For the People**
11 am †Hilarion Savet (Death Anniversary)
6 pm †Dorothea Suan Agustin
† 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: 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 and Dorothea Suan Agustin.

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)

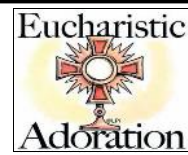
Baptism Preparation Classes: Jan 5, Feb 2 & Mar 1

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

Funerals

Homebound Communion

Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)



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.

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.

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. 14 - DEC. 15
Sunday Collection	\$ 11,943.85
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 1,864.85
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 809.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 5,325.75
Donation- Baptisms	\$ 50.00
Donation- Funerals	\$ 200.00
Donation- Children's Collection	\$ 8.00
Donation- Social Ministry	\$ 10.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 5.00
Donation- Christmas	\$ 90.00
Donation- Flowers	\$ 95.00
Donation- Black & Indian Mission	\$ 5.00
Donation- Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 323.75
Donation- Immaculate Conception	\$ 957.25
Donation- Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 10.00
Donation- Misa de Gallo	\$ 342.75
Candle Sales	\$ 810.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 410.00

Weekend Total: \$ 23,260.20

*"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

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. Jan. 25, 2020 at 9am - 3 pm.

♥ Validation Rehearsal: Thurs.
Feb. 6, 2020 at 6 pm.

♥ Marriage Validation Ceremony:
Sat. Feb. 8, 2020 at 5 pm in the Church.
Bishop Larry Silva will be presiding.

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



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.



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Christmas Flowers Offering Envelopes. Remember or honor 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 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’s Feast Day Mass is at 8 am on Friday, December 27.

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 resume providing free blood pressure screening on **January 11/12, 2020** after all Masses.

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

Angel Tree gifts 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.

Advent & Christmas Schedule
Misa de Gallo (5:00 am)
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.



PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship - saying thanks to God, expressing your love for family, and showing charity toward each other.
Please remember *St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church* in planning your will.

THIS WEEK: DEC 23 – DEC 29

Monday– 5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am—Rosary
8 am- *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
6:00 pm- AV Training (CH & OCC)
7 pm– Family Prayer Group (Rm 4)
7 pm– Troop 144 (Rm 5)

Tuesday– Parish office (Closed)
5 am- Misa de Gallo (CH)
7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- Women’s Bible Study (Rm 2)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
3 pm– Cenacle Prayer (CH)
6 pm- Christmas Eve Mass (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday– Parish office (Closed)
12 am- Midnight Mass (CH)
7 am- Christmas Day Mass (CH)
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- Christmas Day Mass (CH)
11 am- Christmas Day Mass (CH)
6 pm- **NO 6pm Mass**
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 1)
6 pm- 11 am Choir practice (CH)
7 pm- Stewardship Council (Conf Rm)

Friday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
10 am- Food Pantry (CH Pkg Lot)
4 pm - Two 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 2)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)

Sunday– Masses
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
NO Religious Education
10 am: RCIA Dismissal (conf rm)
4 pm: 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

KEEPING WATCH

Meditations for Advent | Week 4

Awaiting Emmanuel

Spend Time Listening

Isaiah 7:10–14; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

Behold. Listen. Because, after a pregnancy that quietly changed the course of history, and a dream in the night that quietly changed history again, a baby is going to be born in a small stable, amid the hushed rustles and deep sighs of the animals slumbering in the dark.

Behold the calm before the arrival of the Lord, a child who will one day take the world by storm.

Behold the power that could move mountains and part seas, as its thunderous strength is corralled into the mewling and cooing of an infant. It is magnificent all the more for taking the shape of vulnerability, humility, and love.

For many of us, the days leading up to the Fourth Sunday of Advent have been relentlessly busy, full of parties and planning, friends and feasting, giving and doing.

So, for today, as the moment draws near, we pause to contemplate the mag-

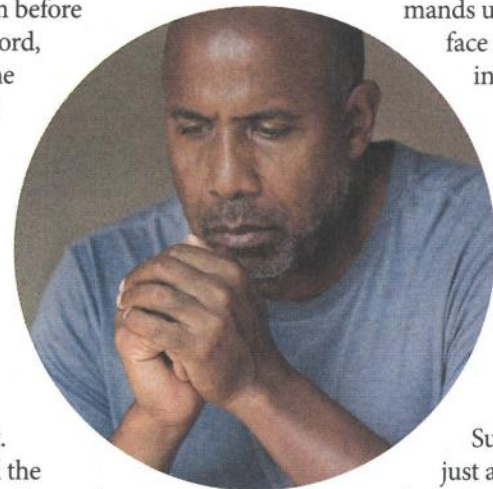
nitude of this greatest miracle.

It's a miracle dependent on vast reservoirs of faith — that of Mary, to say yes to the Angel Gabriel, and that of Joseph, to stay with Mary at the command of the angel in his dream.

How often do we buck the pressures of society to do as the Lord commands us, especially if we face great shame? Speaking truth is difficult.

Living truth is risky. It could mean alienation, lost opportunities, or criticism. Mary and Joseph both knew that ... and yet they obeyed. Could you do it?

On this final Sunday of Advent, just a few days away from the celebration of this great gift, take some time to pause amid the flurry of preparations and expectations. Maybe even say no to a few things today, so that you may say yes to the invitation to greet this new life. Spend some time listening. Behold the magnificent miracle that takes place in the quiet night.



