

# PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday  
of Advent

December 4, 2022

Our God will come to save us!



Saturday, December 3	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 4	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 5	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 6	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 7	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 8	..... 8:00 a.m.	<b>Mass - Immaculate Conception</b>
	..... 7:00 p. m.	<b>Mass - Immaculate Conception</b>
Friday, December 9	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 10	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Is:35:1-6a, 10:** *The deserts exult and burst into flower. The hills ring with joyful song. The feeble grow strong; the frightened to take courage.*

**Jam:5:7-10:** *“Be patient. . . until the coming of the Lord,” said the author of the letter to James.*

**Mt:11:2-11:** *John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”*

**(Masks are optional)**

**We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a. m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr\\_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/)**

## THE JESSE TREE

Today's first reading inspired the Advent custom of the Jesse tree. During Advent some households read stories from the Bible about the people and events that led up to the birth of Jesus. Those who hear the stories create depictions of them and hang these on a tree. The idea of decorating a tree comes from Isaiah's prophecy that “a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.” A “Jesse tree” reminds us of God's marvelous plan for salvation.

The entire passage is filled with words of comfort. The shoot sprouting from Jesse is to be a leader filled with God's Spirit—a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. The reign of that ruler will even bring peace to animals. The lamb will host the wolf. The calf and young lion will be the playmates of a child.

Because Jesse was the father of David, the prophecy foretells an idealized time under a great king. When Christians hear this prophecy during Advent, we look further down Jesse's lineage all the way to Jesus. Jesus was anointed with God's spirit and brought enemies together around a common belief in God's mercy.

The Jesse tree does not stop growing with Jesus. It continues with us. Through the new birth of Baptism and the anointing of Confirmation, God has filled us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are anointed, like Jesus, to be agents of peace.

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a shoot shall sprout  
from the root of Jesse  
and a bud  
shall blossom.

the spirit of the Lord  
shall rest upon him,  
a spirit of wisdom  
and of understanding,  
of counsel  
and strength.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:** Listed is the Leeward Vicariate Advent Penance Service: Mon 12/5 - St. Jude, Kapolei / Tue 12/6 - St. Joseph, Waipahu (6:30 p. m.) Wed 12/7 - ICC, Ewa / Mon 12/12 - Sacred Heart, Waianae / Tue 12/13 - OLPH, Ewa Beach. All services begins at 7:00 p.m., except St. Joseph.

## **WORLD FAMOUS MOLOKA'I HOT BREAD FUND-**

**RAISER:** Tickets on sale starting this weekend, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>. **Cost \$14!** Great gift for Christmas! All proceeds will support St. Rita's general fund.

## **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: *Lighten the***

**load.** An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

**OUTREACH:** As a Christmas gift for the our homeless brothers and sisters, the Pantry is seeking donations of **Manual Can Openers**, you can place them in the blue bin at the back of church (Waianae side of the church) we will distribute the can opener at our December 29<sup>th</sup> feeding.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Jesus calls each of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible" (EV 87). . . the encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end —precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mother's wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation."

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[www.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://www.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

**Dec 4 Sun: Second Sunday of Advent**

Is:11:1-10; Ps:72; Rom:15:4-9; Mt:3:1-12

**Dec 5 Mon: Advent Weekday**

Is:35:1-10; Ps:85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk:5:17-26

**Dec 6 Tue: Advent Weekday**

Is:40:1-11; Ps:96:1-2, 3 & 10ac, 112-2, 13; Mt:18:12-14

**Dec 7 Wed: Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Is:40:25-31; Ps:103:1-2, 3-4, 8 & 10; Mt:11:28-30

**Dec 8 Thur: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Gen:3:9-15, 20; Ps:98; Ep:1:3-16, 11-12; Lk:1:26-38

**Dec 9 Fri: Advent Weekday**

Is:48: 17-19; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Mt:11:16-19

**Dec 10 Sat: Advent Weekday**

Is:48:1-4, 9-11; Ps:80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt:17:9a, 10-13

## **NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP**

In today's Gospel reading John the Baptist warns his listeners: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" The Church's yearly Advent herald is a call to repentance. The season of Advent urges us to be open to a conversion of heart. Christian stewards heed this call daily, and take the need for conversion in their lives seriously. As a family of faith, do we hear this call to conversion amidst the massive holiday spending? The increase in credit card debt? The urge to buy things that are not necessary? The incivility on the roadways during the holidays? Are there patterns in our own lives that need to be converted? (*International Catholic Stewardship Council*)

## **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

### **MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR 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**

## **GOOD MEMORIES**

The memory of good times helps us through the bad times. Sometimes we wonder if we have enough strength to go on, enough charity to be kind again today, enough hope for tomorrow. The memory of good times in the past can give us strength to be virtuous. We know that adversity in the past has made us who we are today. We believe that the adversity of today will make us better for tomorrow.

