

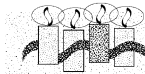
PARISH CALENDAR

First Sunday
of Advent

December 1, 2019

The earth will yield its increase!

Saturday, Nov 30	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Sunday, Dec 1	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
	..... 10:45 a.m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Monday, Dec 2	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, Dec 3	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE
Wednesday, Dec 4	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, Dec 5	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, Dec 6	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, Dec 7 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
 5:00 p.m.	Mass



COME, LORD JESUS

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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah: 11:1-10: Isaiah's poetic yearning for the one who will restore peace to Israel.

Romans: 15:4-9: Paul prays for hope and harmony.

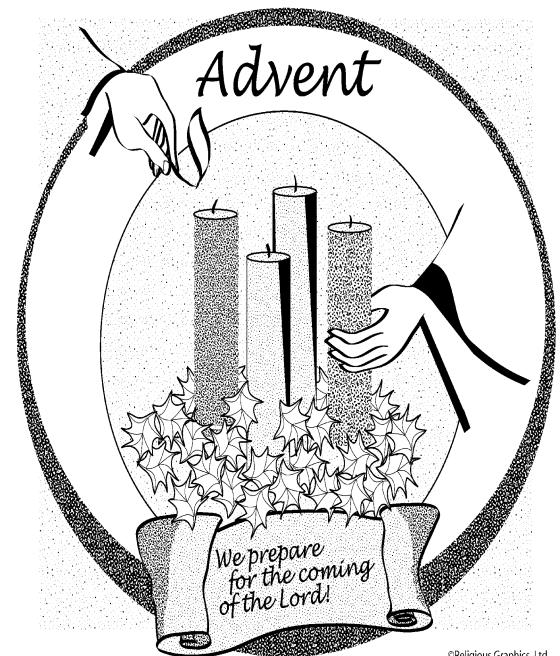
Matt:3:1-12: John the Baptist preaches repentance.

The dawn of which Isaiah speaks is bright and special indeed. The prophet's elegant words offer us the first image of a messianic time. This vision is echoed in the angelic greetings of the Incarnation: "Peace on earth to those on whom God's favor rests." Here, in Isaiah's vision, all nations will stream up the high mountain. All people will come bearing in their hands the tools of husbandry and nurture. The tools of war have been transformed, and war will be no more. The messianic time will be a time of peace and justice among all nations.

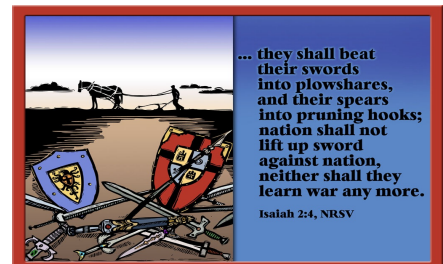
Matthew's Gospel was written at a time when a good many followers of Jesus looked forward to his Second Coming. The mere taste of total victory was enough to unbalance the sturdiest of souls, who asked and were asked: "Why take up the tools of everyday labor? Why not just wait for the great coming of the Lord?"

This problem had to be addressed and it was. First, Matthew's Gospel has Jesus referring to the story of Noah. Note the seeming tranquility of the inhabitants of the earth, who appeared to be ordinary people pursuing their ordinary lives. This was not the problem. The problem was they were so occupied as to be "totally unconcerned," presumably about the things of God and about their obligations toward others. These people drifted into a state of oblivion or shallow silliness and failed to discern what a people with a soul should be expected to discern. Alas, so few saw impending trouble. We are familiar with Noah, who saw and understood and acted.

