



September 14, 1969, First Parish Mass • May 17, 1970 Ground-breaking • August 15, 1971, Dedication of the church

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/john.apostle.718>Follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/JohnAChurch>Website: www.stjohnmililani.org • Email: info@stjohnmililani.org**DAILY MASS: Monday-Saturday: 8:00am****SUNDAY MASSES:****Saturday: 5:00pm****Sunday: 7am, 9am, 11am & 6pm****RECONCILIATION:****Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm****or by appointment****RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:****Monday: 12:00pm-4:00pm****Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm****Saturday & Sunday – Closed**

Msgr. John Mbinda, Pastor, Ext.105

Fr. Ronie Pillon, Parochial Vicar, Ext.107

- Homebound, Funeral, and Bereavement

Fr. Victor Lanuevo, In Residence

Dcn. Modesto Cordero: RCIA Coordinator

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Jolly Guerrero-Tano, Parish Ofc. Admin, Ext. 100

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Terry Silva, Rel. Ed. Asst., Ext. 204

Catherine Awong, Preschool Director, Ext. 200

Pearl Bates, Outreach, Ext. 203

A Time of Renewal

The Advent season is a time of renewal as we await the coming of our Savior. As we begin this new liturgical year, our diocese invites us to begin a process of reflection on stewardship as a way of life. The Catholic Herald this month had a feature article on this theme, "Next Step: Stewardship." The article reports that Bishop Larry Silva has formed "a task force to promote the spirituality of giving time, talent and treasure." A copy of this article is inserted in today's bulletin so that you may read it and reflect on it because the new direction set by our diocese will affect everyone in the parish. It is important to be aware of what the diocese has in mind. "As the five-year Grateful Hearts campaign draws to close, the diocese hopes parishioners will move toward stewardship as a way to continue the generous support it has garnered for ministry needs."

This reflection is entitled "A Time of Renewal" because this season of Advent will help us to embrace the intended change and direction. In order to prepare ourselves here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, two new advisory councils will be established at the beginning of Lent 2014: 1) Stewardship Council that the Pastor will appoint from diverse categories of parishioners including clergy, all staff of our parish, and leaders of all ministries. 2) Planned Giving Council with membership of minimum 3 and maximum 5 members.

In preparation for the above time-frame, a process of strategic planning of: vision, goals, procedures, expected results and available materials starts this Sunday with this reflection and the insert article from our diocese.

As we begin the Advent season, I invite you with the words of the prophet Isaiah on this Sunday's first reading, "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." Climbing the Lord's mountain is a biblical metaphor for walking into the presence of God; the house of God, where God is going to reveal himself to us. Our Advent journey is about walking gradually into the mystery of the Incarnation that unfolds and changes everything for humanity. May this mystery renew and change us individually and our parish community.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor

VISION STATEMENT

*We are called to **develop a deeper relationship with Christ.** Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: the Sacraments, the Word, Renewal programs, ministry/service, fellowship and other **Spirit-led** activities. We will dedicate our time, talent and treasure to install in our Parish community these basic building blocks of Christian living, to live out the Lord's commands and to preach the Good News to all through our words, deeds and lives.*

**Next Sunday's Readings: December 8
Second Sunday of Advent Year A**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. Therefore out of the line of David a descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace. This peace would be so great and genuine that even wild animals would be able to lie down next to one another, a beautiful image of harmony in God's creation.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Psalm 72 is a coronation song that extols the qualities of the ideal ruler, whose reign is the sign of God's reign. Obviously the psalm points to Christ. The Response: "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever," continues the theme of the first reading on the ruler who shall bring about reconciliation and peace.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

This passage from Romans is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading. Paul here focuses on God's purpose in Christ's mission to bring about reconciliation, unity and harmony. Therefore God is to be glorified only by one heart and one voice rising from humankind. The unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ is a symbol that compels us to promote the same unity in Christ among all people, overcoming barriers of culture, distance and prejudice.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

This passage from Matthew is the heart of John the Baptist's ministry, namely, "preparing the way of the Lord". John uses the image of road building, a scene we can identify with today. We know the need for good roads in order to give access to all places remote as well as near. The building and repair of roads require planning. All these are images of the need for reform and repentance as preparation to allow the Lord to enter into our lives. Such was the message of John the Baptist.

Msgr. John's Sunday homilies are available on the following updated links: Blog (text): <http://www.sundayhomily.com>

Podcast (audio): <http://streaminghomilies.podbean.com>

On iTunes, under Podcast search for: [streaming homilies](#), subscribe free to get the homilies weekly.

Boohomily (audio): <http://audioboo.fm/jmbinda>

Thank You for Your Role in the Year of Faith!

For giving your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure during the Year of Faith, I am deeply grateful. I am aware that as members of ministries, leaders, and parish staff you participated whole heartedly. May God increase His gifts in you.

*Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor*

"If our prayer is resolutely united with that of Jesus, in trust and boldness as children, we obtain all that we ask in his name, even more than any particular thing: the Holy Spirit himself, who contains all gifts." (CCC 2742)

PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Healing/Blessings: Sally Bordfeld, Leilani Mueller, Hilda Gomez, Bernadette Uyeda, Charmaine Molina, Melody Ramos, Don Buenconsejo, Ken Enomoto, Cely Deveraturda, John "Mike" Culkin, Guillermo Uyttingco, Anthony Scarpelli, Shirley Shimaoka, Pearl Bates, Pat Nazareth, Gladys Naone, and everyone mentioned in our Prayer Intentions Book.

Deceased: Fortunata C. Juan, Gary Tateishi, Delores Albaso, Charles Bucao, Moses Dela Cruz, Delores Mertl, Hugo Gebauer, Justina Esperanza Antonio, Josephine Vincent, Helen Ughoc, and Fujiko Kosierowski.

Mass Intentions:

Monday, December 2, 2013

8am Mass Molly and Cyril Pereira (RIP)
Philip Nazareth, Jr., (RIP)

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

8am Mass Martin and Helen McNally (RIP)
Lucille M. Perske (RIP)

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

8am Mass Felicidad Fernandez (RIP)
Lucille Perske (RIP)

Thursday, December 3, 2013

8am Mass Norman Henry (Birthday)
Enrique C. Ancheta, Sr. (RIP)

Friday, December 4, 2013

8am Mass Dionisio Locquiao (RIP)
Mari Page (RIP)
Amie and Nolet Quiason
(Anniversary)

Saturday, December 5, 2013

8am Mass Michael Morano (RIP)
Ronald M. Tanaka (RIP)
5pm Mass George and Mary Guerrero (RIP)

Sunday, December 6, 2013

7am Mass Sofronio Propios (RIP)
9am Mass For the People
11am Mass Richard P. Tesoro
(Birthday Memorial)
6pm Mass Anita Domanguera Constancio (RIP)

Parish News & Announcements

Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, December 6th after the 8:00 am Mass.

Thank you for your contributions to the Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Your generous gifts will help CCHD end poverty in America through better education, improved housing, and overall economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we manifest Catholic social teaching and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).

REMINDER TO OUR "CHRISTMAS ANGELS": A big MAHALO to all of you who took "Angel" tags last Sunday to fulfill a child's Christmas wish. Please remember to RETURN ALL GIFTS next Sunday, Dec. 7th & 8th. Confirmation students will be on the fellowship lanai to receive your gifts. Also, please check your tag for specific directions as some gifts are to be returned wrapped and some are to be unwrapped.

Hui Christmas Project: This year your Hui O Laulima will provide 252 toys to the Saint Damien Molokai Toyland. The toys will be given to children who otherwise would not receive any gifts at Christmas. In addition, we will present a 5-pound ham to each of their 100 families. We cannot continue to provide these gifts of charity without your generous support. We ask your assistance again for funding to support these events. Please contribute to these efforts by writing a check to Saint John with the words "Hui Christmas Project" in the memo section of the check. Put your check in one of our green Hui envelopes and deposit them into the Hui Box at the entrance to the Church. Cash will also be gladly accepted in the envelope. May God bless all of you for what you do for the needy. Merry Christmas!

Retirement Fund for Religious Special Collection is scheduled for December 7 and 8. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Special Collection envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please be generous.

**St. John Advent Parish Mission Retreat
"Fully Alive Catholic"**

**Speaker: Rev. Mathew Vellankal
Monday-Tuesday, December 9-10, 2013 at 7:00 PM
(Fr. Mat will preach at all Masses December 7 and 8)**

**Advent Penance Service
Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 7:00 PM**

The next Youth and Young Adults Faithlife meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in Rooms 4 and 5. Bring your friends!

Mililani Annual Christmas Parade ~ Show your St. John "Spirit-led" Christmas Spirit! Join us in the Mililani Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7. Parade line up starts at 7am at the Town Center of Mililani near Taco Bell. The parade starts at 9am and ends at 10:30am at Mililani Shopping Center near Jack in the Box. Parish ministries and organizations are encouraged to wear their group's uniform. For more information, please call 623-3332 ext. 100 or email: info@stjohnmililani.org.

SAVE THE DATE ~ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013: We will celebrate the Feast of St. John Apostle and Evangelist and the 45th Anniversary of Ordination of Msgr. John S. Mbinda on Friday, December 27, 2013. There will be a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 6pm, presided by Bishop Larry Silva. A dinner reception on the church grounds will follow after the Mass. More information will be coming soon. Stay tuned!

Married Couples: Your wedding was just one day in your life, but your marriage is forever. Learn how to live happily ever after by registering for the next Marriage Encounter program, "Renew, Restore, Rekindle" taking place at St. John beginning in January. If you are not able to commit to an entire weekend due to work or child care, this 7-week program is for you. For more information please call Jose & Mary Elizabeth Alvior at (808)391-2045 or visit www.hawaiiwwme.org today!

