

PARISH CALENDAR

First Sunday
of Advent

November 29, 2020

Come, Lord Jesus!

Saturday, November 28	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, November 29	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, November 30	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, December 1	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Leadership Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, December 2	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 3	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 4	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, December 5	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:40:1-5, 9-11: "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

2 Pt:3:8-14: The day of the Lord will be unexpected

Mk:1:1-8: The Baptist foretells the Messiah's coming

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Masks)

Saturday Evening Mass @ 5 pm

Four Sunday Masses @ 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am & 5 pm

Weekday Masses will be at 8 am & 7 pm (Mon)

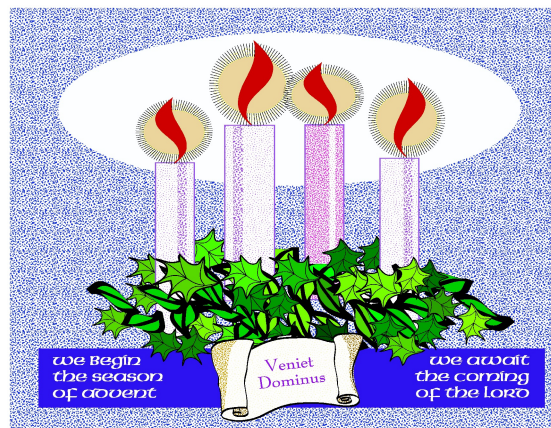
To get tickets. You can go to www.stritananakuli.org on the Banner line look "Mass Tickets" click it. You will see screen "Mass Tickets" click on **Obtain Mass Ticket through Event Brite.com here** you will then have a screen which has a picture of the front of the church "St. Rita Catholic Mass Tickets" click; on the next page will be in orange box which says **"Select a date"** select date and time you wish to get tickets. Please remember there a limited amount of seats due to social distancing. If you do not have a computer you may call the parish office between 10 am - 12 pm (Mon-Tue- Wed-Fri) for tickets

We will continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cq/

EXTENSION OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: "Since mid-March through October 31, 2020 I have issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I am hereby extending that dispensation from the obligation to attend **Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation through December 31, 2020.** As I do so, however, I urge everyone who is able to return to Mass, without undue risks to their health or the health of others, to do.

Please note that in the Diocese of Honolulu, besides all Sundays, the holy days of obligation are the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on **Tuesday, December 8; and Christmas on Friday, December 25.** Again, while all are dispensed from the obligation of attending, I urge you to do so if you can."

Bishop Larry Silva - October 13, 2020



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DESERT REJOICED AND BLOSSOMED" TALK

STORY: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Join this upcoming youth and youth adults 'talk story' with Bishop Larry Silva. He will share the fascinating story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, great evangelizer of Mexico and Patroness of the Americas and we'll 'talk story' about what this story means for us, especially during this Advent and Christmas season. More information available at www.catholichawaii.org/ooyam/yam/talkstory. RSVP HERE.

ON SALE: Today's Missal, if you would like to have Missal for Mass they are on sale now. See Mele after Mass to purchase. Cost is \$5.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Next Tuesday, December 8th, is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed virgin Mary. Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m., please reserve your tickets at Event-brite via the parish website @ www.stiritanankuli.org.

WORD OF LIFE: "Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every party of society." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary" respectlife.org/gospel-of-lifefsummary

WEEKLY READINGS

Nov 29 Sun: First Sunday of Advent

Isa:63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps:80; 1 Cor :1:3-9; Mk:13:33-37

Nov 30 Mon: Saint Andrew, Apostle

Rom:10:9-18; Ps:19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt:4:18-22

Dec 1 Tue: Advent Weekday

Isa:11: 1-10; Ps:72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk:10:21-24

Dec 2 Wed: Advent Weekday

Isa:25:6-10a; Ps:23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt:15:29-37

Dec 3 Thur: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Isa:26:1-6; Ps:118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt:7:21, 24-27

Dec 4 Fri: Advent Weekday

Isa:29:17-24; Ps:27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt:9:27-31

