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Taking Time to Celebrate Advent

As Catholics, our identity is wrapped up in a life of stewardship. However, if we don't spend time receiving God's love and hearing His call – especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons, when we may find ourselves all too easily distracted and stressed – we will not have what we need to truly give to others.

With this call in mind, parishioners of St. John Apostle & Evangelist will have the opportunity to retreat from the hustle and bustle of the holidays by attending the Advent Retreat at the parish from Friday, Dec. 11, through Saturday, Dec. 12. Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, will reflect on Mary's encounter with the angel, when she was told she would become the Mother of God, amongst other things at the retreat.

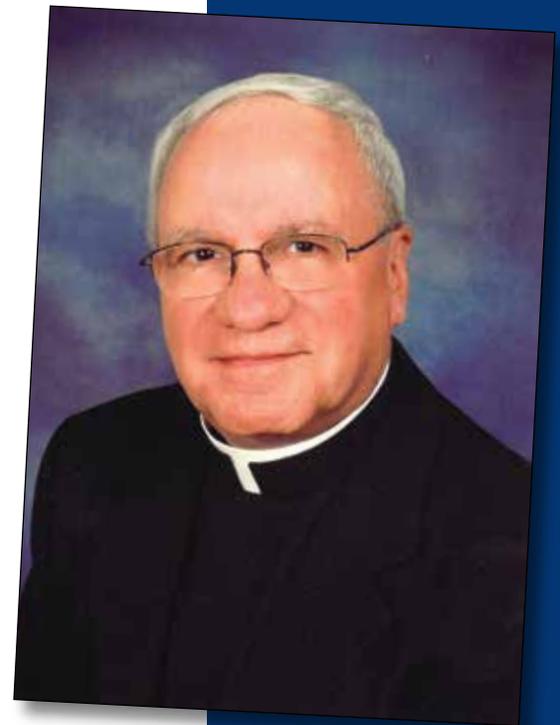
"We don't think of Mary as converted," Fr. Frank says. "But her encounter with the angel is like a conversion experience. She had a moment where her understanding deepened enormously and she had the opportunity to respond. How did Mary respond to her call? Primarily with service by departing to her cousin Elizabeth."

Fr. Frank is a Paulist priest who has spent many years reflecting on and working on projects regarding Catholic Evangelization. Originally hailing from New York City, he now lives in Washington and speaks at various parish missions and retreats across the country.

"My word is 'discipleship,'" he says. "When we understand our lives as people who are called and sent, people that God has engaged with, we become stewards. Our call leads us to become more clearly people of service to others."

Fr. Frank regards moments of conversion and deepening of understanding as essential to truly living our Catholic lives and responding to God's call for each of us.

"You don't get to see some of the deeper parts of our spirituality unless you put a little time in," he says. "It's important for us as Catholics to be a part of parish retreats because it puts us in touch with different aspects of the Gospel and allows them to sink in."



Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, will be the key speaker at the Advent Retreat this year. He has traveled widely, giving retreats for priests and parishes, and has spent many years reflecting on what it means to be a Catholic disciple in today's world.

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Taking Time to Celebrate Advent *continued from front cover*

While we all enjoy celebrating the Christmas season, it takes special effort to truly celebrate Advent, carving out time to meditate on what Christ's becoming human truly means.

Fr. Frank is not unaware of the timing of such a retreat.

"Advent can be a terrible time for retreats," says Fr. Frank. "People feel very busy, but paradoxically this makes it a good time. We want to get away from

the craziness – driven by our secular culture. This retreat will help people pull away from that and gain a different perspective on the whole drama of the Incarnation. Christmas is the dividing doctrine between Christians and everyone else. It's important for our own understanding in a world that is progressively less Christian."

For more information about the retreat, please contact the parish office at 808-623-3332, ext. 100, or email sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org. There is no cost to attend the retreat and all are invited! More information about Fr. Frank DeSiano can be found at his website, www.fpdetano.com.

How Is ADVENT Calling You?

How does ADVENT call us to grow as disciples in our faith? What kind of direction is God offering our hearts as we prepare for Christmas?

Be part of the St. John Apostle & Evangelist Advent Retreat. Come and let the Word of God come alive as we meditate on these ADVENT GUIDES to our faith journey.

Fr. Frank DeSiano, who is well known in our parish, will lead this retreat, Dec. 11-12, and be with us to preach through the weekend.

Get ready for a special Christmas by making your ADVENT more spiritual and grace-filled.