Questions abounded about the end times during Jesus' public ministry. Jesus' contemporaries also were ordinary people. They too would be going about their ordinary work grinding meal and working the land as they always had. Jesus has no quibble with people tending to their lives. However, the listener is cautioned to carry on his or her business and, at the same time, to be awake to its deep meaning and value. This meaning and value include and transcend the work at hand. When the Lord comes, the one who is awake to God's enduring presence will be ready and welcoming; the other will not. The second, briefer image of the coming of the Lord is the image of the homeowner who is vigilant, lest a thief break in. Because homes in Jesus' time were made of relatively soft clay blocks, homes were not so much broken into as dug through. Little by little the thief would gain access. The homeowner's watchfulness, therefore, needed to be subtle and discerning; small signs of disturbance had to be attended to. Waiting for the Lord, who comes when we least expect, asks of us this kind of careful attention in the midst of a busy life. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:

thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. As a parish, we raised \$650.00 to support those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on "How to Give" on the left.

WORD OF LIFE: "When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Build and Culture of Life"*

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 1 Sun: 1st Sunday Advent

Isa:2:1-5; Ps:122; Rom:13:11-14; Mtk:24:37-44

Dec 2 Mon: Advent Weekday

Isa:4:2-6; Ps: 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt:8:5-11

Dec 3 Tue: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Isa:11:21-24; Ps:72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk:10:21-24

Dec 4 Wed: Advent Weekday

Isa:25:6-10a.; Ps:23:1-3a, 3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt:15:29-37

Dec 5 Thur: Advent Weekday

Isa:26:1-6; Ps:118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt:7:21, 24-27

Dec 6 Fri: Advent Weekday

Isa:29:17-24; Ps: 27: 1, 4, 13-14; Mt:9:27-31

Dec 7 Sat: Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

Isa:30:19-21, 23-26; Ps:147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

THE MOUNTAIN OF PEACE

Isaiah describes the mountain of the Lord's house as a place where we receive instruction from God. In prophetic exhortation we are reminded that we are to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. We are not to raise a sword against another nation or train for war again. We can choose to throw our hands in the air and give up hoping that this could ever become a reality. Or we can choose to heed the call of Saint Paul, issued in today's second reading: "Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12). Preparing ourselves for the coming of the Lord means much more than putting our own spiritual house in order. It means that in our everyday life we dedicate ourselves to being peacemakers: at home, at work, and in our relationships. The stunning prophecies we hear during this holy season remind us that, like a peaceful mountaintop high above the clouds, our world can become a place of peace, tranquility, and light. Copyright © 2007, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



Keep
awake
therefore,
for you
do not know
on what day
your
Lord
is coming.

Matthew 24:42, NRSV

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

REFLECTING ON TOMORROW

Your Will or Trust can be a creative way to help perpetuate your Christian faith. After first providing for the needs of loved ones you can benefit St. Rita by making a bequest in your Will. Ask your attorney to include the following statement to your Will or Trust:

*"I leave to the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii,
St. Rita Church
89-318 Farrington Hwy.
Nanakuli, HI 96792
the sum of _____, or _____% of my estate."*

Reflection

Some popular religions regularly call up images of fire and brimstone and evoke dire warnings and apocalyptic visions of world catastrophe, which are supposed to accompany the Second Coming. Against this steady drumbeat of preaching that generates more heat (or cold fear) than light, we need to pay close attention to the deeper challenge of this Sunday's Scriptures. Jesus does not address the end times in an attempt to frighten us or to pile on reasons to worry and fret over the salvation of our sweet little souls.

Rather, we are reminded to pay close attention to the movement of God in our midst. We are given images of domesticity because this is precisely where we live. And this is precisely where the incarnation of God occurs. If God's presence is attended to here and now amid the subtle shifts and erosions of our private and shared lives as a people, we need not worry. If we are preoccupied with tinsel and over-consumption, then this is the critical time for us to change our attitudes and ways. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Where We Are

A common sense saying reminds us that wherever we find ourselves, there we are. We tend not to believe this, of course, much less act on it. When we are in trouble or anguish we ignore it or wish our way out of it. When we are on the bus, we think about the office. When we are at our computer, we think about the evening commute. We barely enter Advent, and our heads are full of Christmas plans. This Sunday we are asked to be where we are as we light a single bright candle to break up the darkness. We are asked to consider God's salvation, which dawns on us right here where we are. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

