

## PARISH CALENDAR

Solemnity of the  
Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2023

See His star and do Him homage!

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

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Isa:49:3, 5-6:** *The Lord said, "You are my servant,/Israel, through whom I show my glory,.. . .*

**1 Cor:1:1-3:** *"Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," greeted the holy people of the Corinthian church with God's grace and peace.*

**Jn:1:29-34:** *John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*

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

### Secret Plan

The birth of Jesus became the worst-kept secret in the history of the world. All along, people knew God had a plan. God had told everyone from Adam and Eve, to Abraham and Sara, to Moses and Miriam, to David and Bathsheba, to Hosea and Gomer, to Mary and Joseph that there was a plan. Nobody fully understood it. Nobody knew how God would bring the plan to fulfillment. But they all believed. They had seen God work mighty deeds in their lives, and they believed that one day the promise of redemption would be fulfilled.

Jesus was God's secret. When Jesus was born in humble surroundings outside of royalty and pageantry, only a handful of people even began to realize what God had done.

But the secret got out. Angels appeared in the sky. Shepherds showed up. And Magi traveled from a faraway land.

Everyone was finding out God's two great surprises: Jesus was born as the promised Messiah, and he came not just for his own race but for all the people of the world.

The Letter to the Ephesians says, God's mystery "was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Jesus was born, and he came to save each of us, no matter what family we come from, what we believe, or how we behave. The mystery of God's love is open now to the whole world.

**That is the epiphany, the revelation of God's secret**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JANUARY IS KALAUPAPA MONTH!** Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa invites everyone to save the date for their first webinar of 2023: "Kalaupapa Month: **A Time To Remember**" on **Saturday, January 14, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Hawai'i Standard Time)**

This webinar of historical and modern-day photographs will look at how January became designated annually as Kalaupapa Month. We will talk about the people connected to the significant dates that occurred during January throughout the history of Kalaupapa -- and discuss ways each of you can observe this time to remember the people and history of Kalaupapa. There is no charge.

Information on how to register for the webinar will be sent out in early January. We look forward to you joining us! For more information, please visit: [www.kalaupapaohana.org/webinars](http://www.kalaupapaohana.org/webinars)

**ANNUAL RED MASS: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**CATHEDRAL OF THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF PEACE @ 9:00 A. M.:**

The Red Mass has been a tradition since 1955 for government officials and the community to gather at the beginning of the Legislative Session to pray together. Bishop Larry Silva will be the principal celebrant and this year will feature guest speaker Robert Van Tassel, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawaii, on "75 years of hope that transforms, action that heals and charity that brings justice." The Red Mass will be livestreamed at <https://honolulucathedral.org/live-stream/>

**MARCH FOR LIFE 2023 ACTIVITIES: Thursday, January 19, 2023. 6:00 PM mass at St Theresa's Co-Cathedral** followed by the "Culture of Life Rally at the State Capitol on Friday, January 20, 2023, beginning at 2:00 PM.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him. . . Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Jan 8 Sun: The Epiphany of the Lord**

Isa:60:1-6; Ps:72; Eph:3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt:2:1-12

**Jan 9 Mon: Baptism of the Lord**

Isa:42:1-4, 6-7; Ps:29: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10; Mt:10:34-38

**Jan 10 Tue: Ordinary Weekday**

Heb:2:5-12, Ps:8:2ab, & 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk:1:21-28

**Jan 11 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

Heb:2:14-18; Ps:105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mk:1:29-39

**Jan 12 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

Heb:3: 7-14; Ps:95: 6-7c, 8-9, 10-11; Mk:1:40-45

**Jan 13 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

Heb:4:1-5, 11; Ps:78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk:2:1-12

**Jan 14 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

Heb:4:12-16; Ps:19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk:2:13-17

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

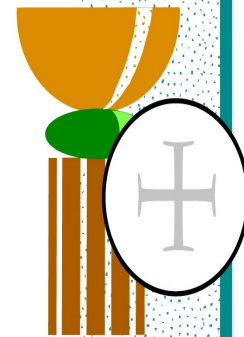
In today's second reading we hear the teachings of Saint Paul to the members of the Church at Ephesus. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God's loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul's words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ's justice and peace? (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 website [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

Accept  
our  
gifts also



O  
LORD

We have seen  
his star

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# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Star-Crossed

God our Creator  
you guided the Magi to the infant  
through the brightness of a star.  
Gold, frankincense, and myrrh,  
the Magi presented.  
May the light of Scripture  
guide our journey  
as we offer to you  
our worship and discipleship.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 8, 2023**  
**Illumination and Glory**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.* The radiance of God's glory is clear as we celebrate Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in the visit of the Magi. In the first reading, Isaiah addresses Jerusalem, saying, "Your light has come." Continuing, Isaiah tells of people from afar bringing gifts: "All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."

