

PARISH CALENDAR

The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas

December 25, 2022

Today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord!



Saturday, December 24	..... 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Ohana Mass
	..... 11:00 p. m.	Christmas Evening Mass
Sunday, December 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass
	..... 10:00 a. m.	Christmas Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	NO SUNDAY EVENING MASS
Monday, December 26	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, December 27	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday, December 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, December 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	... 5:30-6:30 p.m.	Drive thru Feeding
Friday, December 30	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 31		NO CONFESSIONS
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Num:6:22-27: "The Lord bless you and keep you! / The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! / The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace."

Gal:4:4-7: When the time had come, God sent the beloved Son born of a woman so that we might become adopted children.

Lk:2:16-21: On the eighth day, Mary's child was circumcised and was given the name Jesus, that is, "God saves."

We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a. m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A Message from Most Rev. Clarence Silva

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you!

Is there any other season besides Christmas that has so many carols and songs written in so many languages, either as originals or as translations? It is a season for singing, just as the joy of the first Christmas stirred up the heavens with angel songs. It is easy to forget the wonderful gift of hope, mercy and love that God gave us at Christmas when he sent his only-begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mother he had purified from the first moment of her conception. When we are burdened by the darkness of our own sins, or of the wars, poverty, violence and racial tensions of our society, it is our duty and our salvation to lift up our hearts in song. It is in singing God's praise that everything changes, and we no longer walk in darkness, but we see the great light that is Christ himself. As we approach the Bethlehem (House of Bread) of our churches to approach the manger of the altar, we feed from that manger on the Bread of Life, the same Jesus who was born as an infant so long ago. We who are missioned to shepherd our families and our communities commune with the finest Lamb we have ever seen, the Lamb of God. Could there be any better reason to sing "Glory to God in the highest!"? It is the energy of such music that generates Light from Light to shine forever on a people who live in darkness.

Christmas blessings to all!

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu
Chair, USCCB Subcommittee on Asian & Pacific Island Affairs

**And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Asian and Pacific Island resources published by the

USCCB: The earlier Bishops' pastoral statement, *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith* (2001) recommended the development of a series of educational materials about Asian and Pacific Island Catholics in the United States. Consequently, the USCCB statement in 2018, *Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters* followed up on this recommendation, and the Subcommittee continues to work hard and add more to the series "prepared for and may stem from Asian and Pacific Island communities."

The USCCB Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs hopes these resources will help pastors, parish teams, diocesan leaders and all the faithful to welcome and integrate Asian and Pacific Islanders so that 'as they strive to live a faith-filled life in the Catholic Church,' an appreciation of their history and roots can bring about a renewed energy and enthusiasm for the ongoing mission of Christian witness and evangelization in the United States of America." Click to view

<https://files.constantcontact.com/6ee90923301/5769c2de-ca9a-423c-80b8-1cac29f46855.pdf>

WORD OF LIFE: "The Infant Christ "came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph" (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come. . . . Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us. Excerpts from *Patris corde*, © 2020, Lebreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: St. Joseph, Defender of Life.

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 25 Sun: Christmas

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

Dec 26 Mon: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts:6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps:31: 3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Lk:10:17-22

Dec 27 Tue: Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn:1:1-4; Ps:97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn:20:1a & 2-8

Dec 28 Wed: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn:1:5-2:2; Ps:124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt:2:13-18

Dec 29 Thur: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn:2:3-11; Ps:96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk:2:22-35

Dec 30 Fri: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir:3:21-6, 12-14; Ps:128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mt:2:13-15, 19-23

Dec 31 Sat: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn:2:18-21; Ps:96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn:1:1-18

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Amidst the beautiful Christmas readings at today's Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God's people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift. (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



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Glory to God in the Highest

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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Wonderful, Marvelous

Glorious and generous God,
with the angels and saints,
we raise our voices joyfully
for the gift of an infant.
May Christ be born in us

through the Eucharist,
as we acknowledge
that the wood of the cradle
anticipates the wood of the cross.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 25, 2022
Good News, Great Joy, Alleluia



Today's readings (Mass during the Night): Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14. Christmas breaks into our lives with the hopeful image of light. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” we hear in the reading from Isaiah. Sickness, death, and much human frailty have been part of our lives in the recent past. More than a promise of better days to come is needed. Isaiah’s prophecy offers abundant hope as we hear, “Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.” The light is given to us because “a child is born to us,” a child who will be called “Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.”

This Christmas, as we deal with uncertainty, let us be surprised with Christmas hope! Let us be amazed that God sent his Son to redeem us! Through Jesus, God offers us another path. As St. Athanasius said, “God became human so that humanity might become divine.” How can we be anything but astounded that God has invited us into life with him?

During the Christmas season, seek ways to extend a kindness that is out of the ordinary. After all, God has done that for us, and as St. Paul said in his Letter to Titus, through Christ, God has cleansed us “as a people of his own, eager to do good.” May your kindnesses be a light to others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen

Today is special for permanent deacons as they celebrate the feast of their patron, St. Stephen, the first martyr. Acts recounts how the saint was stoned after he performed “great wonders and signs among the people.” While being stoned, Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Psalm 31 echoes the suffering of Jesus on the cross and the cry, “Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” May we allow St. Stephen’s courage to inspire us as we seek to live as disciples of Christ. *Today’s readings:* Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.

Tuesday, December 27

St. John, Apostle

St. John, the apostle, is known as the disciple “whom Jesus loved.” The Gospel text shows this disciple running to the tomb, arriving before Peter. Upon entering the tomb, the disciple “saw and believed.” In the first reading, St. John passes on his belief. “What we have seen and heard, we proclaim now to you,” he states. If there is a funeral at your church this week, try to attend to support the family of the deceased. During the Christmas season, grieving families especially need love and concern from the parish. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.

Wednesday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Gospel today tells of “the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity.” If you are with children today, offer them special love and give thanks to God for the blessing of their lives. With the children, make a simple manger from paper, popsicle sticks, or a cardboard box, as a reminder of Jesus’ cradle. If there is a community pantry nearby, donate and deliver diapers or baby supplies for the needy. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 1:5–2:26–4; Psalm 124: 2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.

Thursday, December 29

Octave of Christmas

The days after Christmas are called the *Octave of Christmas*. Similarly, the first eight days of Easter are called an *octave*. In both seasons, the days of the octave invite the faithful to an extended reflection on what we are celebrating. Today, spend time with the Gospel text of Simeon’s prayer and then with his words to Mary. Incorporate Simeon’s prayer, known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, into your nightly prayers. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.

Friday, December 30

Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on a weekday this year, since there is no Sunday between Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Celebrate this feast with your family and include a guest who is a “family of one” to join you. Prepare a special dessert, meet at a favorite restaurant, or volunteer to serve a meal to those who have no family to share the holidays with. Make peace with an estranged family member. *Today’s readings:* Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 or Colossians 3:12–21 or Colossians 3:12–17; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23.

Saturday, December 31

The Light Shines in Darkness

Today’s Gospel proclaims Jesus as the incarnate Word of God, stating, “In the beginning was the Word, / and the Word was with God, / and the Word was God.” In your Bible, this text is the prologue to the Gospel of John and can be read as a preview of the chapters ahead. The rest of the brief chapter tells of the incarnation. Read this Gospel over meditatively, stopping to ponder phrases such as “the true light, which enlightens everyone.” *Today’s readings:* 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.