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Fujiko A. Kosierowski (RIP)

Friday, December 20, 2013 ~ Mililani Mortuary, Makai
10:30am ~ Prayer Service; 11:00am ~ Eulogy
11:30am ~ Burial at Mililani Memorial Park Cemetery

Sunday Collection Report November 23/24, 2013

	Weekly Goal	Actual Amount
Sunday Offering	\$12,647.00	\$13,658.48
Building, Equip., Maintenance and Outreach	\$1,470.00	\$1,142.70

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all
your produce." PROVERBS 3:9*

Hawaii Catholic Herald

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

Bishop Silva forms a task force to promote the spirituality of stewardship

• by Darlene J.M. Dela Cruz on 11/08/2013

The diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development has recently been making strides in planning for stewardship education and implementation in local parishes.

Stewardship — the spiritual practice of contributing to the church time, talent and “treasure” in the form of a tithe on one’s income — is being encouraged by Bishop Larry Silva as a means of financing programs and parishes in the future.

Since 2008, the diocese has been collecting and using funds from the “With Grateful Hearts” capital campaign. More than \$29 million has been netted in parishioner contributions to the campaign as of this June. As the five-year fundraising initiative draws to a close, the diocese hopes parishioners will move toward stewardship as a way to continue the generous support it has garnered for ministry needs.

In February, the Office of Stewardship and Development hosted its first-ever “Stewardship Day.” More than 100 local parish staff and clergy gathered at the Airport Honolulu Hotel to learn about the biblical roots of parish volunteerism and tithing. Since then, the Office of Stewardship and Development and a nine-member Stewardship and Development Commission have been meeting with vicariate leaders and parishioners on stewardship implementation strategies.

Mark Clark, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development, has been spearheading these initiatives. The first step in creating a diocese-wide movement toward stewardship, he said, has been re-introducing the practice as a sharing of gifts and trust in God’s provision.

“We want the spirituality of stewardship to be front and center,” Clark said. “There has been some enthusiasm. Overall it’s been very positive.”

Clark traveled in September with a group of 22 clergy, lay leaders and diocesan staff to the International Catholic Stewardship Council, or ICSC, conference in Dallas. The annual event, which draws about 1,000 attendees from all over the world, featured more than 100 presentations and workshops. Among the conference speakers were the bishops of the Dallas and El Paso, Texas, dioceses, two advocates of stewardship.

Clark said the Island delegation came away from the conference with many resources and contacts. New ideas they learned include integrating stewardship in Catholic faith formation and incorporating online giving in parish offertory collections.

"Not only did the speakers have great tips," Clark said, "there was also a lot of networking going on."

After the Hawaii group returned from the conference, the diocese took another step forward in its stewardship planning. On Oct. 10, Bishop Silva established a special Stewardship Task Force. The task force has five members from different vicariates who will draft a stewardship implementation plan aimed for completion in mid-January 2014.

Clark and diocesan Stewardship and Development coordinator Gloria Romuar, along with finance systems manager Diane Lamosao, will be involved in the task force work.

Diocesan vicar general Father Gary Secor will co-chair the group with Brandon Elefante, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Church in Aiea.

Elefante has been involved in various parish ministries and works full-time for the Honolulu City Council as a research analyst. He said that while the timeline for the task force to craft a stewardship implementation plan is "ambitious," getting parishioners to fully embrace service and tithing actually "can be a long process."

"The most challenging task is striking a balance and crafting a plan that is easy to understand," he said. "Other dioceses and parishes across the nation have taken years to formulate successful stewardship programs and initiatives."

"It will take a cultural shift and the leadership of all of us working together," Elefante added. "I have full faith and confidence that we can accomplish our goals."

Other lay members of the task force include Sam Knepper of St. Catherine Church on Kauai, Ray Lamb of St. John the Baptist Church in Kalihi and Dale Webster of St. Theresa Church on Maui. All have been heavily involved in finance, development and stewardship work at their parishes.

Father Stephen Macedo of Annunciation Parish on the Big Island is the group's clergy representative. When he had been the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Naalehu and Holy Rosary Church in Kau, he oversaw tithing from his parishioners for 10 years. They were continually successful, he said, in generating enough finances to give 10 percent of their collections to the diocese, and to local and national charities.

"That doesn't mean just give 10 percent to the church, but return 10 (percent) to the Lord's work of your time, talent and treasure," Father Macedo said. "It took a lot of trusting God, but it worked and we were able to pay our bills."

Father Macedo and the other task force members will be meeting with the Presbyteral Council, Deacons Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council and diocesan department heads in the coming months to provide progress updates and receive feedback on the stewardship implementation plan.

The task force is also available to answer parishioners' questions about stewardship. For more information on the task force and other stewardship news, visit the diocesan website at www.catholichawaii.org/stewardship.

**"...Give to the Most High as He has given
to you, generously, according to your means."**

SIRACH 35:7-10



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