

PARISH CALENDAR

The Fourth Sunday
of the Season of Advent

December 19, 2021

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord!"

PEACE ON
EARTH

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Saturday, December 18 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 19 7:00 a.m.	Mass
 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 20	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, December 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, December 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Ohana Mass
	..... 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Evening Mass
Saturday, December 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass
	..... 5:00 p.m.	No Evening Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Sam:1:20-22, 24-28: Hannah conceived and bore a son, Samuel, whom she presented to the Lord in the temple at Shiloh

1 John: 3:1-2, 21-24: God's love has been given to us so we may be called his children.

Luke:2:41-52: At age twelve, Jesus sat in the temple at Jerusalem listening to the teachers and asking them questions.

(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/

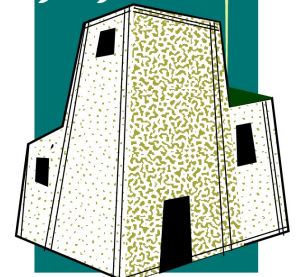
"A request from Bishop Larry Silva for input regarding the synodal nature of the church"

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.catholichawaii.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.

From
Bethlehem
shall
come forth
a ruler
for my
people



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AVE, MARIA | Hail, Mary
gratia plena | full of grace
Dominus tecum | the Lord is with thee

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives. When you shop at 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: Religious give thanks. A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit www.retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

WORD OF LIFE: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at www.respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her when She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 19 Sun: 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mic:5:1-4a; Ps:80; Heb:10:5-10; Lk:1:39-45

Dec 20 Mon: Advent Weekday

Is:7:10-14; Ps:24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk:1:26-38

Dec 21 Tue: Advent Weekday

Zep:3:14-18a; Ps:33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk:1:39-45

Dec 22 Wed: Advent Weekday

1 Sam:1:24-28; 1 Sam:2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed; Lk:1:46-56

Dec 23 Thur: Advent Weekday

Mal:3:1-4, 23-24; Ps:25; 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk:1:57-66

Dec 24 Fri: Advent Weekday

2 Sam:7:5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk:1:67-79

Dec 25 Sat: Christmas - The Nativity of the Lord

Is:62:11-12; Ps:97:1, 6, 11-12; Titus: 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

As we draw close to the great Feast of the Nativity, we hear the bold stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. We long to see the face of God. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in Him. Take time to ponder: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? To show others the face of God? To say to the Lord: "Behold, I come to do your will?" (*International Catholic Stewardship Council*)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

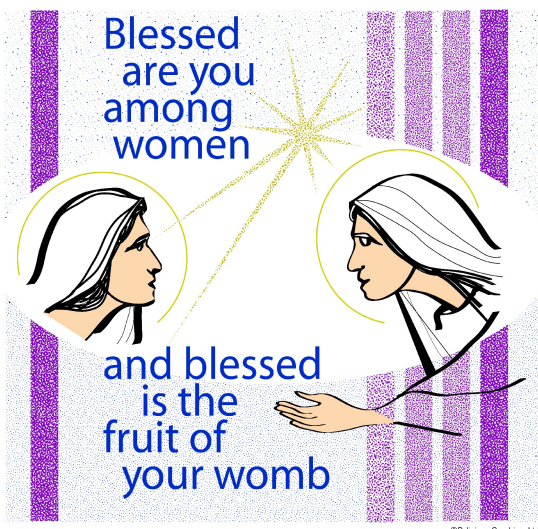
You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social - distancing by going to our web-site www.stritananakuli.org. And click "On-line Giving" on the banner line. You can also send your Tithe/Donation via mail: St. Rita Catholic Church/ 89-318 Farrington Hwy. / Nanakuli, HI 96792

WHY WAS JESUS BORN

The Letter to the Hebrews explains why Jesus was born. It quotes two phrases from the Book of Psalms. In the first, the psalmist says that God is displeased with sacrifices. Some people had been offering sacrifices without much meaning. They went through the ritual, but they put no heart into the words and actions. The psalmist sings, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire." Whatever they were doing to please God wasn't working.

In the second phrase, the psalmist has a new idea — a different offering that might please God. What is this new offering? The psalmist. "Behold, I come to do your will." If God was not pleased with the smoke of dead animals, perhaps God would be pleased with the obedience of a living psalmist. Hebrews recalls these two phrases as they reflect on the birth of Jesus. Jesus came because whatever we were doing to please God was not working. He came and said, "Behold, I come to do your will." He has taken away the old sacrifice and replaced it with himself. The new sacrifice involves heart: having the intent to do God's will.

