

# PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday  
of Advent

December 11, 2022

Lord, come and save us!

Saturday, December 10	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 11	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 13	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 15	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, December 16	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 17	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Is:7:10-14:** *The Lord offered Ahaz a sign. Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!"*

**Nevertheless, the Lord gave a sign:**

**Rom:1:1-7:** *"Paul told the Romans he was called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God about Christ Jesus.*

**Mt:1:18-24:** *Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they wed, Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**(Masks are optional)**

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

## IF ONLY....

We all have our own "if onlys." If only my hands didn't shake. If only my knees were stronger. If only I weren't afraid. If only we had enough rain. If only I could see more clearly. If only I could hear as I used to. If only I didn't feel trapped.

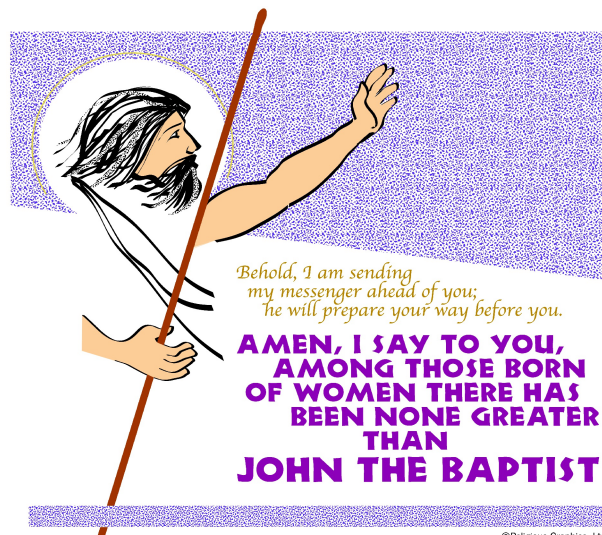
God understands. Even though life is not perfect, and even though our property and bodies deteriorate, God promises a restoration of all that is beautiful. The struggles of this life cause us to yearn for another, more glorious life.

Isaiah prophesies a day when God's glory will come. "Here is your God," Isaiah says. "God comes to save you." These words brought hope to those in exile, a people powerless and poor.

When Christians hear this text, we hear a promise that echoed all the way to the birth of Jesus. Jesus, whose name means "savior," is coming, and all will be made new in him.

Every time we strengthen the weak, help the needy, water the plants, or shovel the snow, we remove someone's "if only." We help them witness the coming of Christ.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:** Listed is the Leeward Vicariate Advent Penance Service 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 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: Help aging**

**Religious.** Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. 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:** "O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. "Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

**Dec 11 Sun: Third Sunday of Advent**

Is:35:1-6a, 10; Ps:146; Jam:5:7-10; Mt:11:2-11

**Dec 12 Mon: Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Rev:11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt:13; 18bcde, 19; Lk:1:39-47

**Dec 13 Tue: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

Zep:3:1-2, 9-13; Ps:34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23; Mt:21:28-32

**Dec 14 Wed: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Is:45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps:85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk:7:18b-23

**Dec 15 Thur: Advent Weekday**

Is:54:1-10; Ps:30: 2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Lk:7:24-30

**Dec 16 Fri: Advent Weekday**

Is:56: 1-3a, 6-8; Ps:67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn:5:33-36

**Dec 17 Sat: Advent Weekday**

Gn:49:2, 8-10; Ps:72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt:1:1-17

## **NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP**

From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who feel that they have no hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst? (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**

## **PATIENT WAITING**

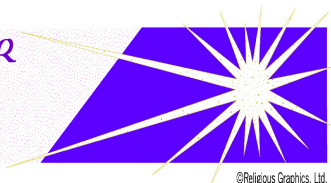
Some things just take time. It takes time for crops to grow, for bread to rise, and for wine to age. It takes time to learn how to play a musical instrument or to develop athletic skill. Some things cannot be rushed. We do what we can to prepare the earth and strengthen our bodies for the tasks at hand. But in the end, we wait. It is hard to wait, especially when we anticipate good results. We wish that children would master the lesson, that the beloved would return from a journey, and that God would answer a prayer. It is hard to wait for what we want. Sometimes we do not behave our best while we are waiting. We grow impatient and irritable. God is slow. It took thousands of years for God to deliver on the promise to Abraham. Eventually, the child was born in Bethlehem. Then people had to wait for the child to grow up. Then Jesus died on the cross, and people had to wait for the Resurrection. Then he rose, appeared, and promised to come back again. But people had to wait. We are still waiting. The Letter of James says, "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." We know we must be patient for Christ to come again. While we are waiting, we strive to live in harmony, because it is in our community where we experience even now the coming of our God.

