

# PARISH CALENDAR

## The First Sunday of the Season of Advent

November 28, 2021

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul!

Saturday, November 27	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, November 28	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, November 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, November 30	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, December 1	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Thursday, December 2	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, December 3	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 4	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Bar: 5:1-9: The exiles will be brought back to Jerusalem.**

**Phil: 1:4-6, 8-11: Paul writes of hope to the Philippians.**

**Lk:3:1-6: John proclaims a baptism of repentance.**

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

**Saturday Evening Mass @ 5 pm**

**Four Sunday Masses @ 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am & 5 pm**

**Weekday Masses will be at 8 am & 7 pm (Mon)**

To get tickets. You can go to [www.stritananakuli.org](http://www.stritananakuli.org) on the Banner line look "Mass Tickets" click it. You will see screen "Mass Tickets" click on **Obtain Mass Ticket through Event Brite.com here** you will then have a screen which has a picture of the front of the church "St. Rita Catholic Mass Tickets" click; on the next page will be in orange box which says **"Select a date"** select date and time you wish to get tickets. Please remember there a limited amount of seats due to social distancing. If you do not have a computer you may call the parish office between 10 am - 12 pm (Mon-Tue- Wed-Fri) for tickets

**We will continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 10 a. m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr\\_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/)**

### HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

The Scriptures of Advent open this year with an appeal for justice and security. Our society longs for a better life the same way ancient Israel and Judah did. We long for safety within our borders. We long for leaders of blameless conduct. We long for these blessings to last.

During Advent we want to see the fulfillment of God's promises. God promised peace. God promised safety. God promised good leaders. God promised food, drink, and strength. During Advent we anticipate the fulfillment of God's main promise: salvation. We await the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, whose name means Savior and whose mission brought redemption. But we still await something more. We need God's presence in our midst now. We need peace in our lives now. We need leaders in whom we can trust, leaders we can admire, leaders who cooperate with the plan of God. And we need them now.

Through Jeremiah, we hear God's promise for something unique and wonderful: "a just shoot." God promises a strong sprout of new growth nudging up from the earth. This shoot will flower with justice. The earth and rain will fertilize its seed and make it grow from year to year.

This Advent our society yearns for a just shoot, the fulfillment of God's promise.

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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](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!

## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:

**"Working on the Margins"** Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd). and click "How to Give" under Resources."

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparably dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society." **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"** [www.respectlife.org/gospel-of-the-life-summary](http://www.respectlife.org/gospel-of-the-life-summary)

## WEEKLY READINGS

### **Nov 28 Sun: 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Jer:33:14-16; Ps:25; 1 Thes:3:12-4:2; Lk:21:25-28, 34-36

### **Nov 29 Mon: Advent Weekday**

Is:2:1-5; Ps:122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt:8:5-11

### **Nov 30 Tue: Saint Andrew, Apostle**

Rom:10:9-18; Ps:19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt:4:18-22

### **Dec 1 Wed: Advent Weekday**

Is:25:6-10a; Ps:23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt:15:29-39

### **Dec 2 Thur: Advent Weekday**

Is:26:1-6; Ps:118; 1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt:7:21, 24-27

### **Dec 3 Fri: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**

Is:29:17-24; Ps:27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt:9:27-31

### **Dec 4 Sat: Advent Weekday**

Is:30:19-21, 23-26; Ps:147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:9:35-1, 5a, 6-8

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

On this first Sunday of Advent, the Gospel reading depicts Jesus warning his follower about the end-time. He urges them to pray, be vigilant, spiritually awake, avoid self-indulgence, spiritual malaise, and a preoccupation with anxiety. Jesus advises against a lifestyle of earthly pleasures and worry. These will not matter when the Lord asks for an account of our stewardship. Stewards realize their lives are not just about the here and now. They know themselves to be reflections of God's active presence in the world and witnesses of the Lord's promises. As we begin this season of hope, let us reflect on the practical effect of having every waking moment in our lives dedicated to the Lord. (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.sritananakuli.org](http://www.sritananakuli.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**

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

What would you like your last words to be? What final instructions would you like to give the ones you leave behind? Enjoy life? Work hard? Play more?

We do not know if Paul thought he was sending his last words to the Thessalonians, but it sounds like it as he nears the end of his letter. He believes Jesus is coming soon. He wants this community to be ready, and he does not know if and when he will see them again.

His final instructions are these: "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all." Paul wants them to love one another.

He realizes it is something they cannot do alone. He asks that the Lord do it for them. He wants the Lord to increase their love. This will make them "blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus."