The Magi proclaim the Lord's birth, when they arrive in Jerusalem, inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" Alarmed at this query, the jealous King Herod begins a search for the one he considers a rival to his power. But this newborn is not destined to compete with the king.

Isaiah had foretold that the newborn would "shepherd my people Israel." This is not the language of an earthly ruler. Jesus continues to be manifest in us in the readings and the Eucharist. On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we thank God for the gift of the Eucharist, a gift that we can continue to receive throughout our lives.

Matthew's Gospel is a particular type of Jewish story that intends to make a theological point and is heavily influenced by biblical tradition and diverse sources. These visitors to the holy family were clearly good-hearted, kindly, and motivated by faith in prophecy and astrology. Honor their generosity by extending good will and kindness to family, friends, and coworkers.



## THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Tuesday, January 9

#### The Baptism of the Lord

The readings of the Christmas season conclude with the heavens opening and a voice saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” What could be a more joyous way to end the season? During Christmas Time, we have experienced the birth of our Savior, the manifestation to the Magi, and Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. As we enter Ordinary Time in winter, pause to reflect on each of these in-breakings of the kingdom and how they have affected you. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7, Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 9–10; or Acts 10:34–38; Matthew 3:13–17.*

### Monday, January 23

#### Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children weaves the secular with the sacred. Wherever we are on this day, we pray that God will protect all unborn children. Although the unborn are nameless to us, we can easily look around and offer thanks to God to all those who have been born. Consider using some of the photos from the Christmas cards that you have received this year to start a conversation with children about our belief that all life is sacred. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 72:2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 11–12, 13–14; Matthew 5:1–12a.*

### Wednesday, January 25

#### Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul reminds us that conversion to deepen faith and service of others is sometimes sudden. For most people, though, conversion to living in Christ is gradual, like a never-ending timeline of good works, struggles, reconciliation, renewal, and stronger faith in Jesus. Today, pray that we may never hesitate to serve God by serving others with kindness and understanding. Pray also to follow the example of St. Paul and to learn from struggles, so that you can dedicate your life to following Christ. *Today’s*

*readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; Mark 16:15–18.*

### Thursday, February 2

#### The Presentation of the Lord

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is sometimes called Candlemas Day or the Feast of the Encounter in the Temple (by Eastern Christians). In the Gospel, we hear Simeon’s words of blessing and Anna’s prophecy. Many parishes bless candles for parishioners and for the year’s Masses today, a tradition that reminds us of the light of faith that we have through baptism. *Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*

### Friday, February 3

#### St. Blaise

Little is known about St. Blaise, who was a bishop and martyr. He is celebrated as having healed a boy who was choking, likely on a bone. Recalling this miracle, the tradition of the blessing of throats arose around the eighth century. As throats are blessed with crossed candles close to the recipient’s neck, we ask God to heal all who suffer from diseases of the throat and “every other illness.” *Today’s readings: Hebrews 13:1–8; Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 8b–9abc; Mark 6:14–29.*

### Saturday, February 11

#### World Day of the Sick

On the optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, we recall the story of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, France. Millions of pilgrims have visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes since 1862, when several miracles were confirmed as authentic. In 1992, Pope John Paul II named February 11 World Day of the Sick, a day of awareness of those who are ailing and for all who have no access to proper medical care. Today is an important intersection of loving awareness of all sick persons, with a memorial in the Church that celebrates God’s healing through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. *Today’s readings: Genesis 3:9–24; Psalm 90:2, 3–4abd, 5–6, 12–13; Mark 8:1–10.*







**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
**TEACHING MASS - BULLETIN INSERT**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023**



## **A CALL TO COME AND SEE THE LORD**

On Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate the story of three wise men who, following a star, left the comfort of their homes and came together to follow an invitation from God to a humble stable in the town of Bethlehem. Inside, their eyes beheld a newborn child laying in a manger, a feeding trough, as though he were food for animals. And yet, these foreign men from afar knelt in worship because, with eyes of faith, they saw that this child was the King of kings.

These three men would be the first to approach the Lord and worship Him in this way, bringing Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but they would not be the last. We continue this tradition every time we gather at Holy Mass. When we kneel during our Mass, we look up and see what appears to be food: bread and wine. And yet, with our eyes of faith, we know this is no bread at all, but is the body of Christ, and that the wine is His most precious blood. We see Jesus Christ in his body, blood, soul, and divinity as He sits enthroned on the Altar, and we bring Him the gifts of our time and attention, the things He desires from us most of all.



