

# PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday  
of Advent

December 13, 2020

My soul rejoices in my God!

REJOICE  
for the LORD is near!  
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Saturday, December 12	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 13	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, December 15	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 16	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 17	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 18	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, December 19	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Confession (87-1511 Nakii St.)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

2 Sam:7:15, 8b-12, 14a, 16: Promise of an heir from the house of David

Rom: 16:25-27: Everyone is offered salvation through Christ.

Lk:1:26-38: The angel Gabriel announces the prophecy's fulfillment

**(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](http://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-MjmZpe7Cg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/)**

**EXTENSION OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION:** "One of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as a bishop was the suspension of public Masses due to the coronavirus pandemic from mid-March to late May, 2020. Since then the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days has been dispensed. In light of the ongoing pandemic. **I am extending the dispensation through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the day before Ash Wednesday.**

While I am extending this dispensation for the sake of those who are at higher risk if they should be infected with COVID-19 virus, **I would like to urge all our parishioners who can safely do so to return to worship at Sunday Mass.**

**Bishop Larry Silva - December 6, 2020**



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ADVENT RECONCILIATION:

Confession will be heard at the rectory (87-1511 Nakii St.) On **Saturday, 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: Make a difference.** "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous. Envelops are in you envelope packets and at the back of church.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Dec 13 Sun: Third Sunday of Advent**

Isa:61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk:1; 1 Thess :5:16-24; Jn:1:6-8, 19-28

**Dec 14 Mon: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

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

**Dec 15 Tue: Advent Weekday**

Zep:3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps:34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23; Mt:21:28-32

**Dec 16 Wed: Advent Weekday**

Isa:45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps:85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk:7:18b-23

**Dec 17 Thur: Advent Weekday**

Gen:49:2, 8-10; Ps:72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt:1:1-17

**Dec 18 Fri: Advent Weekday**

Jer:23:5-8; Ps:72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt:1:18-25

**Dec 19 Sat: Advent Weekday**

Judg:13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps:71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk:1:5-37

## NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This does not sound easy in a time of pandemic. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all." This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances, even during these uncertain and stressful times, because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope. **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](http://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

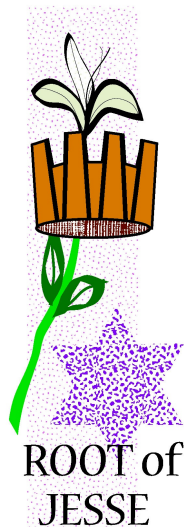
## MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

### A Christmas Wish List

Young children sit on Santa's lap to answer the question that consumes them these days: What do you want for Christmas? The child in each of us still wants stuff like toys and new clothes. But deep inside us we have more basic needs. We need security, fairness, and love. We want something huge for Christmas. We want peace on earth and justice for the oppressed. We want poverty eliminated and wars ceased.

Isaiah promises we will not be disappointed. He promises that God will do such wondrous things that justice and praise will spring up in every nation. When God is the joy of our soul, Isaiah says, a robe of salvation clothes us and a mantle of justice enfolds us. When God is our joy, we feel as rich as royalty, no matter how poor our state. What does the earth want for Christmas? It wants good news for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, and release for prisoners. The earth wants what God alone can provide. What do you want for Christmas? Is it something for you or something for the earth? Will it hinder or help the earth get what it needs?

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# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Longing

God, our faithful Lord,  
you accomplish your will in all things.  
We await the fulfillment of your promises.  
We long for the fullness of your kingdom,  
and that longing is our ceaseless prayer.  
Until the advent of that glorious day,  
lift up our hearts in unwavering joy.  
Show us the light that has already come into  
our world,

so that we may give you thanks in all that  
we do.  
Keep us holy and blameless  
as we undertake works of justice and  
promote peace,  
so that others may see and hear and know  
your goodness,  
and be drawn to your light.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

## Expectations



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11; Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28.* St. Paul tells the Christians in Thessalonica to discern carefully whether a word or action is truly from God, but he also warns them not to oppose the action of God's Spirit simply because it is new or unfamiliar to them. A few decades earlier some people wondered if John the Baptist was acting according to God's Spirit. They questioned him thoroughly, but despite John's testimony, they refused to believe that God had sent him. They did not rejoice in his words because John did not fit their expectations.

Although the words of our First Reading are beautiful and compelling, some people did not believe this prophecy

because their experience was very different. The prophet describes the glorious restoration of Israel, but decades of ruin made the fulfillment of that promise seem remote. People struggled to rejoice in the prophet's words.

