

PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday
of Advent

December 6, 2020

The Lord will come
to save the nations.



Saturday, December 5	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 6	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 7	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, December 8	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass - Immaculate Conception
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass - Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, December 9	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 10	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 11	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, December 12	... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Confession (87-1511 Nakii St.)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:61:1-2a, 10-11: The prophet announces glad tidings and vindication.

1 Thess 5:16-24: Awaiting Christ's promised return

Jn:1:6-8: "There is one coming among you. . . ."

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ADVENT RECONCILIATION:

Confession will be heard at the rectory (87-1511 Nakii St.) On **Saturday, December 12th & December 19 from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon** or by appointment.

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.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Help our elders.

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous. Envelops are in you envelope packets and at the back of church.

WORD OF LIFE: "Jesus calls each of us to 'care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible' (EV 87). . . The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end — precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation." " * Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "2020-201 Respect Life Reflection www.respectlife.org/reflection

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 6 Sun: Second Sunday of Advent

Isa:40:1-5, 9-11; Ps:85; 2 Pet :3:8-14; Mk:1:1-8

Dec 7 Mon: Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

Isa:35:1-10; Ps:85:9ab & 10, 1112, 13-14; Lk:5:17-26

Dec 8 Tue: Immaculata Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gen:3: 9-15, 20; Ps:98; Eph:1:3-6, 11-12; Lk:1:26-38

Dec 9 Wed: Advent Weekday

Isa:40:25-31; Ps:103:1-2, 3-4, 8 & 10; Mt:11:28-30

Dec 10 Thur: Advent Weekday

Isa:41:13-20; Ps:145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt:11:11-15

Dec 11 Fri: Advent Weekday

Isa:48:17-19; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Mt:11:16-19

Dec 12 Sat: Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

Num:24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps:25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt:21:23-27

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's second reading is about Christ's coming again, "The day of the Lord," Peter calls it, but that day isn't December 25th. It's that other day, that second-coming day about which Peter is concerned. He waits with great hope and anticipation for God to remake the earth into a place of perfect justice and peace. And he sets some demanding goals for the Christian community as it awaits that final day of accounting and reconciliation: strive to be at peace, without spot or blemish. Christian stewards work for peace. As we await the coming of Christmas, what can we do to promote peace in our homes, workplaces, community and world? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social - distancing by going to our web-site www.stritananakuli.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

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

Paving a Direct Route

Whenever a highway changes from two lanes to four, you can often see the improvements. The old highway follows the dips and curves of the landscape. The new highway better controls the landscape. It is straighter and more level. The engineers have figured out how to improve the road, and citizens have supported the additional expense.

People like straight highways. They are quicker, safer, and more pleasant.

In the prophecy of Isaiah, a voice cries out, "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!" John the Baptist quoted this passage to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. Make a straight highway in the wasteland. Fill in the valleys and lower the mountains. Make a smooth, direct road in your spiritual life. During Advent we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in our lives. In the past we formed habits as sturdy as two-lane roads. They get us where we want to go, but sometimes not by the most direct route.

We have only a few weeks until Christmas. It is time to move the roadblocks and detours that keep us from encountering Christ. Hardness of heart, stinginess of time, or unbending habits —which of these needs repair on your highway toward Christ?

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A herald's voice in the desert, crying

Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight his paths

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Path

God of power and might,
you sent the prophets Elijah, Isaiah,
and John the Baptist
to call your people to the path
of righteousness.
When we wander off,
you seek us out and lead us back.
Guide us onto the right path.
Remove the obstacles that block our way.

Strengthen us to continue forward in faith
and hope.
Protect us from all that endangers us.
Compel us to support each other when
we stumble or falter.
Help us to walk the path of holiness more
quickly every day
until we are running with joy into
your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Hasten the Day



Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8. All three readings today urge us to participate in the completion of God's reign. God tells Isaiah to speak words of consolation. God's people had sinned, and as a result they had been defeated by a foreign nation and scattered from their homeland. God declares that he has forgiven them and is bringing them safely back. The glorious restoration of God's people, however, will only be possible if they turn back to God and undertake the journey home.

John the Baptist declares that the Lord's day is coming whether people want it to or not, but he also insists that people can prepare themselves for it. They can acknowledge

their sins so as to receive God's mercy and be empowered by God's Spirit when the Lord comes.

Remarkably, in our Second Reading, we are told not only to prepare, but that by striving to live as holy, faithful people, we bring God's kingdom closer to completion. For those who wonder why Christ has not yet returned in glory, St. Peter replies that God is giving us time to repent. The more quickly we allow God's Spirit to work within us, the sooner God will transform our world. We depend on God for "new heavens and a new earth," but when God sees that we are preparing ourselves and helping others to prepare for this transformation, he will hasten the day of his Son's return.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 7 St. Ambrose of Milan

God will heal his people of all that afflicts them so that they will return to their homeland and begin their lives anew. The man whom Jesus heals in the Gospel passage is also given a new life. How will we live differently when we encounter God's healing and mercy? St. Ambrose's life changed dramatically when the people of Milan asked him to become their bishop. He wasn't even baptized, but he accepted the new path that God laid out for him. May we do the same. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–4; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

Our belief that God kept Mary free from sin in order to bear the sinless Son of God sets Mary apart from us. For some, Mary is too perfect to be relatable. The Second Reading reminds us that God planned for all of us to be holy. God overshadows us with his Spirit so that we, too, will live according to his will. Carefully read through today's Gospel. Then imagine the angel Gabriel appearing to you. What does God ask of you? How do you respond? *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–20; Psalm 98:1–4; Ephesians 1:3–6; 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Wednesday, December 9 Yoked

When Jesus urges us to yoke ourselves to him, we might think we are the oxen and he is walking behind us, steering us. Instead, he probably means that he is yoked alongside us, sharing the weight of whatever we are pulling. As we hear in the First Reading, God so lightens our burdens and strengthens us that we seem to have wings. Every few hours, imagine Jesus walking beside you, listening and supporting you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 10 Obstacles

God tells his people that they will cut through the mountains that block their path as they return home after being scattered by war. This time of renewal points ahead to the kingdom that Jesus brings. Those who strive to enter God's kingdom will also face obstacles, but their faithful perseverance will bring them into the fullness of God's reign. Offer people a glimpse of God's kingdom by volunteering at or donating to a local food pantry. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

Friday, December 11 Wisdom

In the Old Testament, God's wisdom is personified as Lady Wisdom. She dwells among people, teaches them, and draws them down the path of righteousness. Jesus both teaches and embodies God's wisdom. Despite the crowd's refusal to believe it, Jesus is doing the work of God. He remains with us today, guiding us down the path of righteousness. The Book of Proverbs 10–29 is a collection of wise sayings. Choose several that apply to you, and bring them into your prayer. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

The angel greeted Mary by calling her "favored one." This term implied that Mary had a patron who had commissioned her for some kind of work. Since Mary was a young woman from an insignificant village and God was her patron, she was understandably worried about what she could do for God. As it turned out, she could do a great deal. Just as God favored her, so she revealed God's favor to others, such as the indigenous people of Mexico. What do you need Our Lady of Guadalupe to reveal to you? *Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

