

# First Sunday of Advent

## God Is Near

Sts. Peter and Paul Church

December 1, 2019

### GOOD NEWS!

Be prepared! But for what? Since we're entering the season of Advent, we might think that we're called to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent is certainly the time to prepare for Christmas, but it's much more than that, for God comes into our lives in many different ways, even today. We see evidence of that when, working together, we rebuild not only cities, as Isaiah describes in the first reading, but relationships in families, parishes, and countries.

Remarkable changes take place in our lives when, as Paul bids us, we "throw off the works of darkness," works of rivalry and jealousy (Romans 13:12). God comes to us every day with the power we need to improve ourselves and our world. God often comes quietly in ways so ordinary we might miss them. That is the point of Jesus' insistence to "stay awake" and "be prepared" (Matthew 24:42, 44).

God certainly came long ago as a human being. That was a one-time-only event. We believe that God will come again at the end. That, too, will happen only once. But God comes more often than this. God comes every day to help us be our better selves. This is what the Advent readings tell us.

What can we do? How are we to prepare for God's coming? Today's readings tell us. We must work for the peace that Isaiah describes; we must throw off the works of darkness, as Paul instructs; and we must do as Jesus tells us: stay awake and be prepared.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Editor's note: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, is pleased to join you at Mass over the next three liturgical years, beginning with today's reflection. A sister of St. Agnes, Sr. Dianne earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Saint Louis University, and honorary degrees and accolades from many organizations. She is professor of biblical studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

**For Reflection:** *Where do you see people's goodness that tells us God is near? What can you do to make that goodness present to others?*

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### December Prayer Intentions from Pope Francis

#### **The Future of the Very Young**

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Avon Czerwinski	December 4th
Valentia Vinca	December 9th
John Coronas, Jr.	December 25th
Vera Palalank	December 26th
Loranzo Alota	December 28th

### PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK

#### *Please pray for the sick*

Kia Rose Adams	Stanley Ho
Danney Ah Quin	Maria Elena Jencks
Loranzo Alota	Jack Jucewicz
Becky Alota,	Christopher Jucewicz
Darlene Amoro	Darren Kaupu
Eddie Bantolina	Henry Kim
Adela Barbosa	Gilbert Mariano
Ho Lun Big	Richard McCrea Jr.
Olivia Mia Blake	Edwin C. Munalem
Charmaine Boyd	Betty Ann Nault
Frankye Boyd	Natividad Nicolas
Arthur Cababa	Carmencita Oasan
Susie Cababa	Olivia B Olegario
Willis Chang	Judy Orlando
Milanie Cleofas	Verg Palank
Avon Czerwinski	Andrea Pontillas
Regina Czerwinski	Hailey Rosetti
Teresita Custodio	Jack Sanders
Blanche DeConte	Rita Stocker
Aida Diao	Rafael Inigo Suarez
Shirley Dungo	Lolita Sutton
Tessie Dungo	Lisa Tang
Yuriko Enomoto	Ruth Tavares-Toma
Encornita Esteban	Francisca Untalan
Douglas Ferreira	Khristian Vinca
Robert Heilser	Theresa Yu
Arthur Ho	

# STEWARDSHIP

## TIME – TALENT – TREASURE

### TREASURE

*Mahalo for your generous contributions  
and Faithful Stewardship.*

The Collection for **November 23—24** is as follows:  
**\$ 12,922.63**

Envelopes & Loose Collections	\$ 7,147.36
Mass Intentions	240.00
Baptism	50.00
Electric & Votive Candles	546.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,983.36</b>

### ENVELOPES

<b>IDENTIFIABLE</b>	<b>39 %</b>
<b>UNIDENTIFIABLE</b>	<b>61 %</b>

Building Fund	\$ 26.00
Outreach	32.14
Donation	1,700.00
Catholic Care	100.00
Christmas	20.00
All Souls Day	15.00
Christmas Flowers	200.00
Thanksgiving	114.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,192.14</b>

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 2,320.13
Catholic Charities	12.00
Advent Concert Tickets	415.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,747.13</b>

If you requested your envelopes for the year, you may pick them up after the morning Masses this week (12/1) and after evening Masses next week (12/7 and 12/8) or stop by the office after noon Mass.

