

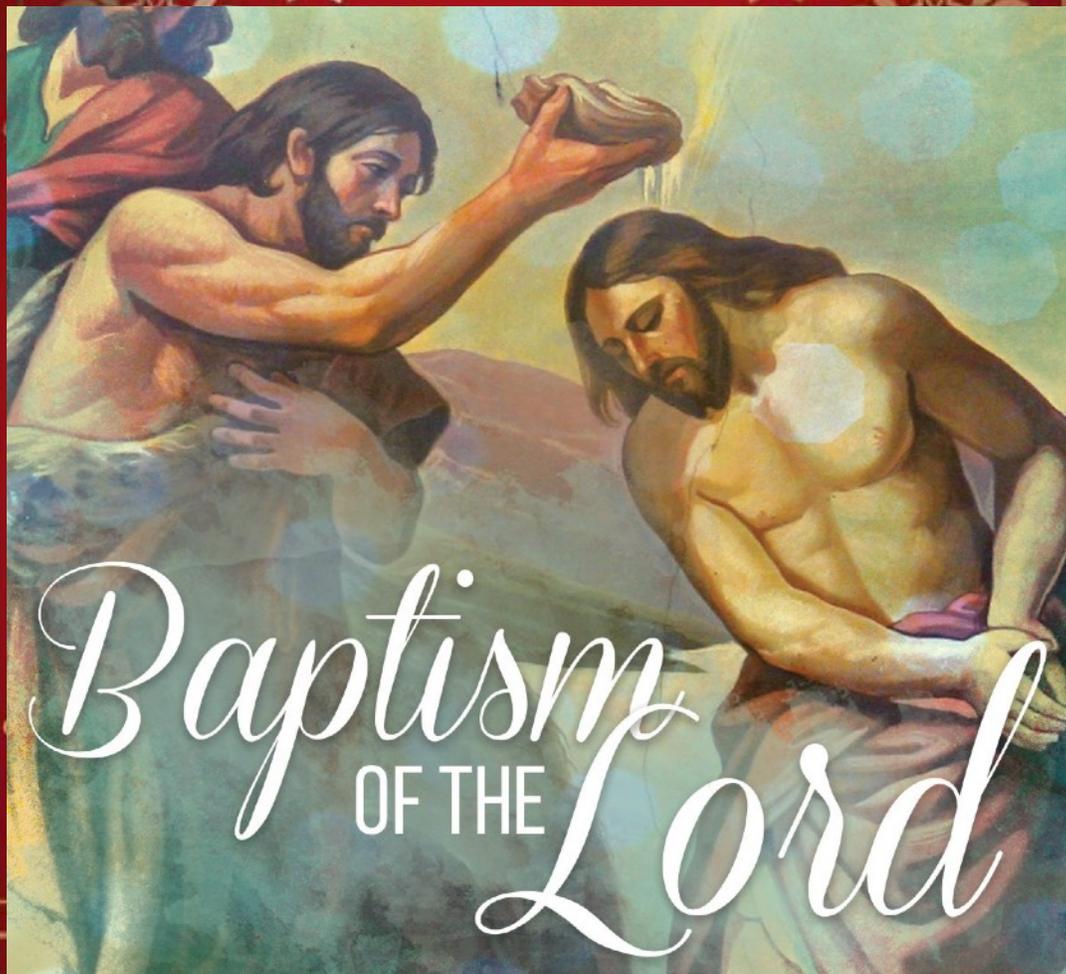
JANUARY 9, 2022

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ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FIRST Wednesday: After Mass until 6:00 PM ~ All other Wednesdays: After Mass until 9:30 AM

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Mario Raquepo

[Cell] (808) 228-3053

STAFF

Sr. Marykutty Kottuppallil, MSMHC

Tina Welch ~ Secretary

SACRISTAN

Marisol L. Chang

A Catholic Community

Diocese of Honolulu

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"Inspired by the Holy Spirit,
We the family of St. Stephen Catholic
Church nurture and sustain our faith
Through Love, Service and Unity."*

DEVOTION

*The Holy Rosary, of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
is prayed 35 minutes before Mass.*

MASS SCHEDULES

MONDAYS ONLY

[In the St. Catherine Chapel]
COMMUNION SERVICE, 8:00 AM

Tuesday ~ Saturday ~ 8:00 AM

Saturday (Main Church) ~ 4:00 PM

Sunday (Main Church) ~ 7:30 AM

Sunday (Main Church) ~ 10:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 PM

Or by appointment

DEACON & FIRST MARTYR

2747 PALI HIGHWAY, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ~ (808) 595-3105

Email: sccpali@rcchawaii.org Website: sccpali.net

LINK TO SUNDAY'S 10:00 AM MASS STREAMING:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-Catholic-Church-Nuuanu-100906711581421/>





St. Stephen The First Martyr
Knights of Columbus Council 16267

2B1  ASK1



Contact: Worthy Grand Knight George Abcede
eMail Address: sggabcede@gmail.com

BLESSED MICHAEL McGIVNEY PRAY FOR US!

