

## PARISH CALENDAR

Feast of the  
Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2020

Our God lives now among us!

Saturday, December 26	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 27	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 30	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 31	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, January 1	..... 8:00 a.m.	<b>MASS - MOTHER OF GOD</b>
		<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY</b>
Saturday, January 2	..... 4:00-4:45 pm	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Isaiah:60: 1-6: The glory of the Lord shines upon us.**  
**Ephesians:3:2-3a, 5-6: The Gentiles are coheirs in Christ.**  
**Matthew: 2:1-12: Jesus is revealed to the wise and the powerful.**

JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

pray for us!

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**(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-MjmZpe7Cq/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cq/)**

**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.**

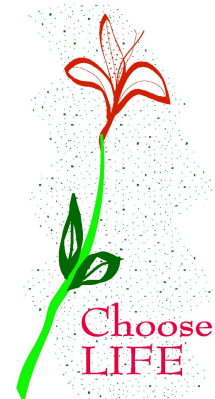
**Bishop Larry Silva - December 6, 2020**

### Living God's Word



Spend a few quiet moments in prayer, thanking God for calling us to be part of God's holy family, for giving us at baptism and at confirmation the gift of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit has been poured into our hearts and dwells within us, binding us together.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance." **USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-life Activities; Living Out Christmas in the New Year**"

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Dec 27 Sun: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

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

**Dec 28 Mon: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

1 Jn:1: 5-2:2; Ps:124: 2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt:2:13-18

**Dec 29 Tue: 5<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

1 Jn:2:3-11; Ps: 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk:2:22-35

**Dec 30 Wed: 6<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

1 Jn:2:12-17; Ps:96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk:2:36-40

**Dec 31 Thur: 7<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

1 Jn:2:18-21; Ps:96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn:1:1-18

**Jan 1 Fri: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Num:6:22-27; Ps:67; Gal:4: 4-7; Lk:2:16-21

**Jan 2 Sat: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

1 Jn:2:22-28; Ps:98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn:1:19-28

## Reflecting on God's Word

On Christmas we celebrate God becoming human, when the face of creation was changed. We ponder that great mystery of the Incarnation: Jesus is true God and truly human. The divine has entered into communion with the human in the body and soul of Jesus of Nazareth.

Christmas is not a single day, however, but an entire season. Today, the Sunday after Christmas, we ponder the Holy Family. What difference does this mystery of the Incarnation make for families? Jesus came to bring together the children of Israel into a new family, a family united not by blood but by faith in him. So in today's Gospel we see some of the first members of that family. Luke's Gospel has been called the Gospel of Jesus as the compassion of God, the Gospel of prayer, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit; we can also think of it as the Gospel of family. He first introduces us to Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, parents of John the Baptist. Then we meet Mary and Joseph.

Today we meet two other family members, Simeon and Anna, not related by blood, but only by faith in the promises of the God of Israel. Each sees in the child Jesus the glory of Israel and the light for the Gentiles.

Christmas reminds us that by baptism into Christ we are now part of God's family. As God's family, "God's chosen ones," as Paul reminded the Colossians (3:62), we are to put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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Place the LORD at the center  
of your families' lives

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## NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

When Jesus is presented in the Temple, our Blessed Mother formally offers him to God's service without reservation. It is a service that Simeon prophetically foretells: a service to God that will turn the old laws and cultural norms upside down. As we await the dawn of a new year, are we destined to hold on to old habits and customs tightly or like Jesus, are we willing to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel in new and creative ways?

**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

### The Miracle of Birth

No matter whose child you are, you are a blessing. The miracle of your existence is a gift from God.

Today we remember the special relationships that exist among family members. We celebrated with family and friends on Christmas, but now, in the days after, we look to the Holy Family as an example for our households, and we thank God for the family we have received.

One of the stories we remember today is about Abraham's family. God promised that he would father a child. But Abraham was old. He complained that his inheritance would pass to his steward because he had no son.

God told Abraham that he was wrong. There would be a son. So even in his old age, Abraham put his faith in God's promise. Only then did Sarah conceive Abraham's child.

The birth of Isaac was a miracle. The birth of every child is a miracle. Your birth was a miracle too.