Dec 5 Sat: Advent Weekday

Isa:30:19-21, 23-26; Ps:147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

The season of Advent is upon us, and in today's Gospel Jesus delivers a simple message through the pen of Saint Mark: "Be watchful! Be alert!" Christian stewards understand what Jesus meant when he said, "it's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task." Good stewards realize that to each one a task is assigned by God. They have been set in a particular place and station in life, and have been gifted with unique relationships. How do we respond to the tasks or cultivate our relationships in a way that keeps us alert for the return of Christ? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social - distancing by going to our web-site www.stiritanankuli.org And click "On-line Giving" on the banner line. You can also send your Tithe/Donation via mail: St. Rita Catholic Church/ 89-318 Farrington Hwy. / Nanakuli, HI 96792

It Must Be God's Fault

It must be God's fault. That's the conclusion Isaiah reaches. And who of us hasn't thought the same? If things don't go our way, if someone hurts us, if someone leaves us—even if the mess is our own fault—we blame God. People sin, but Isaiah asks God, "Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?" People show no remorse, but Isaiah asks God, "Why do you harden our hearts so that we fear you not?" Must be God's fault.

Isaiah's prayer opens the season of Advent because of a specific request it makes. "Rend the heavens and come down." In the midst of our misfortune, sorrow, and sin, when we realize our own strength fails to make life any better, to eliminate hurt, or to erase the past, we finally turn to God for a solution. Let there be no veil concealing heaven from earth. Let God rip it open, come down here, and save us from the messiness of life. God did just that on the first Christmas Day.

As we stand on the threshold of another Advent, we ask God to do it again. Even if our mess isn't God's fault, we need God's help to set us free.

Ready or Not

When a new child is born, parents are excited. But they also wonder, "Am I ready for this?" Parenting carries responsibilities. A new child will cause unimaginable changes. There is never enough preparation for parenting. Eventually a parent realizes, "I'm as ready as I'll ever be." God usually provides them with the grace, wisdom, and patience they seek. All the spiritual gifts they want are there. The Christian community at Corinth was like a young family with new children. Having received the gift of faith, this community shared their determination to forge a way of life in union with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was an exciting time but also a nervous time. They probably wondered, "Am I ready for this?" They believed that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent. They believed they had to prepare each day to meet Christ whenever he returned. Most important, as they thought about the end, the day of their Lord Jesus Christ, they wondered, "Am I ready for this?" Paul told them yes. "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." And neither are we. As we begin this Advent, filled with excitement and nervous about the weeks ahead, it is natural to wonder, "Am I ready?" You are not lacking in any spiritual gift. Open your arms and welcome Christ!

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WATCH FOR THE LORD!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Sacred Clay

God our Father,
you are the faithful potter.
You never abandon the work of your hands.
When evil shatters us,
take us into your hands again.
Pick up the broken pieces of our lives.
Smooth our jagged edges.
Seal the fractures that weaken us.

As you fashion and refashion us,
mold us into people who are steady
and strong.
Fill us with your many spiritual gifts.
Make us unbreakable vessels of holiness
that will gleam forever in the light
of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Prepared by God