Saint Stephen Knights of Columbus is asking for your help by donating food items to the Aloysius Food Bank. Items may be left in the room next to the kitchen. Your assistance toward this project will always be appreciated. *Mahalo!*

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

MAGNIFICAT

January 2022, Vol. 23, No. 11, Sunday, January 9

Approaching the Unapproachable One

In my mercy, I was overcome by my compassion and came to my creature, stretching out my hands to embrace you. So do not be ashamed in front of me, for your sake, naked as you are, I am stripped naked and baptized. Already the Jordan opens for me, and John prepares my ways in the waters and in minds. The Savior spoke thus to humankind, not in words, but in deeds, and came, as he said, drawing near to the river on foot and to the Forerunner as *the unapproachable Light*.

When John saw the river in the desert and Christ in the Jordan, he was troubled by fear, as his father had trembled at Gabriel (Lk 1:12), for at that moment something happened, greater than any moment, for at that moment the Master of the angels had come to a slave wishing to be baptized... "I am not asking, Baptist, that you overstep your bounds. Simply baptize me in silence and expectation of what will follow the baptism. Because in this way you will gain a dignity which does not belong to angels for I will also make you greater than all the prophets. Not one of them saw me clearly, but only in types and shadows and dreams. But as he stands before you by his own will, you see, you grasp *the unapproachable Light*." ...

Heaven rejoice and earth be glad, springs of water be hallowed, for by appearing he has filled all things with blessing, he enlightens all mankind, *the unapproachable Light*.

At the divine command, Zechariah's offspring raises his mind on high, and stretching out his palm places it on the King, washes in the streams, then leads back to land the Lord of land and sky, whom the One who cried *this is my beloved Son* pointed out from heaven by a voice. To the Father himself then and to the Son who was baptized and to his Spirit I cry, "Crush those who afflict my soul; end my errors, my Redeemer, the unapproachable Light."

~ Saint Romanos the Melodist

Saint Romanos the Melodist (†c.565) was a deacon in Constantinople who composed several chanted sermons.

"Perhaps someone will say: 'He who is holy, why did he wish to be baptized?' Pay attention therefore! Christ is baptized, not that he may be sanctified in the waters, but that he himself may sanctify the waters, and by his own purification may purify those streams which he touches."

~ St. Maximus of Turin



WEEKLY OFFERINGS - JANUARY 1-2, 2022

MAIL-INS:	\$62,360.00
WEEKEND:	\$ 6,256.00
ONLINE:	\$ 1,936.00
TOTAL:	\$70,552.00
LAST WEEK:	\$10,365.00

MAHALO!

We are grateful to all who generously contribute their time, talent, and treasure to our Parish Community.

2022 SECOND COLLECTIONS

Church In Latin America & Black & Indian Missions
January 22/23

COMING SOON HERE!

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

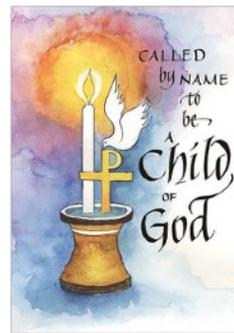
Reflections by Fr. Mario

At Christmas we saw a weak baby, giving proof of our weakness. In today's feast, we see a perfect man, hinting at the perfect Son who proceeds from the all-perfect Father. At Christmas the King puts on the royal robe of his body; at Epiphany the very source enfolds, and, as it were, clothes the river. Come then and see new and astounding miracles: the Sun of righteousness washing in the Jordan, fire immersed in water, God sanctified by the ministry of man.



~ St. Proclus

What is the purpose of infant Baptism?



The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 1250-1252) states,

Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God,

to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.

(Continued on Page 3)

...for John had not yet been imprisoned.

John 3:24

John's Gospel is "Eyewitness News," with locations as precise as a map, timings down to the minute. So, when some disciples of John the Baptist, whom they call "Rabbi," report to him that Jesus is baptizing too, John the evangelist who recounts the event feels compelled to add: "John had not yet been imprisoned." Well, of course John wasn't in prison, not if he's still baptizing! But this tiny note seems to be the Gospel's nod to Mark's earlier Gospel, coordinating the two accounts.

For us, the message is compelling as well. As John the Baptist bows to Jesus, John the evangelist bows to Mark, and we bow, too, to "complete" their joy and our joy too! Bottom line: "He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30). And so the Christmas season comes to a close this weekend!

~ Miguel Dulick

After retiring from high school teaching in St. Louis, MO, Miguel Dulick went to Honduras to live and pray with the poor; to help in any way possible.

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. Luke 3:21-22

Over the last few weeks, during Advent and Christmas, our liturgical focus has been on Jesus as an infant and child. And now, here, he is fully grown. What happened during those years in between?

Well, in the Spirit-guided witness of the Evangelists, we're invited to put our curiosity aside and focus on the moments in front of us. And what about *my* life? What came before *this* moment? A lot. Much of it is a mystery lost to time, and all of it played a role in shaping the person I am today.

