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St. John the Baptist

We are a community of disciples and missionaries of the Lord who steward the gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure of God with justice and love

Established May 8, 1844

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www.sjbkalihi.org

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday | 9am—2pm | First Friday: 9am-5pm

Sunday 10am-11am & 12:30pm-1pm

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7am Tuesday through Friday | **Adoration: Thursday 7:30am—8am**

Confessions: Saturday 4pm-4:30pm; Sunday 11am-11:20am

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5pm, 7pm (NCW) Sunday: 7am, 9am Spanish Mass: Sun 11:30am

First Sunday of Advent

December 3 2023 | 3 de Diciembre 2023

Opening the Advent Season

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a

homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait.' To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' " (Rm 13:11). We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44).

www.catholicculture.org



PARISH CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 7am—1:30pm—Chaminade University Health Fair (Hall)
- 9:30am—English Class Sister Eleonor (Conference Room)
- 10:15am—11am—Novena Rosario Guadalupano (Church)
- 11am—11:20am—Confessions
- 12:30—Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión Entrenamiento (Church)
- 12:45—Venta Grupo Guadalupano (Hall)
- 2:30pm—Preparación Altar Virgen de Guadalupe (Church)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- NO MASS / Office CLOSED
- 6am—Morning Prayer NCW (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 6am—Morning Prayer NCW (Church)
- 3pm—OCIC Class (Library Room)
- 6:30pm—El grupo de Oración (Conference Room)
- 7pm—NCW Community (NCW Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 6am—Morning Prayer NCW (Church)
- 8am—5pm—Social Ministry Food Bank

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 6am—Morning Prayer NCW (Church)
- 7:30am—8am—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 5:30pm—Lectors Training (Church)
- 6pm—Eucharistic Revival Talks by Seminarian Taylor (Church)
- 7pm—Altar Virgen de Guadalupe (Church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 6am—Morning Prayer NCW (Church)
- 5:45pm—Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training (Church)
- 6:30pm—Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary Mass (Church)
- 7pm—La Virgen Peregrina (Outside Parish)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 3pm—OCIC Class (Library Room)
- 4pm—4:30pm—Confessions
- 4pm—4:45pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 7pm—Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist

Mahalo Rev. Tomasz Wilk

The community of St. John the Baptist Church would like to thank **Rev. Tomasz Wilk** for being with us and celebrating our Masses last week.

A big Thank you to the Parish

Thank you to all for join us for coffee & donuts last weekend. Mahalo Nui Loa to the Knights of Columbus and Evelyn Balatico for organizing refreshments.

Retirement Funds for Religious

Next week, our second collection will be **for the Retirement Funds for Religious**. This collection will support those women and men of religious communities (not our own retired priests), who have served us so well in our schools, parishes, and charitable organizations. Thank you for your generosity.

Chaminade University Parish Health Program

Chaminade University Nursing Students will be at our Parish this Sunday, December 3 conducting a health fair on learn where the best place is to go for care and the benefits of staying active. Please join them for blood pressure screening, educational material and prizes. They will be at the Parish Hall from 7am to 1:30pm.

St John the Baptist's Eucharistic Revival

This week you can find the Eucharistic Miracles from Italy, Part 8.



Eucharistic Conferences: Jesus: Here and Now



Join us on **Thursday Dec. 7th for our December Eucharistic Revival** Talk by our Seminarian Taylor. This month, Taylor will offer an Advent reflection on Mary how she helps us to understand the Eucharist. This session will take place in the Church at 6:00 pm, immediately following the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion training session at 5:30.

Advent Penance Service

Advent Penance service will be on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00pm at our Parish.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses will be held on Friday, December 8th at 7:00a.m. and 6:30p.m. In the Diocese of Honolulu, it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Virgen de Guadalupe

Join us as we celebrated the Feast **of our Lady of Guadalupe**, on Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00am with the serenade and Bilingual Mass at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

Parish News

Second Collection

Today our Second collection is **for the Christmas Flowers**. Thank you for your stewardship.

New Office Hours

After evaluating the needs of the Parish, **starting January 2**, the Parish Office will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 2pm; Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 to 2pm, and Sunday from 12:30pm to 1:00pm.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
November 20 - November 26, 2023

Total Sunday Offerings (incl. online and mailed-in)	\$ 2,972.96
Other Offerings and donations	\$ 661.00
Thanksgiving Mass	\$ 2,124.00
Total Weekly Offering Collection	\$ 5,757.96
Other Collections	
Second Collection—Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 747.00
Special Collection - Debt Reduction	\$ 624.33
Collections Not Retained by Parish	\$ 105.00
School Debt Reduction Collection	
Total Debt as of August 2023	\$ 398,236.90
Solar Panels Debt as of August 2023	\$ 297,251.21
Debt Reduction Collected	\$ 112,964.51
Interest Paid to Diocese as of August 2023	\$ 58,150.73

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$ 4,413.83

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST' ASSESSMENT: \$ 827.60

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in "Ohana in Christ" to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Life of Stewardship

Today we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder that Advent doesn't always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed.

We can take as our theme for this season the words of the Prophet Isaiah in our First Reading. "You Lord, are our Father, our redeemer you are named forever... Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" The passage ends with this verse, which is especially meaningful to the Christian steward: "We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." In other words, our lives are not about us — rather, they are a gift to be used to glorify God and serve others.