Friday, Dec. 11

7-9 p.m. – Session 1 - *Isaiah: Hope in a Time of Crisis*

Saturday, Dec. 12

9:30-10:45 a.m. – Session 2 - *John the Baptist: The Prophet Gives Witness*

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Session 3 - *Mary: Hearing God's Message in My Life*



A Letter From Our Pastor

December: A Time for Mercy and Tenderness

Dear Parishioners,

Advent and Christmas are upon us. This is a busy time for me, for our parish, for priests, and certainly for most of you. We all know that our homes, schools, offices, and churches will soon be overflowing with many holiday events, and our pews will be overflowing with all of those present for Christmas Masses.

We all know why – there is something special about the Church and about our faith during these holidays. First of all, you and I need to remember that fact – and we need to be grateful for it. For those of us who are here every Sunday, this is a time not to resent those who fill our pews and our parking lots. Rather, it is a time to be the loving and welcoming people Christ calls us to be. Hospitality is an important part of being a good steward, and this is a perfect time to practice it.

For those of us who may only come every once in a while, or for these special occasions, you are welcome here! We hope you like what you see, and we want you to know that you always have a home and family here, any time you need it.

You may have heard of the term “the New Evangelization.” It is something Pope Francis has emphasized, in particular through his exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which he wrote and issued two years

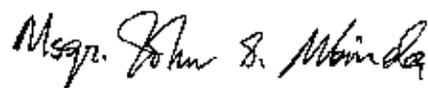
ago. The pope’s letter, with the title that means “The Joy of the Gospel,” has advice for all Catholics relating to how we should all view and treat each other, as sons and daughters of God and members of the Church.

The pope said, “There is a need for Christians who help show God’s mercy and tenderness toward every creature. We all know that today’s humanity is facing a deep crisis. This is why the new evangelization must necessarily use the language of mercy, which is more about gestures and attitudes than words.” It is appropriate that the Year of Mercy proclaimed by the pope begins this Dec. 8.

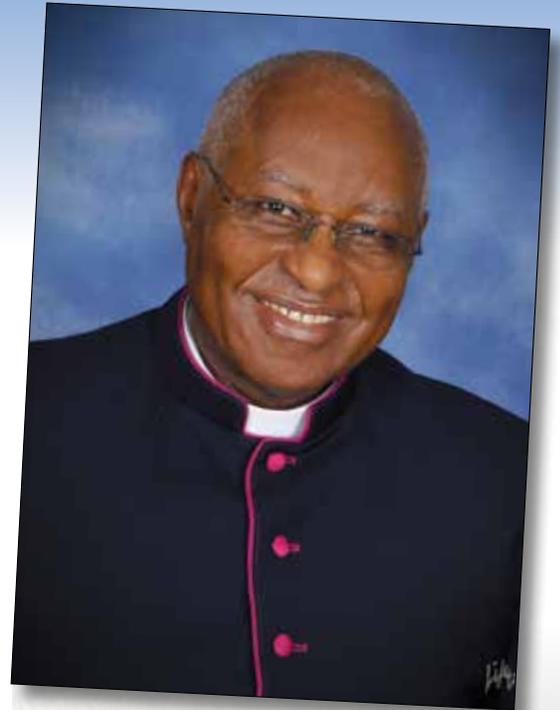
As the Holy Father reminds us, this is a time for “mercy and tenderness.” This is a time for us to show love for everyone, to our brothers and sisters in the next pew or on the other side of the globe. This is a time to share the Good News of Emmanuel, God-with-us, with all we meet.

May you and your families have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor



Music Ministry Unites Th

Music is a powerful gift – a gift that, even when it is seemingly “in the background,” can still be profoundly moving and joyous to all who are present. Our Director of Liturgy, Nick Calzada, can speak to just such an experience firsthand.

“In California, I had the opportunity to see a silent film with a live organist,” Nick says. “He was a very fragile, elderly man who had to be carried to his organ bench. As he started playing, the entire room was filled with wonder and awe. Several times throughout the film one would forget that the music and sound effects came from a live organ performance. During the Mass, good quality music ministry will have this same effect. When we gather in prayer, we are so focused on our prayer as the body of Christ, that good music becomes innate and far from a distraction.”

Our parish has music at every weekend Mass, as well as any other special Masses or prayer services that may take place, such as the Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving Day Mass, and All Souls’ Day Mass. Each Mass has at least one cantor, a piano accompanist and a choir. The 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday has additional flute, bass, drum and percussion players. In addition, the parish just started a children’s choir, which will sing at Masses for holidays and feast days. Each choir has rehearsals at different times during the week.

