

# PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

December 20, 2020

O Lord, my Rock, my Savior!

Saturday, December 19	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 20	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 22	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 23	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 24	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa del Gallo
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
	..... 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
Friday, December 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass
Saturday, December 26	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

Peace on Earth  
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## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Genesis:15: 1-6, 21:1-3: Abram and Sarah put faith in the Lord, and gave the name Isaac to their son.**  
**Hebrews:11:8, 11-12: The descendants of Abraham and Sarah are "as numerous as the stars in the sky."**  
**Luke: 2:22-40: Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated.**

**(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)

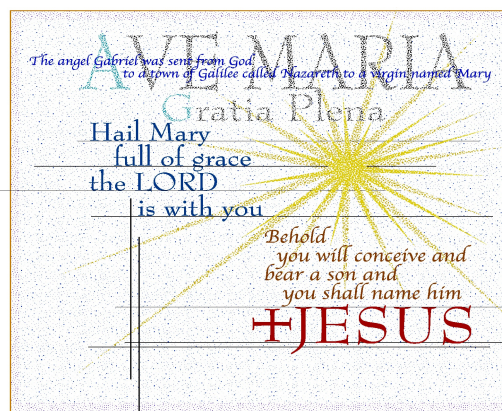
To get tickets. You can go to [www.stritananakuli.org](http://www.stritananakuli.org) on the Banner line look "Mass Tickets" click it. You will see screen "Mass Tickets" click on **Obtain Mass Ticket through Event Brite.com here** you will then have a screen which has a picture of the front of the church "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**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Thanks for giving!**

"We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating to last week's special collection.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at [www.respectlife.org/support-her](http://www.respectlife.org/support-her)

USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-life Activities; "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

### **WEEKLY READINGS**

**Dec 20 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Sam:7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps:89; Rom :16:25-27; Lk:1:26-38

**Dec 21 Mon: Advent Weekday**

SongsofSong:2: 8-14; Ps:33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk:1:39-45

**Dec 22 Tue: Advent Weekday**

1 Sam12:24-28; 1 Sam:2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk:46-56

**Dec 23 Wed: Advent Weekday**

Mal:3:1-4, 23-24; Ps:25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk:1:57-66

**Dec 24 Thur: Advent Weekday**

2 Sam:7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk:1:67-79

**Dec 25 Fri: Christmas**

Isa:62:11-12; Ps:97; Tit:3: 4-7; Lk:2:15-20

**Dec 26 Sat: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

Acts:6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps:31:3cd-4, 6, & 8ab, 16bc & 17;

Mt:10:17-22

### **The House of Belonging: by David Whyte**

*I awoke this morning in the gold light turning this way and that thinking for a moment it was one day like any other.*

*But the veil had gone from my darkened heart and I thought it must have been the quiet candlelight that filled my room, it must have been the first easy rhythm with which I breathed myself to sleep, it must have been the prayer I said speaking to the otherness of the night.*

*And I thought this is the good day you could meet your love, this is the gray day someone close to you could die.*

*This is the day you realize how easily the thread is broken between this world and the next and I found myself sitting up in the quiet pathway of light, the tawny close grained cedar burning round me like fire and all the angels of this housely heaven ascending through the first roof of light the sun has made.*

*This is the bright home which I live, this is where I ask my friends to come, this is where I want to love all the things it has taken me so long to learn to love.*

*This is the temple of my adult aloneness and I belong to that aloneness as I belong to my life.*

*There is no house like the house of belonging.[Shared with my by a Cistercian monk]*

## **NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP**

*In today's Gospel reading we have the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to be the promoting of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord? **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**

#### **God Loves a Cheerful Giver—and Receiver**

*David and God were not exactly equals. David was king, but that still gave him no leverage over God. Even when David wanted to do God a favor, God had complete control over the success of the king's intent.*

*David had a great idea. He saw how beautiful was the house where he lived and how simple was the cedar house for the ark of God. David wanted to build God a glorious temple. But God said no.*

*God had other ideas. It was not David's position to provide a home for God. It was God's position to provide a home for David. God gave David more than a home. God promised that David's throne would stand firm forever.*

*God's promise was fulfilled in two ways. David did not build God a temple, but his son Solomon did. And David's throne would last forever because of a child born into the house and lineage of David, a holy child born in the city of David, Bethlehem. In preparing for Christmas, you have tried to do God favors through your prayers and your charity toward others. But God is doing you the favor. God gives you the gift of salvation in the mystery of Christmas.*

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*Be it done unto me according to your word*

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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Waiting

God of wisdom and strength,  
we await you.