In our Second Reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded of how extravagantly God has gifted each one of us. "You were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us embrace these Advent days to recommit to stewarding our spiritual gifts well. This will look different for each individual, of course. Perhaps a family can commit to setting up an Advent wreath and taking 10 minutes to reflect on the daily Gospel.

Someone else may choose to be intentional in checking on a lonely neighbor each day to bring God's love to them consistently. Maybe some will be inspired to scale back their usual gift giving and donate that saved money to those in dire need right now.

Whatever we feel God calling us to do, there is no time to waste. Jesus makes this strikingly clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew through the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he "places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch." We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain attentive to the work He has given us to do, because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it. "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us awaken if we have grown weary or complacent, and recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!

www.catholicsteward.com

1st Sunday of Advent

As we begin another liturgical year, the readings pick up right where we left off last week: focusing on the second coming of Christ. Whereas in the gospel, Mark presents Jesus issuing a stern warning ("What I say to you I say to all: Watch!"), the prophet Isaiah sets a different tone: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down." It seems as though Isaiah is reminding God of God's attributes, as though he were telling God something new: You are mighty, you

are our father, you are the potter, you are our redeemer.

Yet throughout the reading the prophet also asks for mercy, forgiveness, and for a swift coming in glory. To me, it sounds like he is saying: "You will always forgive us, ... right?" Or: "You are a father who wouldn't forget his children. ... aren't you?" It's a curious blend of praise and petition, assurance and supplication. Yet I think that this describes our life with God quite well. We come together as a church to sing God's praises and to adore God with all kinds of titles: Father, Redeemer, Lord, Savior, Shepherd, and so forth. And in almost the same breath we are so bold as to ask God to act in those ways: Be a Redeemer. Be a loving shepherd. Be patient with us.

This is not wrong. In fact, Jesus Christ himself told us to pray this way. "When you pray, say 'Our Father ... Hallowed by thy name ... give us our daily bread....'" Even though our Father knows what we need before we ask, it is right and just that we should lift up our hearts in praise, our hands in petition.

When I first saw the 2011 translation for the text of the Mass, I was surprised at the exhortation of the celebrant before the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, which now reads: "...we dare to say...". What a strange wording! But considering that we are about to invoke a very tender and intimate image of God and ask for things we want/need at the same time, it is entirely appropriate. Like Moses in the Pentateuch, we dare to remind God who God has revealed the divine nature to be. It's as though we are saying, "If you are a loving God...". The sense is not one of skepticism; rather it is a statement of fact: "Since you are a loving God..."

Advent is a time of waiting, and a time of prayer. Isaiah teaches us how to do both at the same time. We and all of God's creation cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" And God says to us, in effect, "I am coming. Are you ready?" Isaiah puts it best: "Would that you might meet us doing right."

Yes, we watch and we wait. But we must do more. In prayer, song, worship, and service, we call upon our good God, and thus we get ourselves ready to meet the Lord at the same time.

www.uscatholic.org

Starting on December 4 , from Monday till Friday, Neocatechumenal Way will have a Morning Prayer at 6:00am in the Church during Advent Season. All are invited to pray before your day starts.

MISA DE GALLO CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES!!!

What a great way to prepare for the birth of our Lord in our hearts by making time to attend the Misa de Gallo Novena Masses from December 16 till December 24, 2023 at 5am followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 5pm—**Repose of the Souls:** Felix Quezon, Jose Castillo, Teresa Batangan, Sandra Constantino, Harold Salvador, Emerson Ramelb, Ferdinand Simon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 7am—**Misa Pro Populo**
- 9am—**Repose of the Souls:** Eligio, Lourders & Mamerto Machacon, Jeffrey, Eugenio, Natividad & Enrique Cuaresma, Patricio Patague, Juanita Vea Campollo, Buenaventura Campollo, Sr., Ferdinand Simon
Birthday: Eric Frondoza
Thanksgiving: Ella Rae Columbres, Reynaldo & Cornelia Columbres
Healing: Joe Lelafu, Nia Lina Faasulo
Birthday & Thanksgiving: Sharlene Stevens

- 11:30am—**Birthday:** Aleksandra Skrzypek

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- **NO MASS / OFFICE CLOSED**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 7am— **Repose of the Souls:** Ferdinand Simon
Birthday & Thanksgiving: Trina Frondoza, Connie Enrico
Healing: Lis Kasyanto

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7am— **Repose of the Souls:** Ferdinand Simon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 7am—**Repose of the Souls:** Ferdinand Simon

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 7am—**Misa Pro Populo**
- 6:30pm—**Repose of the Souls:** Ferdinand Simon

A Mass Intention can be requested online, Please allow 24 hours for your Mass Intention request to be processed. **NOTE:** Mass Intention requests received during the weekend will be processed the following business day.

Compulsory Annual Training for Ministers in our Parish.

Please save the dates:

Lectores - después de la misa el 10 de Diciembre

Hospitalidad, Cantores, Coro - después de la misa el 17 de Diciembre

Lectors - December 7 at 5:30 pm (before the Eucharistic Revival Talk)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion -

December 8 at 5:45pm (before the Mass)

Ushers, Cantors, Music - Dec 21 at 6pm