But none of it as important as this moment *right now*, the moment I'm being given to

RESPECT LIFE

Juanita Ruis, Respect Life Coordinator

Promoting a Culture of Life

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,

"How to Build a Culture of Life" (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)

What is the purpose of infant Baptism? (Continued)

Christian parents will recognize that this practice also accords with their role as nurturers of the life that God has entrusted to them.

The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized.

Living Faith — This Moment

(Continued from left column)

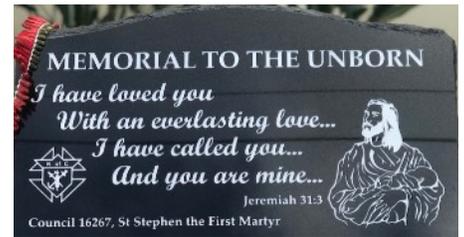
discern the lord's voice, to move forward from the waters of Baptism and follow Jesus.

Jesus, lead me forward.

~ Amy Welborn

Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person also extends to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God. ~ St. Pope John Paul II

Rosary at the Memorial



The Holy Rosary will be prayed at the *Memorial To The Unborn* on the first four Fridays of the month, at **6:30 PM**. All are invited to participate.

What happened when Jesus was baptized?

We have accounts of Jesus' Baptism in all three Synoptic Gospels:

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22



Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

Mass Intentions



Sunday, January 9, 2022

7:30 A.M. Mass

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Josefina Naui Bautista*
- ✦ *Catherine Choo*
- ✦ *Rosa Fernandez*
- ✦ *Tony & Sarah Louis*
- ✦ *Francis Nagasawa*
- ✦ *Al Tagab*
- ✦ *Clement Yee*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Bernard Ho
Isaiah Ares Kim
Ken Ryan

Birthday Blessings For:

Debbie Fujiyama

10:00 A.M. Mass

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Steve Aki*
- ✦ *Celine & Kenneth Asato*
- ✦ *Catherine Choo*
- ✦ *Monica & Patricia Contrades*
- ✦ *Rosa Fernandez*
- ✦ *Stephanie & Frederick Foo*
- ✦ *Karen Lee*
- ✦ *Salvador Solidum*
- ✦ *Al Tagab* ✦ *Nancy & Raymond Tom*
- ✦ *Clement Yee* ✦ *Bernadeen Yee*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Nancy, Robert & Annette Contrades
Isaiah Ares Kim.
Mary Souza
Magdalena D.L. Guerrero
Lucia D.L. Guerrero

Birthday Blessings For:

Shayna Silva



Monday, January 10, 2022

8:00 A.M. Communion Service

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim



Tuesday, January 11, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim



Wednesday, January 12, 2022

8:00 A.M. Mass

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Steve Aki*
- ✦ *Kenneth Asato*
- ✦ *Maurice, Monica & Patricia Contrades*
- ✦ *Deacon Thomas Contrades*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim

Birthday Blessings For:

Sue Kobe



Thursday, January 13, 2022

8:00 A.M.

Saint Hilary of Poitiers,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim
Wayne Silva

Birthday Blessings For:

Carolyn Ho



Friday, January 14, 2022

8:00 A.M.

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Steve Aki*
- ✦ *Celine & Kenneth Asato*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim
Wayne Silva



Saturday, January 15, 2022

8:00 A.M.

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Steve Aki*
- ✦ *Don Yee*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Isaiah Ares Kim

4:00 PM Mass

For the Repose of the Souls of:

- ✦ *Celine & Kenneth Asato*
- ✦ *Doreen & Francis Chia*
- ✦ *Betty Lowe*
- ✦ *Beatrice Tom*

Healing Prayers For:

Carla Ayres
Paula Carrington
Isaiah Ares Kim
Ken Ryan
Wayne Silva



Prayer Requests



For the Sick & The Homebound

Luz Abcede, Nancy Asato, Stephanie Baron, Paula Carrington, Nancy Contrades, Robert Gerard Contrades, William Cuenca, Bernard Ho, Isaiah Ares Kim, Sophia Lacuesta, Annette Contrades Manaday, Margaret Robella, Ken Ryan, Wayne Silva, Mary Souza, Carrie Talwar, Richard Wong.

✦ For The Deceased of the Parish ✦

Steve Aki, Celine & Keneth Asato, Ron & Tomiko Asato, Vera Ashitomi, Ignacio Q Babauta, Benito & Rosario Bautista, Rosalie G. Cadiz, Dr. Joseph & Priscilla Chang, Doreen & Francis Chia, Betty & Albert Chong, Sam Chun, Stephen Fujii, Eileen Green, Ron Kano, Karen Lee, Betty Lowe, Frederick Lum, Salvador Solidum, Vicky Solidum, Al Tagab, Beatrice Tom, Gladys Wong, Jack Wong, Shirley Wong, Clement Lee, Don Lee