

# PARISH CALENDAR

The Nativity of the Lord  
Christmas

December 25, 2016

Today is born our Savior  
Christ the Lord!

Saturday, December 24	..... 6:00 p.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS - OHANA MASS</b>
	..... 11:00 p.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS EVENING - MASS</b>
Sunday, December 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
	..... 10:00 a.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
	<b>NO SUNDAY EVENING MASS</b>	
Monday, December 26	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, December 27	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, December 28	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, December 29	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 5:30 p.m.	<b>FEEDING MENU: Kalua Pig &amp; Cabbage</b>
Friday, December 30	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
	..... 5:30-10:30 p.m.	<b>YOUTH NIGHT - CHURCH</b>
Saturday, December 31	..... 4:00-4:45 pm	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

*Gloria to God in the Highest*

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**NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:**

**Numbers:6:22-27: God's loving presence is announced to Moses and Aaron.**  
**Galatians: 4: 4-7: God sent his Son that we might receive adoption as heirs.**  
**Luke:2:16-21: Mary ponders all that has happened.**

**Living Catholic in the 80s!**  
**Why It's Impossible to Take Christ Out of Christmas**

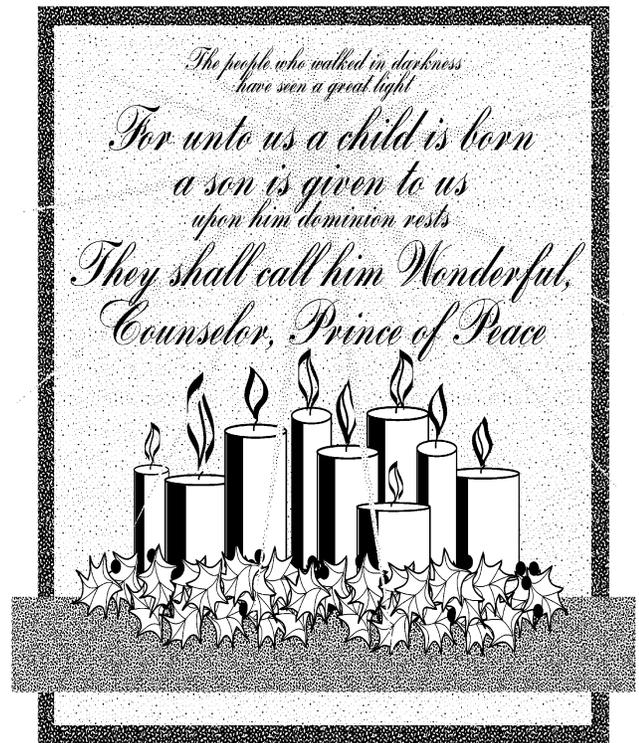
Ok, I get what people mean when they say "Keep Christ in Christmas." I understand the call to not get so caught up with Christmas preparations - the parties, cards, presents etc... that we forget the meaning of Jesus' birth. I do understand this. But, in all honesty, I dislike this saying because it just isn't true. There is no way Christ can ever be missing from Christmastime.

Our faith teaches us that God broke into our world in the most remarkable of ways. God "stooped down" from being I AM WHO AM to become one of us. Humanity is forever changed with the Incarnation. Whether we like it or not. Whether we actively think about it or not.

It is great to remember the spiritual origins of a Christmas tree. But, even if we don't, God is still there as we decorate. When we send that once-per-year card, Christ is with us as we tell our friend that we still care. The presents given to strangers and to loved ones alike are our way of sharing (God's) love.

Since God is love, we cannot do any act kindness and goodness without Christ's presence. Whether we have "religious" thoughts or not, Christ is still with us this Christmas..

Kristina M DeNeve  
 Adult Faith Formation Coordinator  
 Diocese of Honolulu



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOUTH NIGHT:** Attention All Youth! There will be a Christmas Youth Night on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. This will be the last youth night for the year and one that you definitely don't want to miss! For more information on this event, please see youth leaders, Lani and Owali or the flyers posted on the church walls.

**RESPECT LIFE:** As we welcome with joy and wonder the birth of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that all unborn babies will be welcomed into the world with joy and thanksgiving. Blessed Mother Mary please pray for all expectant mothers and their unborn babies. Merry Christmas!

**WORD OF LIFE:** "What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." —*John 1:3-4*, NABRE© 2010 CCD. Used with permission

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Dec 25 Sun: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

Isa:62:11-12; Ps 97; Tit:3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

**Dec 26 Mon: Feast of Stephen, first martyr**

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

**Dec 27 Tue: John the apostle and evangelist**

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

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

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

**Dec 29 Thur: Octave of Christmas**

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

**Dec 30 Fri: Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

1 Sir: 3:2-6; Ps:128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col: 3:12-21 or Col: 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Dec 31 Sat: Octave of Christmas**

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

## HERALD OF GLAD TIDINGS

To help understand the richness of the Christ-event, the Church looks to the Hebrew scriptures. One of the great passages that Christians turn to for insight about the role of the Messiah is found in Second Isaiah. Chapter 52, written during the Babylonian Exile in the sixth century B.C., tells about a messenger who brings glad tidings. He proclaims peace, brings good news, announces salvation, and says to Zion: "Your God is King" (Isaiah 52:7). For the captives in Babylon this message held out hope for returning to their home country, the land of Judah. That hope was indeed fulfilled just as Isaiah foretold when the Jews were allowed to return. But centuries later, Christians reading the same passage heard in Isaiah's proclamation a description of the role of Jesus. For truly he was a messenger of glad tidings; he brought the good news of the gospel, announcing a day of salvation.

rejoice!  
**Rejoice!**  
Rejoice!

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas 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 e-Bulletin)**

## THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS

To the early Christians Jesus was God's messenger. As the Gospel of John explains, he was God's Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us. As one living among us he taught us God's way. Indeed he was a light shining in darkness, a herald of whom Christians would say, in the words of Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings" (Isaiah 52:7).

Still, some did not accept him. Their hearts were hardened, unwilling to acknowledge that God could act through this humble, unassuming person. For "[h]e came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11). But "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). In these words from the beginning of John's Gospel echoes one of the early Christians' most profound realizations: God's love for all people is so great that all are intended to be God's children, not servants or slaves, not distant participants in creation, but tied by the closest of bonds—children of a loving God.

Jesus announced the glad tidings of God's love for all, and Jesus taught that there are no obstacles for those who wish to be God's children. No power on earth, not even evil, sin, or death, can separate God's children from their loving Creator. Let us rejoice at the coming of God's messenger. Let us rejoice in the glad tidings he announced. Let us give thanks for the light who came into our world and continues to shine in the darkness.

  
Peace  
on  
Earth