“There are about 75 members of all ages in the Music Ministry,” Nick says. “We continue to welcome teens ages 14 and up, as well as young adults, to join any of the current choirs. All our liturgical ministries should represent the ages and cultures that make up our parish family.”

The Music Ministry includes a wide variety of music in its repertoire.

“[Our music ranges] from very traditional and classical, to Gospel and contemporary styles of Catholic and Christian hymns,” Nick says. “We would like our music to minister



to all ages, young and old, and all cultures. However, every choir is on their own journey of faith and music. Each choir’s repertoire will add new songs and replace older songs, so that the music will best fit each different scripture cycle in the Lectionary.

“Each liturgical season highlights our journey with Christ, from birth to resurrection, Pentecost, and the expectation of His return in Glory,” he adds. “These seasons

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– Nick Calzada, Director of Liturgy

through Prayer and Song



"...[B]e filled with the Spirit, addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts..." – Ephesians 5:18-19



communicate with different changes in the Mass – for example, when the *Gloria* might be omitted – and also includes the color of church decor and vestments. Especially at the beginning of this new Year of Mercy, we plan to have the music reflect and communicate these beautiful changes. Music, like all of the other ministries, holds a special role in engaging the senses within each season.”

Just recently, the parish has introduced workshops specific to each area of the Music Ministry – music director, cantor, instrumentalist, choir member, and clergy chant. The ministry also hopes to develop opportunities for music ministers to share their ministry outside of Mass –

for example, Christmas caroling at retirement homes, or fundraising concerts for charity.

All the members of the Music Ministry work hard to create music that not only accompanies the celebration of the Mass, but also elevates it – helping all parishioners to grow in faith.

“Music ministry can be thought of as the shoelaces that not only tie the liturgy together, but also unite us in prayer,” Nick says. “If the words and/or prayer of the piece of music clearly resonate in the minds and hearts of all gathered, there can be an opportunity for evangelization and a deeper faith and prayer life. It can also help ministers to serve and see the presence of Christ around them.”

For more information about the Music Ministry, or to get involved, please contact Nick Calzada via the parish office or by email at ncalzada@rechawaii.org.

Feast of St. John the Evangelist

December 27

Of the “twelve” who served Jesus Christ as his apostles during the early days of His public ministry, it is said that St. John the Evangelist was the “Beloved Disciple,” the one whom our Lord favored most.

John was a Galilean, son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother to St. James the Greater, both of whom were fishermen. The two were called by Jesus to be disciples as they were mending their nets by the Sea of Galilee.

As the Beloved Disciple, St. John the Evangelist held a special relationship with Jesus. A dedicated apostle, John was chosen by Jesus to accompany Him on the ascent of Mt. Tabor, the scene of the historic Transfiguration. St. John was also the only apostle to not forsake the Savior in the hour of his Passion and, therefore, was made guardian of the Mother of God by Jesus and took her into his home. St. John was one of the first to reach the tomb of Jesus after hearing of the resurrection and he was the first to recognize the Risen Lord at Lake Tiberias.

John remained close to the Mother of the Savior throughout her lifetime and officiated at her burial in the Garden of Gethsemane, a spot made sacred by her Son years before. He was among the other disciples who discovered the empty tomb of Mary, who 40 days after her death had been assumed into Heaven.

With his promise to Jesus for his Mother’s care fulfilled, St. John turned his full attention to carrying the message of Christ to the spiritually darkened areas of the known world, preaching throughout Asia Minor with a passion that won converts for the new faith.

Unlike the other 11 apostles, all of whom were martyred in the name of Jesus Christ, John lived into his late 90s – and by some accounts, into his 100s. This remarkable durability provided for one of the longest services

on record in the cause of Christ, a service that carried over into the second century. Some estimates claim John was personally responsible for winning over some 400,000 pagans to Christianity. Not even his uncle, St. Prochoros, who wrote about his nephew’s travels, could have envisioned such a protracted mission for the Messiah.

St. John wrote his Gospel after the other Evangelists, about 63 years after the Ascension of Christ; he is also the author of three Epistles. He was brought to Rome and, according to tradition, was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil by order of Emperor Domitian. Like the Three Children in the fiery furnace of Babylon, he was miraculously preserved unhurt. It is also believed that he was later exiled to the Island of Patmos, where he was said to have written the Book of Revelation, but afterwards returned to Ephesus.