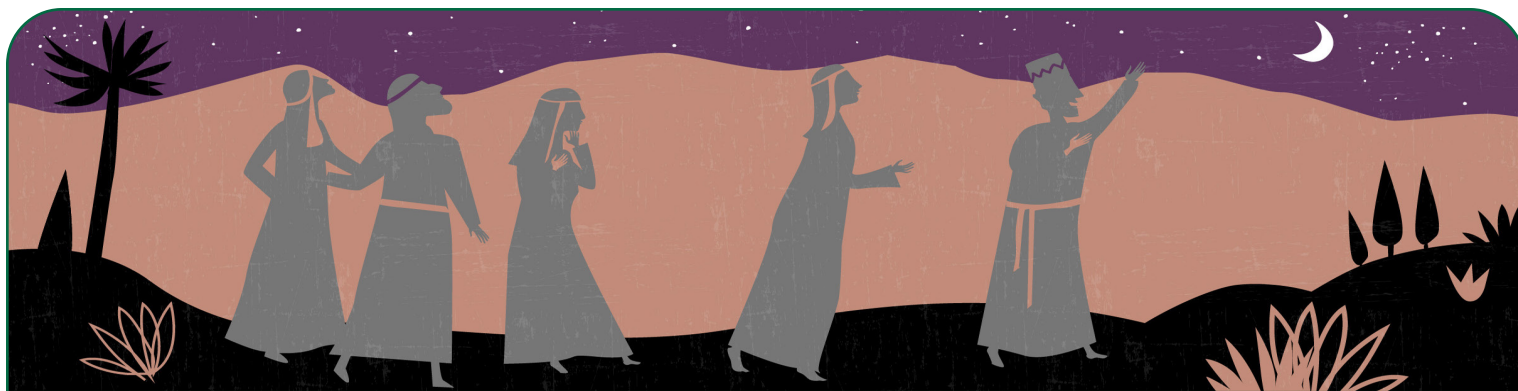


Today's Readings: Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:33–37. Initially, our First Reading may feel more suited to Lent than Advent. The prophet declares that God's people have become so sinful they are like dirty rags. They are withered, fallen leaves that are carried away by evil. The prophet also notes, however, that the people are the work of God's hands. They are God's children. He cries out for God to intervene, to rescue the people from their sin.

Only God can deliver people from evil, but we nonetheless have a role in withstanding it. The fullness of God's kingdom began with the birth of Christ, but we await its completion. As we wait for Christ's return, we, like the ser-

vants in the Gospel passage, have work to do. We must resist sin and pursue holiness with unfailing, tireless devotion. Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to show Christ that we are not only watching for his return, we are eagerly awaiting it. Our words and actions show Christ that we desire the kingdom he brings.

Our heavenly Father comes to our aid, as the ancient prophet cried out for him to do. God has given us countless spiritual gifts to resist sin and to keep us steadfast until his Son's return. As we bless our Advent wreaths today, we ask God to make them signs of his blessings upon us and reminders of the light we must bear within us until Christ vanquishes the darkness forever.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

In Jesus' day, the sea represented death because of the perils people faced on the water. When Jesus calls the fishermen to follow him, he says that just as they drew fish out of the sea, so will they draw people out of suffering and death. After Andrew spends time learning from his new master, he will set forth to catch people in the net of God's salvation. He will preach the good news so that others will call upon the name of the Lord. Learn more from the Lord by joining a Bible study this Advent. *Today's Readings: Romans 10:9–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 4:18–22.*

Tuesday, December 1

God's Peace

God's kingdom comes through a Spirit-filled ruler who puts God's will above all else. As this leader purges the land of self-interest and violence, all creation becomes part of the peace he brings, and people at last understand the salvation God offers. Such salvation is received by the childlike, by those who know that only God can bring the justice and peace for which we long. Make a list of places that are especially in need of God's peace. Pray for the people who live there. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.*

Wednesday, December 2

The Hand of the Lord

The crowds that follow Jesus are looking to him to save them. He showed God's glory as he healed them. Jesus not only heals people, he attends to other needs, too. He wipes away tears of pain and anguish. He provides food and gives people rest. As Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy, the people see God's love for them. They rejoice at God's care and protection. Today extend a caring hand toward someone who is sick and suffering. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.*

Thursday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier, Missionary

God assures us that he is our rock, our protector, the firm foundation beneath our feet. No work that we do, no undertaking, will succeed unless God supports it. Francis Xavier understood this well: he became a missionary first in India, then in Japan, where he taught people about Christ and built up new communities of faith. Pray for missionaries today, especially those who work in Asia. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1 and 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.*

Friday, December 4

With New Eyes

These readings tell how God banishes evil—the evil of injustice, fear, shame, ignorance, and physical impairments, like blindness. God's light and healing reach into every part of our world and every part of our lives. Too often we don't see God's saving presence. Like the blind men in the Gospel passage, we must seek God and call out to him so that we will see his presence with new eyes. How do your Advent and Christmas decorations help you see God's presence? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; Matthew 9:27–31.*

Saturday, December 5

Harvests

God promises to manifest himself to his people, to guide them, and to bind up their wounds. God will also provide so much water and food that even the animals enjoy abundant harvests. The real harvest, though, is us. God cultivates and gathers his people into his kingdom. Sketch images or jot down words and phrases from today's readings that especially move you. Bring your images and insights into a time of silent prayer. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8.*

