

## PARISH CALENDAR

The Third Sunday  
of the Season of Advent

Saturday, December 11	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 12	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 13	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 15	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 16	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 17	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 18	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

December 12, 2021

Great is the Holy One of Israel!

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Micah 5:1-4a: A future King is promised to those in exile.**

**Hebrews:10:5-10: Jesus was himself the perfect sacrifice.**

**Luke:1:39-45: Mary's visitation to Elizabeth.**

**(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)**

**We continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 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/)**

***“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](http://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.

### Living God's Word



When we pray the Our Father at Mass the priest voices a prayer that asks the Lord to free our minds of worry as we look forward to Jesus' coming. Joyful hope gives us the spirit and the confidence to do all that we can, expecting that Christ's saving power will be present in our midst.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LEEWARD VICARIATE ADVENT RECONCILIATION:

Listed are the Advent Reconciliation for parishes in the Leeward Vicariate: **Mon. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - St. Jude Church, Makakilo / Tues, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - 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.**

## Support St. Rita's Church of Nanakuli through AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate **AT NO COST TO YOU, 0.5%** of your eligible purchases to St. Rita's Church of Nanakuli. All you need to do is start shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-0143322>. Donations will be made at no extra cost to you. You'll be able to tell you're shopping from the correct page if you see the AmazonSmile logo in the corner of the page and "Supporting St. Rita's Church of Nanakuli" below the search bar. See insert for QRCode to get started for the holidays!

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Helping aging Religious.** Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others— educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's special collection.

**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 12 Sun: 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Zep:3:14-18c; Isa:12; Phil:4:4-7; Lk:3:10-18

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

Nm:24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps:25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt:21:23-27

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

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

**Dec 15 Wed: Advent Weekday**

Is:45:6c-8, 18, 21c-23; Ps:85:9ab, & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk:7:24-30

**Dec 16 Thur: Advent Weekday**

Is:54:1-10; Ps:30; 2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a, & 13b; Mt:11:11-15

**Dec 17 Fri: Advent Weekday**

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

**Dec 18 Sat: Advent Weekday**

Jer:23:5-8; Ps:72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt:1:18-25

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel we hear the prophet John the Baptist being asked an insightful stewardship question: "What should we do?" Each group wants to know the appropriate response to John's call; each reply points to how they should treat others. John does not simply say, "Be baptized." Rather, he points them to their jobs and personal relationships. John's message is simple: judgment is near, and repentance includes treating others well. We should be willing to share what we have with those in need. To listen to John the Baptist is to be called to account. Do I give only of my excess, or am I the good steward who is willing to make daily sacrifices in order to help others? (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**

### Reflecting on God's Word

'Tis the season for bell choirs and brass renditions of beloved carols. Church musicians are rounding up trumpeters and French horn players to rehearse for Christmas liturgies. What would a Christmas television special be without pealing bells in the closing sequence? The joyful sounds of brass instruments herald the good news that the Lord of the universe has entered into human history once and forever in the poor infant Jesus.

There is another kind of bell that seems to follow us wherever we go at this time of year—the Salvation Army bells. They remind us that not everyone has experienced the good news of salvation yet. There are many who suffer while others wallow in abundance. Today's scriptures remind us that the Lord is with us to save us from our sinfulness, so that justice, love, and peace might reign at last in the world. Then all God's people will be able to rejoice.

—Virginia Stillwell

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# The Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 12, 2021



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## Lighting the Rose Candle

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Say thank you to the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who devoted their lives to serving others. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious at Mass today. Learn more at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).



Catholic  
Current

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BULLETIN



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Make Us an Image of Justice

Loving Father,  
in your goodness  
you have made us in your image.  
Make us an image  
of your justice, mercy, and peace  
that, like John,

we might point the way to you.  
Bring all the world into the light of your love  
that we might see your glory forever.  
Let our rejoicing now be the seed  
of the joy that is to come.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Rejoice!



*Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Philemon 4:4–7; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Luke 3:10–18.* The nearness of Jesus, our salvation, is now made present and brings with it a call to rejoice.

In today's Gospel, the people ask John the Baptist what they are to do. His answer is always the same: act with justice. The Jewish people, then and now, await a messiah who will bring about perfect justice. John speaks to people waiting and watching, yesterday and today: act with justice.

Often, a need to change is not associated with "good news." Yet the people feel something in their hearts when they are with John. They experience his preaching as good news even when it is challenging. They desire the kingdom

of God and see that the world is not there yet. They are called to change. John also makes clear that they themselves do not have to do everything. That is also a hopeful message. Each person does their part, and their part is enough. It is God who brings about the kingdom of justice and peace, fulfilling the work begun in creation.

John speaks of a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire can purify metal, and its heat in boiling water sterilizes objects. While preparing for Jesus' coming, we might ask the Spirit to purify our hearts so that we seek to act justly. What could you do this week to live the value of justice? What in you must be taken away to live this more perfectly?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 13

#### St. Lucy

St. Lucy was an early Christian martyr who died during the Roman persecutions. Accounts say that her eyes were gouged out when she was martyred, and therefore she is the patron of those with eye illnesses. Her feast day is often celebrated with candles because, in the Northern Hemisphere, the day is among the shortest days of the year. St. Lucy is one of eight women included in the canon of the Mass. *Today's readings: Numbers 24:2–7, 15–17a; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 21:23–27.*

### Tuesday, December 14

#### St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross, a doctor of the Church, was a priest, mystic, and writer who lived in Spain in the sixteenth century. One of his best-known works is *The Dark Night of the Soul*. He was a close collaborator of St. Teresa of Avila. *Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19, 23; Matthew 21:28–32.*

### Wednesday, December 15

#### Signs

“The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” Often we wish for miraculous signs that will help us know where to go. But these actions of Jesus are that and more. The hope of the people of Israel was in a person who would bring about a new kingdom in which the sufferings of this world would be left behind. These particular signs are a message to John the Baptist: Jesus is the long-awaited messiah. *Today's readings: Isaiah 45:6b–8, 18, 21c–25; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.*

### Thursday, December 16

#### God's Faithfulness

God's love will be constant, the covenant of peace unbroken, even if the mountains fall. While people often disappoint us when commitments are not kept, God's promise is not reliant on our faithfulness but on the faithfulness of God. We know that God is a keeper of promises: promises kept to Sarah, to Hannah, to Elizabeth, to Mary, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to John the Baptist. We can trust that even in our darkest moments God is faithful to us as well. *Today's readings: Isaiah 54:1–10; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; Luke 7:24–30.*

### Friday, December 17

#### O Wisdom

Within the Church's liturgical tradition, the “O” Antiphons are prayed the seven days before Christmas. Each of these antiphons presents a title for the messiah. Many are familiar with these seven titles because they begin the verses of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The first antiphon, which is used on December 17, is O Wisdom. You might sing this verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” or you might pray Evening Prayer. You can find resources online, including apps to assist you, in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*

### Saturday, December 18

#### The Dream of St. Joseph

St. Joseph was a righteous man, meaning he followed the law of Moses, and according to the Law, Mary would be put to death. St. Joseph also must have been a man of great compassion who was accustomed to God's voice. When the angel came to him in a dream, he immediately believed. Moreover, he immediately acted. Today, spend time in silent prayer so that, like Joseph, you may know your call when it comes and answer with your whole heart. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

