

PARISH CALENDAR

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you!

Saturday, January 2	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, January 3	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, January 4	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
Tuesday, January 5	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, January 6	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, January 7	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, January 8	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, January 9	..... 4:00-4:45 pm	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah:55: 1-11: All who are thirsty, come to the water!

1 John:5:1-9: The Spirit, the water and the blood all testify.

Mark: 1:7-11: When John baptized Jesus, the sky opened and the Spirit descended like a dove.

(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: "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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Living God's Word



The Church is the new Israel, called to attract all people to the Lord. We must be "the place where the child" is found today (Matthew 2:9). God's glory shines through the Church and, despite our many flaws, we are called to become the "place" where everyone can find the Lord and "[do] him homage" (2:11).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 48TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE: Thursday, January 21st at 6 pm, Mass with Bishop Larry Silva; Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7 pm to 12 midnight. Please register for Mass and Adoration time @ <https://bit.ly/RespectLifeMassandAdorationJan21>. **On Friday January 22nd from 4 pm-6pm there will be Virtual event.** This year's theme "For We are God's Masterpiece." To participate the virtual event, **RSVP by January 7th** to Janet Hochberg at (808)225-4511, or email: janet@hilifealliance.org, Monday-Friday between 9 am -4 pm An event login will be sent to you no later than Wednesday, January 20th.

WORD OF LIFE: "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him. . . Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." **USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-life Activities; "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary**

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 3 Sun: The Epiphany of the Lord

Isa:60:1-6,: Ps:72; Eph :3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt:2:1-12

Jan 4 Mon: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn:3:22-4:6; Ps:2: 7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt:4:12-17, 23-25

Jan 5 Tue: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn:4:7-10; Ps: 72: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk:6:34-44

Jan 6 Wed: Christmas Weekday

1 Jn:4:11-18; Ps:72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk:6:45-52

Jan 7 Thur: Christmas Weekday

1 Jn:4:19-5:4; Ps:72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17; Lk:4:14-22a

Jan 8 Fri: Christmas Weekday

1 Jn:5:5-13; Ps:67; Gal:14:7-12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk:5:12-16

Jan 9 Sat: Christmas Weekday

1 Jn:5:14-21; Ps:149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Jn:3:22-30

Reflecting on God's Word

What are the major attractions in your area? Are they natural wonders, spectacular buildings, engaging activities, powerful people, works of art? We expect people to stream to see rock stars and queens, the Eiffel Tower and the Grand Canyon. In today's scriptures, however, we see "tourists" attracted to two very lowly and humble "sights."

Jerusalem was a sorry sight when the scripture from Isaiah was written. The prophet's vision must have seemed impossible to those who heard this message. And yet, today Jerusalem is a major tourist attraction. We also know that through the Jews many other people—Christians and Muslims—have been attracted to the one Lord.

Jesus himself must have seemed very weak and insignificant in comparison to the rich and powerful King Herod, and later on compared to the priests and Pharisees. Yet, even from his birth, people streamed to him. Like the "tourists" in today's Gospel, people saw something in him that led them to worship and serve the Lord. And through him they came to understand what God intended for their life journeys.

—Virginia Stillwell

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accept our gifts also, o LORD



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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

Caravans of Camels

About those camels, we are not too sure about them. Yes, every nativity scene shows the Magi seated on stately dromedaries, or leading their beasts of burden by bit and rein. But, quite honestly, the story of the Magi never tells us how they got there. They could have traveled on foot, in chariot, on horseback, on elephants, or by camel—but we just do not know.

The reason we keep putting them on camels in our art is because of Isaiah's prophecy. He predicted that caravans of camels would fill Jerusalem and that people from the East would come bearing gold and frankincense. "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!" he proclaims. "Your light has come."