Like David, we await your prophetic guidance  
and the peace you promise.

Like Mary, we await the liberation  
of all people

and the fullness of your kingdom.

Do not keep us waiting.

Deliver us from hatred, ignorance,  
and apathy.

Bring us your justice and your healing.

Give us your wisdom, compassion,  
and courage.

Show us your light.

We await you, for you alone can save us.

Come quickly, Lord! Do not delay.

We await you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

## Favored Ones



*Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38.* God chose David, the youngest son in his family and a mere shepherd, to be king. David was a skilled and competent leader, but he was also devout. As he acknowledges all that God has done for him, he expresses his wish to do something for God, namely, to build God a temple. God replies that he needs no such favors from David. God then elevates the king still further by promising that David's descendants would rule over Israel forever.

Mary, an insignificant woman from a Galilean village, would never have imagined how much God would favor her. She does not think there is anything important she could do

for God, but the angel assures her that there is. Though startled and hesitant, Mary accepts God's will. She is ultimately elevated even above King David. She both bears God's Son and becomes part of the new era that this long-awaited descendant of David brings about.

We are God's favored ones, too. God strengthens us to live devoutly. He speaks to us in the law and the prophets and now also in the letters of the Apostles and in the Gospels. He sent his Son to reveal his extraordinary love. The love of God is a mystery that broadens and deepens the more we enter into it. We are surrounded and uplifted by this endless love. God invites us to bear that love in the world so that all will know his grace and favor.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 21

#### Leaping for Joy

Today's readings urge us to rejoice, even to leap for joy. Such joy is not a mere emotion but a state of being. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we simultaneously look further ahead to his return in glory. God came into our world, and we know that God will come again. Even now, God is with us. God will never leave us. Play music such as Handel's "Messiah" and sing or dance for joy. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

### Tuesday, December 22

#### Reversals

Hannah at last bears a child through the power of God. In thanksgiving, she dedicates her son for service to the Lord. Having just had her own experience of reversal, Hannah then prophesies about the changes of fortune that await Israel. Centuries later, Mary echoes Hannah's words as she voices her prophetic hymn. Use Hannah's song or Mary's Magnificat to pray for all those who need God to lift them up. *Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

### Wednesday, December 23

#### Purification

Like other prophets, Elijah helped cleanse God's people by stopping their worship of foreign gods. In the First Reading, we hear that Elijah will return to purify another generation of God's people. John the Baptist was Elijah for the people of his day. In every age, we need prophets to help us purify our hearts and prepare for the fullness of God's presence. Pray with an image of John the Baptist. In what ways should you purify yourself to prepare for the day of the Lord? *Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

### Thursday, December 24

#### Rest from Our Enemies

God has granted King David and all Israel safety from their enemies. This time of peace was a glimpse of the peace that God would one day bring to the whole world. Zechariah prophesies that this new era is about to begin. God will vanquish violence, pain, greed, hatred, injustice—all of the evil that endangers us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, pray for those people and places that especially need God's peace. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

### Friday, December 25

#### Among Shepherds

We don't know what Mary expected when she became the mother of God's Son. Probably, she didn't expect to lay this divine child in a feeding trough nor to be visited by shepherds. She must have been baffled, but she calmly accepted and reflected on all of it. The surprising way in which God chose to free us from evil and death is something for us to ponder, too. In the midst of what might be a full and busy day, take some time to sit before a nativity scene and reflect on its meaning. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20.*

### Saturday, December 26

#### St. Stephen, the First Martyr

The harrowing story of the stoning of Stephen is an abrupt change from the joy and peace of Christmas day. St. Stephen's witness, however, is not one of fear and pain but of devotion to Christ. St. Stephen not only fulfills Jesus' words about persecution, he also dies like Jesus: he entrusts himself to God and forgives his persecutors. Is there someone you should forgive this Christmas season? *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:8–10; 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.*