As we begin Advent, our thoughts turn to preparations for Christmas. But Paul wants our thoughts turned toward the Second Coming of Christ, not the first. He wants us to be blameless in holiness before God when Jesus comes again.

This season gives us a perfect occasion to practice love. Let us practice it on those we know best and those we know least. Do these last words sound too hard? God will make it possible for us to love even more.

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# The First Sunday of Advent



## Advent Begins!

November 28 – December 24

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Watching in Hope

Loving Father,  
you have revealed yourself to us  
and even now you call us to you.  
You call us to:  
wait  
watch  
look for signs.

You call us to hope.  
Help us to remain in you.  
Help us not to lose heart.  
Keep our eyes toward heaven.  
Make us ready for your coming.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Sunday, November 28, 2021 Promises Fulfilled



*Today's readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36.* Advent, the start of the liturgical year, is a season of preparation for Christ's coming. The decorations that are out already may make it appear that Christmas has arrived. But without anticipation, our celebration cannot be full. In fact, the first two weeks of the season of Advent do not focus on the birth of Jesus at all, but on our hope for his coming at the end of time.

What is it that we hope for?

When we look around, we see that the world is not as it should be. There is illness, suffering, poverty, and injustice. People die. Grief and loss are real. Too often, death comes violently, leaving a different kind of pain in its wake.

Sometimes we think that this cannot be what our loving God intended for the world.

Indeed, God promises something different. Throughout Scripture and history, we know that God is a keeper of promises. It is in those promises that we hope. Jesus and the prophets describe perfect justice, the end of suffering and pain, peace among people, a new heaven and a new earth. The world portrayed in the readings cannot come without disruption. The old must fall away. What is not of God must fall away to make way for the completely new thing that God is doing.

Is there anything that must fall away for God's light to live fully in you?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, November 29

#### The Advent Wreath

Set up an Advent wreath if you have not already. You will need four candles, three violet and one rose, and a base to hold them. Advent wreaths often incorporate evergreens. Decide when you will light the candles each day. At this time, the family might read the day's Gospel. Singing even the same simple song every day can create a lovely rhythm for the season. Many resources with daily Advent prayers for adults and children are available in print and online. A piece of purple fabric to place the wreath on will add to the environment. Nearby, consider placing a small statue or picture of Mary, on whom we meditate frequently during the season of Advent. *Today's readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4b, 4cd–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 8:5–11.*

### Tuesday, November 30

#### St. Andrew

St. Andrew, one of Jesus' first disciples, was called while fishing in the Sea of Galilee. In today's Gospel, we hear that he and his brother, St. Peter, "immediately" left their old lives behind to follow Jesus, who called them to be "fishers of men." The Feast of St. Andrew is traditionally the first day of a beautiful devotion, the Christmas novena, a short prayer that is said fifteen times each day from this day until Christmas. *Today's readings: Romans 10:9–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 4:18–22.*

### Wednesday, December 1

#### Miracles

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he went up on the mountain and healed many, many people from the crowds who came to him. There, he also feeds thousands of people, multiplying the loaves and the fish. Isaiah foretold that the Lord "will wipe away the tears from all faces" on the mountain, a vision of the messianic kingdom. Jesus reveals that vision when he heals bodies and then offers a feast, an

abundant celebration made from humble things. When might we experience that kind of healing and celebration? *Today's readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.*

### Thursday, December 2

#### A Solid Foundation

What does it mean to have a solid foundation? Imagine a beautiful sandcastle on the beach, and next to it a humble stack of rocks with a wide base. If a large wave comes unexpectedly, the sandcastle is gone. A few of the rocks might be washed into the water, but much of that structure will still stand. In our lives, the waves will come. Each one of us will face difficulties, big and small. But the more we center our lives on love of God and neighbor, the better we will withstand the currents. *Today's readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.*

### Friday, December 3

#### St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier, the first Jesuit missionary, traveled extensively in Asia, devoting most of his life and mission to spreading the Gospel. His practice of engaging with the culture and language of the people whom he served was later developed into what we call inculturation of the faith. Honor St. Francis Xavier today by supporting the Church's mission work around the world. *Today's readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:27–31.*

### Saturday, December 4

#### Advent Music

Make a playlist of music that is focused on preparation with Advent songs found online. Consider more meditative instrumental music for the playlist as well. Listening to this music in the car or while making dinner can balance the excitement and bustle of December. As much joy as we have for the coming of Christ, we still wait in hope for something more, and music can help us be present to that reality. *Today's readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8.*