When God doesn't meet our expectations, we struggle to rejoice, too. We may question what, if anything, God is doing. As we light the pink candle of our Advent wreath, we ask God to permeate our darkness, especially our perplexed hearts. We ask God to help us see all that God is doing and wants to do through us. We also ask God to help us meet his expectations for us: expectations that we will always seek his light and rejoice and give thanks in the light we will find.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 14

#### Authority

Balaam has been hired to curse Israel, but instead he blesses God's people. He insists that he speaks for God. When the elders in the Gospel passage ask Jesus by what authority he speaks, he turns their question back on them. He asks these leaders to make that judgment themselves. They abdicate their authority by refusing to answer. In time, Jesus' words, like Balaam's, are proved true. Pray that all who possess authority submit to the authority of God. *Today's Readings: Numbers 24:2–7, 15–17a; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 21:23–27.*

### Tuesday, December 15

#### Despite the Delay

Zephaniah condemns the people for failing to obey God. They are like the second son in the parable who says he will do his father's will but then doesn't. The first son rebels against his father, but something makes him change his mind. Jesus commends those who obey God, no matter how long it takes them to do so. Jesus then rebukes those who profess their faithfulness but persist in their disobedience. What are some promises that you have made that you have not yet fulfilled? *Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21:28–32.*

### Wednesday, December 16

#### He Has Come

John the Baptist wanted people to repent in order to receive God's mercy. Jesus, by contrast, offered God's mercy in order to inspire people to repent. Upon questioning Jesus, John is invited to examine Jesus' ministry and decide for himself. Jesus' ministry evokes the life-giving work of God that we hear about in Isaiah. Read slowly through the First Reading, and pray for God to transform our world. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.*

### Thursday, December 17

#### Titles

The First Reading conveys strength, while Matthew presents an orderly progression of the generations that culminates in the birth of Jesus. Despite the image of strength, Jesus is not the strong and mighty Messiah that people expect, nor does his ministry go as they would have planned it. Look up the "O" Antiphons and reflect upon how Jesus fulfills these titles. *Today's Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*

### Friday, December 18

#### Totally New

Jeremiah draws on Israel's past as he assures them that God will lead them again through the difficult times they are facing. Joseph had no such experiences to draw from when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He had to hope without knowing what was happening and without knowing what he was hoping for. Despite whatever doubt he might have felt, he obeys God immediately. Volunteer at or make a donation to a crisis pregnancy center. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

### Saturday, December 19

#### A Muted Response

By bearing and rearing children, the women of ancient times ensured the continuation of their families and tribes. Manoah's wife and Elizabeth would have felt neglected or even punished by God because they did not have children. When these women discover that they are pregnant, they rejoice. Zechariah's response is muted: he either does not believe the angel or does not trust the experience he is having. Consider how you have failed to accept what God is doing in your life. Discuss this during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab, 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*





ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
WITNESS TO JESUS

December 6, 2020

To: All Parishioners of the Diocese of Honolulu

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you!

One of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as a bishop was the suspension of public Masses due to the coronavirus pandemic from mid-March to late May, 2020. Since then, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days has been dispensed. In light of the ongoing pandemic, **I am extending the dispensation through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the day before Ash Wednesday.**

While I am extending this dispensation for the sake of those who are at higher risk if they should be infected with the COVID-19 virus, **I would like to urge all our parishioners who can safely do so to return to worship at Sunday Mass.**

Why does the Church put such great importance on our celebration of Sunday Mass that it is a serious obligation for all Catholics to attend every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation? It is because the Eucharist is our unique physical encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ, who longs to be one with us and to strengthen us for our mission of living in his love and sharing his Good News with others. The Eucharist is not simply a series of rituals in which we engage, but it is the Memorial that Jesus himself left us in which he makes himself present to us. He offers himself to us in a physical manner, hidden under the guise of bread and wine, which by the power of the Holy Spirit invoked by the priest in the midst of his beloved Bride, the Church, become his Body and Blood. Jesus died on the cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. But he is the “living bread come down from heaven,” who offers himself as real food and real drink to give us eternal life. (See the Gospel of John, Chapter 6.)

When his disciples first encountered the risen Jesus, it changed them from deserters and cowards into bold proclaimers of his Gospel who found joy even in offering their lives for him. So Jesus wants to encounter us to transform us so that we can proclaim to a world gone astray that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Yes, we can encounter Jesus in our private prayer, in reading the Scriptures, in feeding the poor and doing the works of mercy – and we must do these things! – but there is nothing compared to a physical encounter with him in the Eucharist. This is why the Church insists that all its members, whenever they are not legitimately impeded, come together in intimate communion with the Body of Christ in the Eucharist, so that the Body of Christ can renew and transform our world with renewed vigor of the living Christ Jesus.

Yes, under our current circumstances, we do have to make adjustments and live a “new normal.” But there is nothing that compares to the great gift of his Real Presence that Jesus offers us in the Eucharist. We look forward to welcoming you back!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small cross-like mark at the beginning.

Most Reverend Larry Silva  
Bishop of Honolulu