In his extreme old age, he continued to visit the churches of Asia. St. Jerome wrote that when age and weakness grew upon him so that he was no longer able to

preach to the people, he would be carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, with great difficulty; and every time said to his flock only these words: “My dear children, love one another.”

St. John died in peace at Ephesus in the third year of Trajan – that is, the 100th of the Christian era, or the 66th year after the crucifixion of Christ.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. He is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing “the height he rose to in his gospel.” In other icons, he is shown looking up into heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciple.

St. John the Apostle and Evangelist’s feast day is celebrated on Dec. 27.



*St. John Apostle &
Evangelist Church*

Financial Report

*for period ending
September 30, 2015*

	Previous Fiscal Year Actual 7/1/2014-6/30/2015	PERIOD ENDING July 2015 - September 2015		Current Fiscal Year Budget 7/1/2015-6/30/2016
		Actual	Budget	
RECEIPTS				
Sunday Collection	782,772	198,638	198,775	795,100
Immaculate Conception	3,837	-	-	3,820
Christmas	39,335	-	-	39,320
Easter	32,718	28	-	32,720
BEMO	75,040	18,366	18,750	75,000
Sacramental Offerings	12,730	2,055	4,000	16,000
Candle Sales	27,296	6,529	6,675	26,700
Book Sales	5,430	620	1,500	6,000
Religious Education Fees	6,845	8,045	1,738	6,950
Retreat & Workshop Fees Inc Youth Activities	7,204	175	1,650	6,600
Occasional/Other Donations	23,583	3,945	4,673	22,791
Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET	1,125	408	1,500	6,000
Interest Income	6,191	1,681	1,525	6,100
WGH Rebate	25,834	1,643	3,150	12,600
Grant Funds (Also See TR Donations Below)	4,000	-	-	-
Stewardship Development Donations	35,232	-	10,000	40,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,089,172	242,133	253,936	1,095,701
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Operations	443,865	88,481	108,965	437,860
Diocesan Assessment	124,932	33,336	32,432	129,727
Rectory	45,046	9,075	13,254	53,014
Property/Facilities	86,735	25,263	24,724	98,907
Liturgy	62,282	22,550	28,616	114,464
Religious Education (K - 8) Inc Prayer Groups	119,090	33,808	26,215	104,857
Confirmation	15,402	-	2,488	9,950
RCIA	1,797	356	485	1,939
Social Ministries Inc Hui	1,959	93	680	2,720
Outreach include Weinberg	45,390	9,637	10,037	40,146
Pro-Life Ministry	2,891	619	855	3,420
Youth Ministry	26,235	4,489	7,745	30,979
Faith Formation	22,511	1,862	1,250	5,000
Stewardship Development	67,993	11,471	15,680	62,718
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,066,129	241,040	273,425	1,095,701
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	23,043	1,093	(19,489)	-
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS				
Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation: With Grateful Hearts Grant	4,000			
Stewardship Development	35,232	18,109		
Building Fund Collection (Future Construction)	35,309	3,637		
Subtotal of Temporarily Restricted Donations	74,541	21,746		
Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)	(40,034)			
TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET	34,507	21,746		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	57,550	22,839		

Notes:

In fulfillment of our stewardship virtues of accountability and transparency, the Parish Finance Council presents the above Year to Date Report

- 1.) Temporarily restricted donations include With Grateful Hearts grants, Stewardship and Building Funds. Accounting guidelines encourage nonprofits to recognize donations when pledged/received and to release restrictions when expenses are incurred.
- 2.) Change in Net Assets does not include non-cash income - change in value in Land & Building.
- 3.) Please direct questions about this report to the Finance Council.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Mililani Holiday Parade

Saturday, Dec. 5

9-10:30 a.m.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Masses: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Parish Advent Retreat

Advent Guides: Isaiah,

John the Baptist, and Mary

Presenter: Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP

Friday, Dec. 11 – 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12 – 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Advent Penance Service

Monday, Dec. 14

7 p.m.

Misa de Gallo

Dec. 16-24

Mass at 5 a.m.

Nativity Play

Friday, Dec. 18

7 p.m.



Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Church Office closed at noon

*Masses: 6 p.m. (Children's Mass)
and Midnight*

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Church Office closed

*Masses: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
(No Evening Mass)*

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31

Church Office closed at noon

Masses: 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

New Year's Day, Jan. 1

Church Office closed

Mass at 8 a.m.

