

# PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

December 24, 2017

Let the earth be opened  
and bring forth a Savior.



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Saturday, December 23	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 24	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 6:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Ohana Mass</b>
	..... 11:00 p. m.	<b>Christmas Evening Mass</b>
Monday, December 25	..... 8:00 a. m.	<b>Christmas Mass</b>
	..... 10:00 a. m.	<b>Christmas Mass</b>
		<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
	.....9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, December 26	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Communion Service
		<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, December 27	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	.....9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, December 28	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	.....5:30 p.m.	<b>Feeding Menu - Kalua Pig/Cabbage</b>
Friday, December 29	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	.....9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Saturday, December 30	.....4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Sir 3:2-6, 12-14: Jewish advice on family relationships**

**Col:3:12-21: The virtues of a Christian household.**

**Lk:2:22-40: Jesus is presented in the Temple.**

### Living Catholic in the 808: 3<sup>RD</sup> Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

*Luke 2:10-11 (NAB): "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, a savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord."*

**How do we evangelize? BRING JESUS TO OTHERS, DO NOT BRING OTHERS TO JESUS CHRIST**

*We live in a world with values that are contrary to Gospel values. We are faced with such challenges as secularism, individualism, and materialism.*

*Our calling today is to bring Jesus' presence in our family, community, workplace and civil society. We need to follow the life, works and words of Jesus Christ. This is discipleship. A disciple is a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Disciples continue the mission of Jesus Christ today in our own sphere of influence. Disciples proclaim the Kingdom of God, Jesus' presence, through acts of reconciliation and healing, love and service, prayer and worship. Discipleship is the vocation of every Christian and is rooted in Baptism.*

*We bring Jesus to others by the way one lives his/her life, conducts his/her affairs and the manner by which he/she relates to others, or the way he/she goes outside of oneself to ser the less fortunate.*

**Proclaim the Good News through our lives – what we say, do and what people see in us.**

**By: Rafael Mendoza  
Business Manager  
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa**

*The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin named Mary*



**Hail Mary, full of grace!**

**The Lord is  
with you.**

Behold, you will  
conceive in your womb  
and bear a son,  
and you shall  
name him **JESUS**



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*Be it  
done  
to me  
according  
to your  
word*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN:** Lord Jesus Christ, You took our human nature upon Yourself. You shared our life and death, our childhood and adulthood. You also shared our time in the womb. While still God, while worshiped and adored by the angels, while Almighty and filling every part of the universe, You dwelt for nine months in the womb of Mary. You were our Redeemer in the womb, our God who was a pre-born child. Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless and protect the children who today are in their mother's womb. Save them from the danger of abortion. Give their mothers the grace to sacrifice themselves, I body and soul, for their children. Help all people to recognize in the pre-born child a brother, a sister, saved by You, our Redeemer in the womb.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. . . . Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how, the smallest things we do can change someone's life." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting."* [www.bit.ly/10WaysRespectLife](http://www.bit.ly/10WaysRespectLife)

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Dec 24 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 San: 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps: 89; Rom: 16:25-27; Lk: 1:26-38

**Dec 25 Mon: The Nativity of the Lord - Mass @ Dawn**

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

**Dec 26 Tue: Stephen, first martyr**

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

**Dec 27 Wed: John, apostle, evangelist**

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

**Dec 28 Thur: Holy Innocents, martyrs**

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

**Dec 29 Fri: Octave of Christmas**

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

**Dec 30 Sat: Octave of Christmas**

1 Jn: 2:12-17; Ps: 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk: 2: 36-40

## CHRISTMAS:

In today's **Christmas Mass at dawn** we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in the manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth. As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in his gift and give glory to God. (*International Catholic Stewardship Council e-bulletin*)

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord? (*International Catholic Stewardship Council e-bulletin*)

## THE SHEPHERDS OF CHRISTMAS

In two of the Gospel readings for Christmas Day, the shepherds figure prominently. Why? Nothing is said to indicate they were outstandingly good men or that they were leaders in the Bethlehem community.

Thomas Aquinas wondered whether it was fitting that these shepherds got the announcement of Jesus' birth first. He concluded that it was because the shepherds represented the Jewish people and the magi the Gentile world. But still, why shepherds? Recently some have reasoned that shepherds were fitting recipients because they were so ecologically correct, close to nature and all that.

But could it have been for a much simpler reason? The shepherds were just there, in the right place and the right time. Who else would be awake at midnight? Who else would be out on the hillside beneath the arc of the mighty sky?

More relevant to us is their reaction to the news brought by the angelic host. The shepherds should inspire us to ask ourselves: what is my reaction to the news? Isaiah says the reaction should be "abundant joy and great rejoicing." Paul tells us that it gives us the opportunity to live "temperately, justly, and devoutly."

The angels' message invites us to rejoice because Christ is born again in our hearts. The angels sing—but their song only makes sense to those waiting, hoping, and believing. Why shepherds? Why not? They cluster around the crib to remind us that Christmas belongs to the simple people who hear, accept, and come to this amazing scene

**GIVING ELECTRONICALLY:** There are now two ways to give electronically to St. Rita's you can give via on-line giving at [www.striananakuli.org](http://www.striananakuli.org) (on-line giving) by using your credit or debit cards. Or you can give after Mass to our parish volunteers using our credit/debit card reader. *Mahalo for your generosity!*

Glory to God in the Highest

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