God has promised good times. God made this promise through many generations of the chosen people. When they were beset by loss of property, exile, and the death of those they loved, they often wondered what their future would be. But God promised better days. They knew from the past that God delivered on promises like this, and they found hope for the present.

The promises of God were so sacred that they became our Scriptures. St. Paul says, "Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." By examining God's past promises, we take comfort. We know that even in the midst of adversity, we are still held in God's hands.

Jesus came to confirm God's promises to the patriarchs. During Advent we hear these promises over and over again. They prepare us for the joy of Christmas. God had prepared the way for Christ, and God is still guiding the church that is Christ's Body.

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**prepare the  
way of the LORD!**

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# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Come, Peaceable Kingdom

Almighty God,  
you are the giver of peace,  
the source of harmony.  
Guide us to follow your will  
so that we may be united

in thought and act  
and look forward to a time  
when the wolf is guest of the lamb.  
and all the earth knows you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**Kings Rule, God Reigns**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12.* Isaiah's prophecy reinforces the vision that a new king will come from the "holy mountain" upon which Jerusalem will be built. The scene that Isaiah imagines is much like the Garden of Eden, where animals have no enemies and the kingdom is peaceful. The prophet puts forth the hope that one day God will reign over the earth and the will of God will bring true harmony and peace.

The refrain for Psalm 72 parallels justice and peace. Peace will result when a king governs with justice, when the poor are rescued and saved. To govern with integrity, the king must be blessed. From that blessing, "all the tribes of

the earth" can be blessed. Listen carefully to this psalm that proclaims that a leader protects and serves those who are defenseless, vulnerable, and victims of injustice. What better way to anticipate the second week of Advent than to find a way to treat with kindness a victim of injustice? What better way to "think in harmony," as St. Paul states in the second reading, than to seek reconciliation with a family member or friend? Keep in mind St. Paul's instruction to "welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomes you."

The reading from Romans today speaks of endurance, encouragement, unity, harmony, and hope. Each day this week, as you contemplate John the Baptist's call to repent, read Romans 15:4–9 and choose a different phrase to ponder.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 5

#### Be Strong and Hope

In the first reading, Isaiah imagines the peaceful wonders that will come to pass when the Son comes to save. Scripture envisions a beautiful and peaceful world, as we glory in salvation. The images of the desert blooming with flowers, the lame leaping, and streams bursting forth in the desert are all ample subjects for quiet reflection as we await the nativity of the Lord. Just as the bystanders to the cure of the paralytic witnessed something “incredible,” so do you during your day. Watch for the incredible. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

### Tuesday, December 6

#### St. Nicholas

“Comfort, give comfort to my people,” begins the reading from Isaiah. These are apt words for the optional Memorial of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, prostitutes, sailors, and repentant thieves, among others. To celebrate this day, many traditions have arisen involving candy and small gifts. Some consider St. Nicholas the “real Santa” because of his acts of charity, especially to the poor. Celebrate this fourth-century holy and generous bishop by being kind to another. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3 and 10ac, 11–13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

### Wednesday, December 7

#### St. Ambrose

In the Gospel today, Jesus invites the crowds to find solace in him, saying, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Today too we find hope in these words, knowing that we can give our burdens over to God. On the Memorial of St. Ambrose (340–397), we recall someone who unburdened many people by helping them resolve conflicts. He was an eloquent defender of the faith. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

### Thursday, December 8

#### Immaculate Conception

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the refrain of the responsorial psalm sings of God’s “marvelous deeds,” then the Letter to the Ephesians tells of our adoption by God. Finally, in the Gospel, faith is proclaimed in Mary’s words, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” Celebrate Mary’s yes to God through an action for another. *Today’s readings: Genesis 3:9–15; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

### Friday, December 9

#### Flowers of Hope

The optional Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin is dear to many Mexican Catholics because it celebrates the appearance of Mary to a peasant. After Mary’s appearance, Juan’s cloak was inscribed with the Virgin’s face and filled with flowers. This proved to the bishop that Juan Diego was the Blessed Mother’s messenger and that the bishop should build a shrine at Tepeyac Hill. Juan Diego, canonized in 2002, was the first Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. Put a fresh flower today on your table and share the story of St. Juan Diego with a friend. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 48:17–19, Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6, Matthew 11:16–19.*

### Saturday, December 10

#### Our Lady of Loreto

While lighting the first two candles on your Advent wreath today, make a commitment to continue joyful expectation during Advent. Pray the Rosary or the Magnificat and observe yourself becoming less stressful during this time of many demands from the secular world. Today’s memorial remembers the birthplace of Mary, in Palestine. *Today’s readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*