### This Week's Events December 1 –7, 2019

*M – Main Church, U–Upstairs Parish Conference Room,  
R – Reception room, B - Blue room, G - Green Room,  
C – Courtyard*

#### Sunday December 1

##### *First Sunday of Advent*

6:15 am —Rosary (M)  
8:15 am — Youth choir practice (B)  
6:00 pm – RCIA (R) Moved from Wednesday  
Topic: *The Son of God*

#### Monday December 2

6:30 pm – Charismatic Prayer Group (M)

#### Tuesday December 3

##### *St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

6:10 am – Rosary (M)  
11:15 am – Rosary (M)

#### Wednesday December 4

##### *St. John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

6:10 am – Rosary (M)  
7:30 am – Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help (M)  
11:15 am – Rosary (M)  
1:00 pm – Legion of Mary, Queen of Peace (R)  
7:00 pm – Centering Prayer (U)

#### Thursday December 5

6:10 am – Rosary (M)  
11:15 am – Rosary (M)  
6:00 pm—Scripture Study  
7:00 pm – Choir Practice (M)

#### Friday December 6

##### *St. Nicholas, Bishop & First Friday*

6:10 am – Rosary (M)  
7:40 am - Eucharistic Adoration/Sacred Heart Devotion  
10:00 – 11:30 am—Confession  
10:45 am – Divine Mercy Devotion & Chaplet  
11:15 am—International Rosary  
11:45 am—Benediction  
5:45 pm—Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday December 7

##### *St. Ambrose, First Saturday, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*

11:15 am – Rosary  
3:30 – 4:30 pm – Confessions (M)



### **Gifts and Pledges Total: \$895,918 (244 Donors)**

We want to thank those of you who have generously given a gift, made a pledge commitment or have offered prayers toward our Shaping the Future Capital Campaign. Please help us reach our December goal of \$1.2 million. If you have any questions or need assistance in making a pledge please contact Wendy at our parish office 385-7729 or [campaign.sspp@rcchawaii.org](mailto:campaign.sspp@rcchawaii.org)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



### MAHALO

*To our volunteers who helped us to pass out turkeys and turkey dinners to families and kupuna.*

- ◇ *Our next Food bag collection is Dec 14 and 15.*
- ◇ *The Hawaii Food Bank Distribution will be Friday, December 20th from 1:15 —2:45 p.m. Volunteers need to help register people and get their bags to the cars.*

## AROUND THE PARISH

### MAHALO

*To all those who helped cook, serve and join in the celebration of Thanksgiving at Mass and at our brunch.*

*To all those who helped us get ready for Advent by changing out the Hymnal/Missals from the pews on Friday. Thank you for using them and keeping them in good condition for others to use.*



**Monday, December 9th,**  
the Observance of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Diocese of Honolulu.  
Masses are 7:00 a.m., Noon and 6:00 p.m.

## FAITH FORMATION

### CCD

*"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"*

Even though Advent is just beginning, the children in the Religious Education program have begun practice for the Christmas Vigil Liturgy proclamation of the Gospel. Practices are every Sunday 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Church.

Applications and Permission forms are available from the CCD catechists.



### YOUTH MINISTRY RECAP

*"God is an artist, and the universe is His work of art." St. Thomas Aquinas*

Students met last Friday, November 22, 2019 played games and discussed how we can find proof that God exists. Because the universe has a beginning, we can conclude that there has to be something, or someone outside the universe that caused it to exist. We wrapped up with prayers of thanks and petitions and were challenged to ask a family member or friend about a beginning in their life.

**Next Youth Ministry Gathering Friday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

### RCIA

The Catechumenate period of the program has begun. There is still time for you to join in.

Volunteers also needed to sponsor and journey with our catechumen. We meet at Mass on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. and are dismissed for discussion and prayer. We end at 7:30 p.m. We are planning to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance at the 6:00 p.m. Mass on December 8th with two of our candidates.