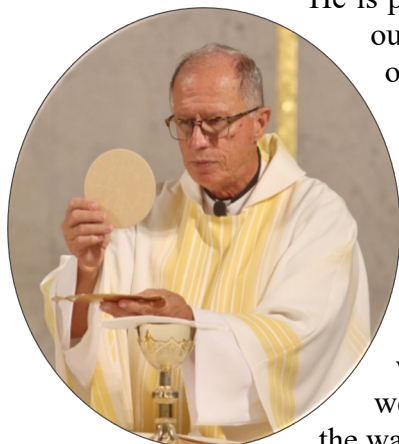
God calls us, just as He called those wise men, to come and see our Savior in person. He invites us to encounter Him in His house, gathering us together as a family, as brothers and sisters, to be with one another and with God at His table.

## **JESUS IS WITH US AT THE MASS**

Most of us are familiar with Jesus' promise that He is always with us, wherever two or three are gathered in His name. This is truer at Mass than at any other gathering or worship space. He is present with us on multiple levels.

He is present in our communion with each other, mystically pouring out Himself through our common prayer. He is present in the priest, who acts in the person of Christ as he offers the body and blood of our blessed Lord on the altar to His Heavenly Father. He is present in the Word proclaimed from the scriptures by the lectors and by the deacon and priest, for He is the Word made flesh and is present whenever that Word is proclaimed. But above all else, He is most profoundly present in the Eucharist itself. Inside every host and every drop within the chalice is His body, blood, soul, and divinity. This is not a symbol or a metaphor, but His actual physical self. Yes, it looks like bread and tastes like it, but with our faith, we know that this is His body and blood. Within that body and blood, Jesus is alive and present. It is Jesus who we see on the altar, who we receive on our hands and on our tongue, and who we consume into our very bodies so that we can take Jesus with us as we depart from the walls of the church and go forth into the world. God is in no way distant from us when

we gather to worship at Mass. Rather, He is there with us and is so close to us that He allows us to take Him into our very selves so that we can be one with Him.



## JESUS: PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

When the three wise men came before the Lord, they offered Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. These small and seemingly strange gifts hold a great symbol of what we know through faith of Jesus Christ. The three wise men knew that they were encountering a king, but also a priest and a prophet. Indeed, Jesus is all of these things and, when we come to Mass, we encounter Jesus as all three.

### JESUS THE PRIEST

In the Old Testament, the Lord established a priesthood that would offer the sacrifices of animals to God on behalf of the Jewish people. In our New Testament, we now have a great high priest: Jesus Christ, who offers up Himself on the cross as a sacrifice so powerful that no other sacrifice needs to be offered. In the Mass, we have Christ continuing to offer that same sacrifice through the mystical realities of our liturgy. At Mass, it is as if we have been transported backward in time to both Good Friday and Easter Sunday, to the moment of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord. On Good Friday, our sacrifice was offered; on Easter Sunday, that same sacrifice, Jesus Christ, was raised up. Within our parish priest who celebrates the Mass, Christ is at work, changing our liturgy from a simple reenactment to a powerful reliving of that Great Event. It is Christ who offers up the Eucharist, His body and blood, to God our father.

### JESUS THE PROPHET

In the gospel, Jesus calls Himself “the way, the truth, and the life.” His teachings are the fullness of truth and provide us not only with the way that we can live out a most fulfilling Christian life, but also the way to come to know God personally and perfectly. At every Mass, we proclaim the word of God. As the word made flesh, it is Jesus himself who speaks to us through the word. This is true not only of the gospel, but of all the readings. For all of scripture is inspired by God and Jesus is God. Jesus speaks to us as a church and as individuals through scripture.

### JESUS THE KING

On the day of His crucifixion, Jesus Christ was crowned with thorns and mounted upon the throne that is the cross. As we celebrate the Mass and recall these events, we exchange these painful images for glorious symbols of our Lord's kingship. Sometimes we ask, “why do we use a golden chalice when Jesus surely used a cup of wood or clay at the Last Supper?” The answer is that we are not simply reenacting the Last Supper. We are giving our Lord a splendid and worthy throne. We enthrone the presence of Jesus Christ on the altar, arrayed in gold because that is the way we should treat our triumphant king. Even as the Lord appears to us in so humble a form as bread and wine, we give to Him a worthy reception. We bow before our mighty king made known to us in bread and wine.