Because Jesus came into the world, Hebrews says, "We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ." We celebrate the birth of Jesus this week, but we also celebrate our consecration as the people of God. In thanksgiving, let us resolve to do God's will. *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year C © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.*



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The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19, 2021

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Blessing of a Christmas Manger

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as
the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads
a text of sacred Scripture, for example,
Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10
(lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:

when our need for a Savior was great

you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



Catholic
Current

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BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Keeper of Promises

Father,
you keep your promises
to Sarah, to Hannah,
to Elizabeth, to Mary,
to your people Israel.
You have promised to heal the world

and to fill it with your love
like water fills the sea.
Help us to wait in hope.
Give us food for the journey
that our eyes might see your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 19, 2021 Blessed Are You Who Believed



Today's readings: Micah 5:1–4a; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45. In the season of Advent, we look to those who watched and waited for Jesus when he first came into the world. The people of Israel, who first heard the words of the prophets, were waiting. The prophets spoke God's Word to them and gave them hope. They described the one who would come and the kingdom he would bring. Micah says his greatness extends to the ends of the earth.

Mary waited for the messiah throughout her early life. But she waited for Jesus in a way unique to her. When she was invited to be part of this completely new thing God was doing, she said yes with her whole heart. And then she set out.

Elizabeth's words to Mary communicate something important. "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary is blessed because she knew that God was a keeper of promises. As we wait in hope, we can meditate on this truth. Take some time to think about what we hope for. We often worry about the conditions of the world. The weight of its brokenness can be hard to bear. But God keeps promises. In the words of the prophets and in the life of Jesus, a new possibility is revealed. Take some time today to meditate on the possibility of a world filled with God's love, governed by justice and peace to the ends of the earth.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 20

Nothing Impossible

“Nothing will be impossible for God.” It is easy to be discouraged when confronting a struggle. People have cried out to God throughout salvation history, longing to heal the brokenness in their lives and in the world. God’s solution came in a way beyond their comprehension: God coming to experience human life and thereby redeem it. Consider illustrating this Gospel passage or copying the Scripture. While you are reflecting, meditate on these words: “Nothing will be impossible for God.” What are the seeming impossibilities in your life? Where might God provide solutions beyond your imagination? *Today’s readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, December 21

The Visitation

Imagine yourself alongside the newly pregnant Mary as she goes “in haste” across eighty miles of rough terrain, seeking out someone also experiencing a miraculous pregnancy. What did she see, hear, and think about as she was walking? We know that John the Baptist leapt for joy within his mother at the sound of Mary’s voice. What do you think Elizabeth felt when John leapt for joy? *Today’s readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

Wednesday, December 22

He Has Lifted Up the Lowly

Mary proclaims the Magnificat, her song of praise to God, in Luke 1:46–56. Copy the Scripture. Which words particularly speak to you? While reading the Scriptures, we see how God has acted in history. This can help us to see what God is doing today. How do you see God acting as Mary proclaims? *Today’s readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–8; Luke 1:46–56.*

Thursday, December 23

Great Mercy

In today’s Gospel, the birth of John is described as “the Lord had shown his great mercy toward” Elizabeth. When have you experienced God’s mercy? God kept the promise to Elizabeth, and in doing so, kept the promise of the prophets of old, that one would come who would prepare the way of the Lord. *Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10, 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

Friday, December 24

Nativity Scene

Laying out a Nativity can be a contemplative experience. If you have already set up a Nativity, spend some time sitting before it in silent prayer. What do you notice? Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi put together the first Nativity? Nativities have helped Christians to pray about the incarnation for hundreds of years. *Today’s readings: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

Saturday, December 25

Joy to the World!

Today we celebrate the incarnation, God becoming human that we might share in God’s divine life. We might wonder why God would choose to become something so vulnerable as a new baby. Why would God want to enter into the human condition, with all its limitations? Why would God enter into a world with sadness and suffering, and death? He came to open the way to a new possibility: a kingdom marked by justice, peace, and life. God’s love is more than anything we can imagine, and God’s will is for us to live in that love. *Today’s readings: Night: Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14; Dawn: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20; Day: Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14.*