Do you know the circumstances of your own birth? Were your parents hoping for you? Were you a surprise? Even if you surprised them, you did not surprise God, who promised you life in the eternal plan of salvation. You are part of God's holy family.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

Lectionary for Mass © 2001 CCD



Live as the Holy Family. Unite yourselves  
in love and respect for each other, live in peace  
with all people and pray that you may share  
in the life of the Lord.

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# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



## The Whole Family

God our Father,  
you entrusted your Son to Joseph and Mary,  
who readily accepted all that came into  
their lives.

They responded with humility  
and faithfulness  
to the future you envisioned for them.  
Help us imitate their fidelity  
to you and to each other.

Favor us with wisdom, goodness, and peace.  
Strengthen your love within us,  
within our homes,  
and within our faith communities  
so that we may embrace all that comes  
into our lives  
and welcome the future you envision for us  
and for the whole human family.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**Inspiring Holiness**



*Today's Readings: Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3 or Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9; Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19 or Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:22–40.* Although we use the word *holy* to refer to someone who is good or pious, the term literally means that someone or something is “set apart” for God. God set Abraham apart by making him the father of countless descendants. However, did God choose Abraham because Abraham was good, or did God’s promises call forth goodness from Abraham?

When it comes to Mary and Joseph, it may seem obvious that they were good and pious, but Jesus’ parents must have also grown in holiness as they faced the unique task of raising God’s Son. God also called forth holiness in Simeon

and Anna when he inspired them to prophesy about the child Jesus. Jesus, too, though set apart by his divine nature, also “grew and became strong” as God called forth holiness from him.

In what ways is God calling forth holiness from us? Perhaps we must care for aging parents or work with a difficult sibling or child. Perhaps we are struggling to treat a member of Christ’s body with compassion, humility, or patience. In such moments, God calls forth holiness from us. When we allow that goodness to flow forth, we inspire holiness in others. By God’s grace and the examples of holiness that we offer each other, we become more fully the holy family of God.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 28

#### Feast of the Holy Innocents

Herod shed the blood of others in order to protect his reign. Jesus shed his own blood in order to bring others into his reign. One viciously protected himself and his power, while the other readily surrendered it. Each day we, too, act in ways that are ultimately death-dealing or life-giving. What must we do to make sure that each day we turn away from darkness and toward the light and life of Christ? *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5–2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.*

### Tuesday, December 29

#### Stepping into the Light

While fulfilling the requirements of the Jewish Law, Jesus' parents encounter Simeon, who prophesies that God's love incarnate has illuminated the world. When confronted by the light of Christ, however, people too often prefer the darkness. We keep walking in our self-righteousness, greed, or anger. Spend some time reflecting on Jesus' commandment to love one another. To whom can you show greater love this week? *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.*

### Wednesday, December 30

#### Favor

God favored the prophets Simeon and Anna with insight into the child Jesus. God especially favored his Son, who grew in wisdom and strength. God likewise favors those who follow his Son, bestowing upon them knowledge, victory over evil, and eternal life. St. John exhorts us to cling to God's favor and resist favoring the things of the world. What particular favor could you do for someone as a way of celebrating the favor that God has shown us all? *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.*

### Thursday, December 31

#### Choosing Faith

We speak of our faith as a gift, but we must choose to accept this gift. In both readings for today, we hear that some people did not accept God's gift of grace and truth in Jesus. As we try to understand why people abandon their faith, we gain insight by reflecting on our moments of doubt. What circumstances have challenged your faith? Bring your reflections into a prayer for those who are struggling in similar ways. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

### Friday, January 1

#### Mary, Mother of God

The blessing that Aaron gave the Israelites was incarnated in Jesus. God now blesses us by filling our hearts with the Spirit of his Son. As Jesus' mother, Mary physically bore that blessing within herself, rightly earning the title "Mother of God." Mary emerged from humble origins to be the most revered woman in the Church. Make a list of all the titles for Mary that you can think of. Choose one or two of them, and learn why that title came to be used for our Lady. *Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

### Saturday, January 2

#### St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

"Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you." John the Baptist prepared people to follow and remain with Jesus. St. Basil and St. Gregory helped the Church to remain steadfast in faith by giving brilliant and compelling testimony about Jesus. What testimony have you received about Jesus that helps you remain with him? *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