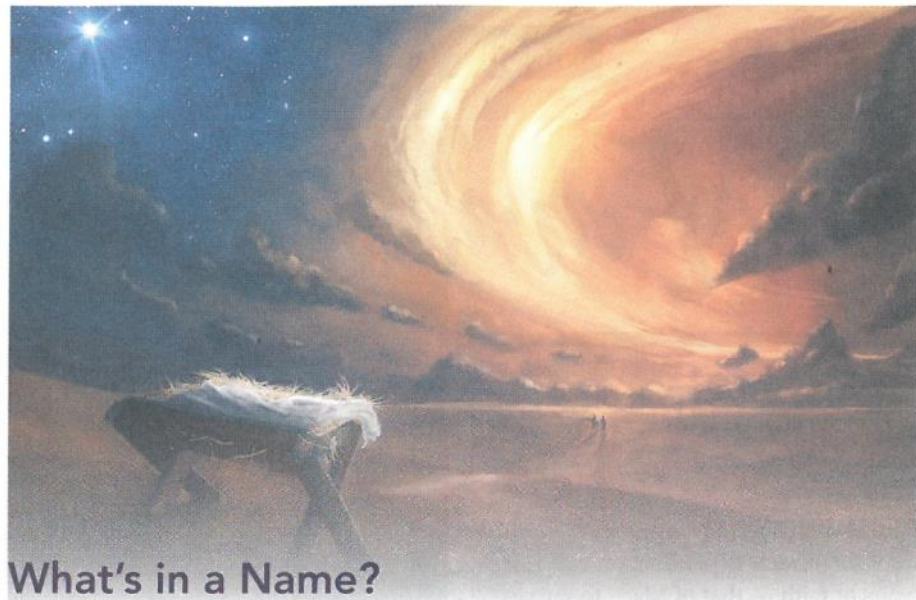
POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ Can you think of a time when it was risky or scary to say yes to Jesus' call? What did you do?
- ▶ How can you carve out some calm to behold the coming of Christ?
- ▶ Do you know someone who is a model of strength and courage on behalf of God?



The Celebration Doesn't End

The twelve days of Christmas aren't just the lyrics to an old carol; they are also part of Church tradition, when we wait for the coming of the three Wise Men. Look back at your plans and reflections from the four weeks of Advent and carry them forward through the Epiphany on January 6. Even better, as we described in the first week, shape your new habits into a lifestyle. Because, even when the Christmas season has ended, we still are watching and waiting for the day when he comes again!



What's in a Name?

Today's Gospel tells us that Christ will be called Emmanuel, meaning, "God is with us" (Mt 1:23). This fulfills a prophecy by Isaiah: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel" (Is 7:14).

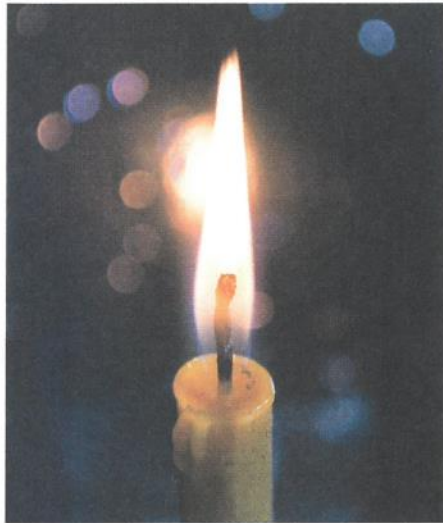
The Gospel also says that Joseph called the baby Jesus, as instructed by

the angel, for "he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

While "Jesus" may have been the name his friends and family used in the usual way we think of a name, both of Christ's names — Jesus and Emmanuel — describe his roles, becoming man and saving man. As we await Emmanuel during Advent, we look forward to that time when God is with us here on earth.

Awaiting *Together*

Perhaps one of the most memorable traditions you can establish during Advent is carving out time for quiet. I have deeply spiritual memories of riding to Christmas Eve Mass with my sisters and parents in a silent car, through dark and silent streets, when everything closed early to honor the holiday. It lent a special intimacy and anticipation to the near arrival of Jesus. How might you behold him? Perhaps ...



Raising Your Hand

"Be generous in answering Jesus' call inviting you to put out into the deep and become his witnesses, discovering the trust he puts in you to devise a future together with him," Pope St. John Paul II said in a 2003 address to young people. "To fulfill this mission the Church is entrusting to you requires that you cultivate a genuine life of prayer nourished by the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and confession."

Prayer and the sacraments help inform our understanding of what the Lord commands, to discern what we're asked to do, and how and when we should speak out. And the Father will be by our sides to give us strength and courage to say yes.



- Turn off the lamps and dine by the light of all four Advent wreath candles now through Christmas.
- Spend ten minutes each day in silence, meditating on courage, Jesus' miraculous birth, or God's call for you.
- If you haven't already, set up a Nativity scene in your home. Invite members of your family to describe elements of the scene as they might imagine it.

An Advent Prayer

Dear God, be near me and give me strength and courage when I go out into the world to do your will. May my yes be as unshakeable as Joseph and Mary's. I'm listening for your call. Amen.



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