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rejoice for  
the LORD  
is near.



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Rejoicing in the Lord

Gracious and loving God,  
you are the source of all hope,  
Embed your grace into our hard hearts,  
and guide us to rejoice on this day.  
Help us to do your will  
as we repent of our willful ways.  
May our deaf ears hear  
the wisdom of Scripture  
as we joyfully await the Lord's coming.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Be Strong, Fear Not



*Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.* From the rose vestment the priest may wear, to the depiction of joy in the prayers and readings, the Advent theme of rejoicing permeates the liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent. The day is called *Gaudete Sunday*, “*gaudete*” coming from the Latin word *gaudere*, “to rejoice.” We hear the word *rejoice* in the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” and the word *joy* in the collect, or opening prayer. The reading from Isaiah portrays this joy, telling of the desert and the parched land rejoicing and a time when the eyes of the blind will be opened, the lame will leap, and the mute will sing.

Isaiah predicts salvation and God's victory over sickness and evil. Our “Thanks be to God” after the first reading should be emphatic, because wonderful things await us. Psalm 146 offers praise and hope as it tells how the Lord sets captives free, protects strangers, and thwarts the wicked. At this halfway point in Advent, the Letter of St. James tells us to be patient “until the coming of the Lord.”

For your Advent prayer this week, reflect on the reading from St. James, reading it in the morning or before a meal. St. James tells us not to judge another and to look to the prophets as an example of hardship and patience. The Scripture will help you center on the meaning of Advent.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 12

#### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Many people began celebrating la Virgen de Guadalupe nine days ago with a novena. The novena concludes with a vigil Mass at midnight, after an evening of dancing, feasting, and celebrating Mary's appearance and miracles at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. Mary appeared to the poor to be close to us. Today and during the coming week, find one way to be close to the Blessed Mother. Pray the Magnificat and ask Mary to intercede for people seeking asylum in the United States. *Today's readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; and Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

### Tuesday, December 13

#### St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

St. Lucy is the patron saint of those who struggle with eye disease, blindness, or impaired sight. Pray today for those who are blind to their neighbor and for others who cannot “see” with eyes of faith and turn away from God. *Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19, and 23; Matthew 21:28–32.*

### Wednesday, December 14

#### St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross was a Carmelite priest from Spain, known to his followers as a mystic and a poet. In early life he was taught by the Jesuits and the Augustinians, was influenced by the Carthusians, and finally became a spiritual follower of Teresa of Avila. An admirer of Teresa's lifestyle and spirituality, he tried to reform his Carmelite order with her guidance and mentoring. His efforts were misunderstood, though, and he suffered in prison for trying to reform the Carmelites. His “cross” was being treated unjustly. *Today's readings: Isaiah 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.*

### Thursday, December 15

#### Prepare

Advent is full of joyful events to anticipate and encounter. Not only do we become closer to God through listening to his Word but also through the songs of anticipation, the sweets we eat with thanksgiving, and the nativity scenes enacted. If we are open, the festivities during this time of year can change us, renewing us in hope for a better life and world. Prepare the way of the Lord today, joyfully. *Today's readings: Isaiah 54:1–10; Psalm 30: 2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; Luke 7:24–30.*

### Friday, December 16

#### Beginnings

Today, Simbang Gabi, Las Posadas, and Las Parrandas celebrations begin, anticipating the nativity of Jesus. During Advent support a religious cultural celebration that is different from your experience by attending one of the celebrations. Find the celebrations through your diocesan newspaper or the parish or diocesan website. *Today's readings: Isaiah 56:1–3a, 6–8; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 7–8; John 5:33–36.*

### Saturday, December 17

#### “O” Wisdom

As Christmas nears, begin a family evening prayer consisting of the Hail Mary, Our Father, and the “O” antiphon of the day (or sing a different verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” daily). Today's antiphon is “O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, / you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care / Come and show your people the way to salvation.” Invite your family to reflect on how they will look to God's wisdom during the coming week. *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*



# MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND



**Saturday, December 24<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 p.m.	Christmas Ohana Mass
11:00 p.m.	Christmas Evening Mass (Midnight)

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass (Dawn)
10:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass (Day)

**NO SUNDAY 5 P. M. MASS**

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**Saturday, December 31<sup>ST</sup>**

5:00 p.m.	Mass (Vigil Mass for Sunday)
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**Sunday, January 1<sup>ST</sup>**

8:00 a.m.	Mass
10:00 a.m.	Mass

**NO SUNDAY 5 P. M. MASS**

