

PARISH CALENDAR

The Second Sunday
of the Season of Advent

December 5, 2021

All flesh will see
the salvation of our God!

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

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a: God is with his faithful people.

Philippians: 4:4-7: Rejoice always, for God is near.

Luke:3:10-18: John prepares the way for Jesus.

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)

Beginning next weekend December 11 & 12, we will be going back to our normal Sunday Mass schedule:

Sat Eve. @ 5 pm; Sun Morn @ 7 am & 9 am and Sun Eve. @ 5 pm., please let your friends and family know and plan accordingly. Please continue to wash your hands before entering the church and wear your mask.

We will continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m. @

<https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/

“A request from Bishop Larry Silva for input regarding the synodal nature of the church”

In preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis has asked every diocese in the world to conduct a consultation process between October 17, 2021 and February 2022. In Hawaii, the process involves discussion of one key question:

How can all the members of the Catholic Church be more effective in proclaiming the living Jesus Christ to the world?

You are asked to discuss this question with as many different groups as you are able (e.g., parish groups and councils, lay organizations, clubs and institutes, households, workplace groups, youth groups, senior groups) Find the full process explained at the Diocese of Honolulu website, www.catholicahawaii.org under “News & Events.” Also at the website are Scripture readings, a synod prayer and useful questions to get the dialogue started. Finally send a brief summary of your discussion to <https://bit.ly/SynodResponse> no later than February 28, 2022. Responses will be distilled into a diocesan report and submitted to the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Vatican will collect the reports from around the world in preparation for the October 2023 Synod of Bishops with Pope Francis.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS: This **Wednesday, December 8th**, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be two (2) Masses at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm.,

LEEWARD VICARIATE ADVENT RECONCILIATION:

Listed are the Advent Reconciliation for parishes in the Leeward Vicariate: **Mon, Dec 6th - Sacred Heart Church - Waianae / Thur. Dec 9th - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church - Ewa Beach / Fri, Dec 10th - St. Joseph Church, Waipahu / Mon. Dec 13th - St. Jude Church, Makakilo / Tues, Dec 14th - Immaculate Conception Church, Ewa., **St. Rita will not have a public Advent Reconciliation, you can go to the Rectory on Saturday's from 10 am- 12 noon, or call the parish office for an appointment.****

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Give in

gratitude. A donor to the Retirement fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's special collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous!

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 mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation." *Excerpt from Evangelium vitae* © 1995. *Used with permission. All rights reserved* USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities www.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-the-life

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 5 Sun: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bar:5:1-9; Ps:126; Phil:1:4-6, 8-11; Lk:3:1-6

Dec 6 Mon: Advent Weekday

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

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

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

Dec 8 Wed: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn:3:9-15, 20; Ps:98:1, 2-3ab, 3vd-4; Eph:1: 3-6, 11-12 Lk:1:26-38

Dec 9 Thur: Advent Weekday

Is:41:13-20; Ps:145; 1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt:11:11-15

Dec 10 Fri: Advent Weekday

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

Dec 11 Sat: Advent Weekday

Sir:48:1-4, 91-11; Ps:80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt:17:9a, 10-13

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading, Saint Paul prays with joy and confidence for his friends in the Christian community at Philippi. He is encouraged that the community has partnered with him to proclaim the Gospel. He sees Christ's active presence and plan of salvation at work in the community. God's overarching plan is unclear to us. But when we see evidence of God working through others, doesn't it give us reason to hope that Christ is alive among us? Does the witness of others help our own prayer lives? Does it inspire us to be partners with others in promoting the Gospel? Food for thought in this second week of Advent. (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 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

GROWING IN FAITH

We learn a few things as we go through life. We advance in education. We get better at our jobs. We figure out more about politics. We discern what makes people tick. We learn by our mistakes and through the wisdom of others. Our tolerance grows. So does our love. We get wiser in love, more patient with its pains, more grateful for its virtues. We learn throughout our lives.