In Matthew's story, the Magi realize that Jerusalem's light has come. They follow the star and bring their gifts of gold and frankincense. Myrrh, too. By telling about these gifts, Matthew turns our attention back to Isaiah. Reading that prophecy, we realize that the light Isaiah mentioned is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

When we see the Magi seated on camels, we are remembering Isaiah. When we remember Isaiah, we remember the light that came to shatter the darkness of our world. Those camels carry hope. *Lectonary 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. Lectonary for Mass © 2001, CCD.*



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FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



At Our Rising

God of glory,
at its rising, the star drew Magi
who traveled to Jerusalem
bearing gifts for your Son.
At his rising, your Son appeared
to his followers,
who traveled to distant lands
bearing the gift of salvation for everyone.
At our rising each day may we, your people,

move forward in faith and hope.
May we become gifts for each other,
gifts that enrich, that guide, heal, console,
and uplift
so that at our rising from the dead
you may receive us into the light of your
eternal glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, January 3, 2021

One God, One People



Today's Readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.
When God led his people out of Egypt, they believed in the existence of many gods. In the centuries that followed, they would come to know that there was only one God, the Lord of heaven and earth. The First Reading reveals that not only the Jews but all people come to believe in the Lord alone. People from all across the world bring gifts and sacrifices to Jerusalem to pay homage to the one true God.

The arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem fulfills Isaiah's prophecy. By undertaking the long journey to pay homage to the newborn king, these Gentiles venerate the God of Israel. They reveal that "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the

same body." In Christ, God invites all people to share in his divine life and glory.

The revelation we celebrate today is thus not only about who God is, it is also about the people God empowers us to become. The images in Isaiah's prophecy portray people acting in unity, in harmony, and with a common purpose. They praise God, which means they acknowledge all that God is and embrace all that God stands for: kindness, patience, compassion, truth, mercy, justice. As we pay homage to the newborn king and strive to imitate his selfless love, we become part of this epiphany, part of God's great love, and we help others who are lost in the darkness to find and follow the light.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 4 Still Shining

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whom we celebrate today, was the first person from the United States to be canonized. She also founded the first Catholic school for girls and the Sisters of Charity. St. Elizabeth found ways to participate in the ministry of Jesus, spread God's kingdom, and keep the light of Christ shining. Learn more about St. Elizabeth. Ask for her intercession as you discern how you can more fully receive and share the light of Christ. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 3:22—4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.

Tuesday, January 5 This Is Love

God's love is boundless and tireless. God loved us into existence. God incarnated his love in Jesus, who revealed God's love in every aspect of his ministry, from urging love for our enemies to healing and feeding people. Through Christ, God loves us into eternal life. If we have received this love, our lives will overflow with love for others. Share God's love today by volunteering at a soup kitchen or visiting someone who is sick or homebound. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:34–44.

Wednesday, January 6 Perfecting Love

We're told that "there is no fear in love," and yet the disciples are terrified of Jesus as he strides toward them on the surface of the sea. We love God, and yet we are frightened of his power, his greatness, and even his love. The more we encounter God's love, the more imperfect we feel. Our fears will fade only when we accept God's love, when we welcome that love and remain in it every day, every hour, every moment of our lives. Meditate on a crucifix or other image of God's love. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13; Mark 6:45–52.

Thursday, January 7 Look Around

St. John insists that our love for God, whom we do not see, must overflow into love for others, whom we do see. Too often, however, we don't see the people who most need our love. Jesus points them out in today's Gospel passage: they are people in prisons, homeless shelters, treatment centers, orphanages, and nursing homes. They live in the poorest part of town, the places we never see, the places we won't go. Look at a map of where you live. Who are all the "hidden" people in your area? *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:19—5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22a.

Friday, January 8 Sharing in the Victory

Eternal life flows from God the Father through his Son to the world. The leper who met Jesus experienced this new life. All that he suffered—physical pain, loneliness, hunger, sorrow—was lifted from him at the word and gentle touch of Jesus. What in your life needs to be healed, cleansed, and restored? Pray Psalm 130, and imitate the leper by prostrating yourself before the Lord. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.

Saturday, January 9 Belong to God

As we conclude our reading of the First Letter of John, we are reminded that sin and evil persist in our world. God's Son became human and shares his light and life with us, yet even we who are baptized in his name sometimes fall back into sin. We continue to need his light, his word, his Church. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, celebrate all the ways God has incarnated his love in your life. Ask forgiveness for those times when you have failed to receive and to share this love. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5 and 6a and 9b; John 3:22–30.