We also grow in faith. As children our faith is simple, but it grows more complex as we age. We appreciate how deep are the promises of God, how profound is the love of Christ, and how much we need forgiveness as well as redemption. God helps us grow in faith.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul expresses his hopes as they prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. Paul believed that Jesus would return very soon. He had confidence that the Philippians would be all right. "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Just as we grow in wisdom throughout our lives, Paul was confident that the Philippians would grow in faith.

As we prepare for Christmas, we have the same reassurance. God, who began a good work in us, will continue it right up to the day of Christ Jesus. May this Advent increase our faith.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Highway for Our God

Father,
from the beginning,
you have revealed yourself.
You have called us to walk in your ways.
We wait for you to bring to fulfillment
the work you are doing

from the creation of the earth
to today.
We wait in hope.
Help us to do our small part
to make a path for you,
a highway for our God.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 5, 2021

All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God



Today's readings: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philemon 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6. John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of our Lord, are our examples for how to live during Advent. Both waited, watched, and prepared. They did then what we hope to do now.

Today, we hear John proclaim that “all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” As John preaches, teaches, and baptizes in the wilderness, he focuses on what God is doing: God is saving. John performs his task. He makes straight a path. He clears the way.

John is called by God within the prophetic tradition of the people of Israel. We hear it when he quotes Isaiah and in the echo of those words in the prophet Baruch. Rooted in the

people of Israel and in Scripture, John has practiced listening to God's voice. In the wilderness, he hears that God is doing something new. God is bringing all flesh into the plan of salvation, as foretold in the prophets of old.

God was inaugurating the promised kingdom of justice and peace, creating a new heaven and a new earth. John called the people to turn away from the ways that had fallen short of God's vision for them, and people flocked to him because they saw the world's brokenness and knew that God had promised something different. Something new.

We wait in hope for the fullness of this same kingdom. Like John, we are called to prepare its way. How has God invited you to make straight his paths?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 6

St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century who was known for his generosity, one sign of which was leaving coins in the shoes of people who left them out for him. He is also said to have secretly given money to a family to provide funds so the daughters could marry. Nicholas suffered under persecution and defended the Church teaching about the Trinity at a time when it was disputed. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children. To honor him today, you might choose to do an act of kindness secretly, just as he did. *Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 7

St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose was the bishop of Milan in the fourth century and a doctor of the Church. He wrote music that is used in the Liturgy of the Hours during Advent even today. Regarding care for the poor, St. Ambrose said it was not charity but a debt to those who were in need. Celebrate St. Ambrose's feast day by contributing to an agency that serves the poor in your community. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3, 10ac, 11–12, 13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

Wednesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

God prepared Mary for her unique role in salvation history from the moment she was conceived. The special grace she received even before she was born helped give her the courage to say, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's yes changed the world. Each one of us has the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world every single day. How can you respond with the same wholehearted yes as the Mother of God? *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Thursday, December 9

St. Juan Diego

Today the Church celebrates St. Juan Diego, the patron saint of indigenous peoples. The Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego near Mexico City in the sixteenth century, a time when people of his culture were treated as less than those who had come from Europe. Mary's apparition and its miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma embodied many elements of indigenous culture. This event was the beginning of something new for the peoples of the Americas. God is imaged in all people and all cultures. By listening to the stories of people who are different from us, we can participate in what God is doing in the world. *Today's readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1, 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

Friday, December 10

Peace

In Isaiah we hear about the possibility of peace flowing like a river. Life is full of conflict and misunderstanding. Relationships that seemed unbreakable can be torn apart by simple difficulties. When we consider the kingdom of God, of participating in God's peace forever, it fills us with hope. While at Mass, focus on what it must mean for Christ's peace to be with you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 11

Our Only Hope

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus predicts his passion. It is an interesting thing to consider the cross during the season of Advent, when we await the Lord's coming. Yet the shadow of the cross is always present in the life of Jesus. In this season of hope, we look at the cross, our only hope, and see in it the resurrection and the possibility it contains: God filling the earth as water covers the sea. *Today's readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*

