



Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 11:30am

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **December 1, 2024 | 1 de diciembre de 2024**

First Sunday of Advent

Reading I - **Jeremiah 33:14-16** | Psalm - **25:4-5,8-9,10,14** | Reading 1 - **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2** | Gospel - **Luke 21:25-28;34-36**
Primera Lectura - **Jeremías 33:14-16** | Salmo - **24:4-5,8-9,10,14** | Segunda Lectura - **1 Tesalonicenses 3:12-4:2** | Evangelio - **Lucas 21:25-28;34-36**

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

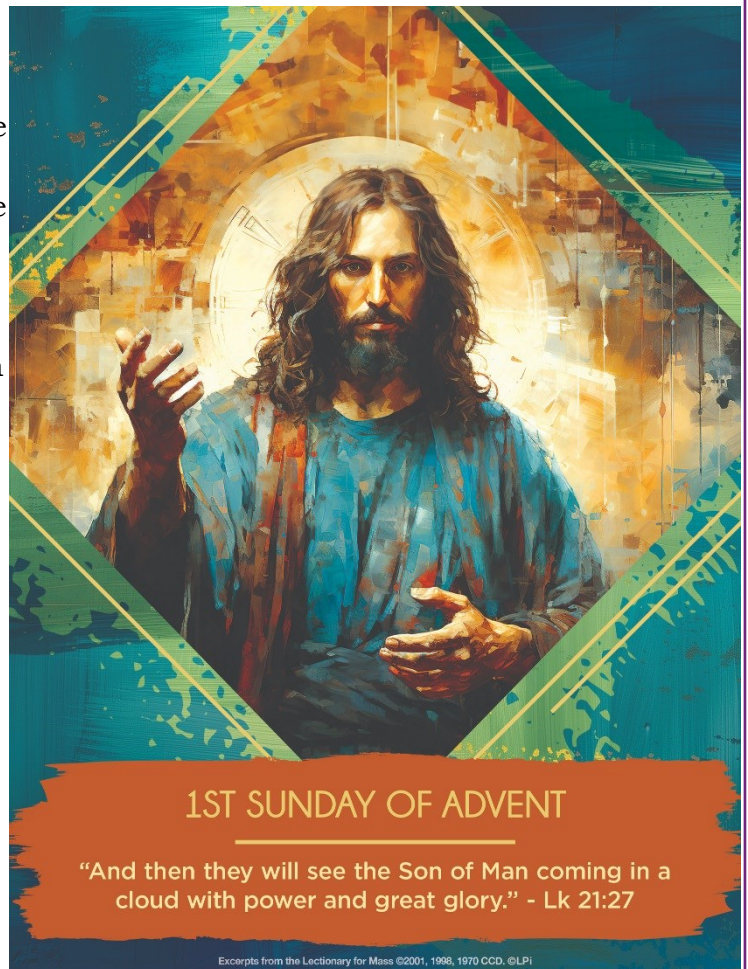
Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

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PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." - Lk 21:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Baruch (Baruc) 5:1-9**

Psalm/Salmo: **126 (125) 1-2,2-3,4-5,6**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 1:4-6,8-11**

Segunda Lectura: **Filipenses 1:4-6,8-11**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 3:1-6**

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

December 1, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Are you one of those people who flips to the end of the book to find out what happens or maybe you roam the internet for spoilers of your favorite show? We have all been tempted to know what is going to happen before whatever it is unfolds, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way we experience the angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Like today: even as we anticipate and know the comfort and joy of the Advent season, we certainly do not begin there with our Gospel reading from Luke. In it, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man: this time will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death. Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed – and that, if we remain faithful to him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing this ending helps us have confidence and hope in God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are encouraged and challenged by the Word and our Advent traditions this first week to *remember how it ends!* In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them the days are coming when the Lord will “fulfill the promise.” This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke’s Gospel, Christ’s coming will be with “power and great glory” and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light who has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps his promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

SING

*O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away*

“
*The Light
who has come
into the world
will dispel the
darkness.*
”

Life of Stewardship

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus - born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgment day is coming, too, when we will be called to give an account for all that God has given to us during our lifetimes. In other words, Advent is a steward's season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, "Wake up! Get ready!" and offer us some practical advice as we enter into this season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying on my "stuff" or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord?

Get ready Christian stewards! He's coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, December 1 after the 1:30pm Mass at St. Michael's**. We'll pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy.

Healing Service

There will be a Healing Service at 6:30pm on **Tuesday, December 3 at St. Michael's**. Anyone in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing or healing in relationships are encouraged to join us. For more info, call Monica at (720) 341-3752.

KCS Presents Free Community Concert

Kona Choral Society (KCS) presents its' Annual *Joy to the World* **FREE** Community Concert on Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm. at St. Michael the Archangel Church.

Baptism Class

There will be a Baptism Class at 9am on **Saturday, December 7th** in the Parish Office Conference Room. All parents and godparents must attend a Baptism Class before baptizing their child. To register for the Baptism class, email Cheryl at baptism.stmichaelskona@rcchawaii.org.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support those who have given a lifetime. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Envelopes for next week's special collection are included in this week's bulletin.

Next Sunday is Commitment Sunday

Get ready to be inspired! Today we will hear the true story

of a fellow parishioner who has embraced stewardship as a way of life and the difference it has made for them. Is something holding you back from embracing this incredible way of life? Please take the time to review your Stewardship Renewal packet you've received in the mail and pray about where God is calling you to commit more deeply to Him in the year ahead! Next week (Dec. 7/8) is Commitment Sunday. Each parish family is asked to please return your completed commitment card.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Fundraiser

Please support the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Papaikou. After the 7am mass on **Sunday, December 8**, they will sell their hand sewn items outside the front entrance. Please stop by and get some Christmas shopping done! All proceeds will go toward their Building & Maintenance fund.

Monday, December 9th - The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Honolulu)

Masses will be held at 7am and 12noon at St. Michael's and 5pm at Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9. Our Spanish Mass will be held at 6pm at St. Michael's. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will also pray the rosary at 11:30 before Mass. After the 12noon Mass, you are invited to Tea in the Grace Parish Center in honor of Our Mother Mary. RSVP to Suzanne at 808-769-1960.

2024 Advent Reconciliation Service

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be held at **6pm on Tuesday, December 10 at St. Michael's**. Other Reconciliation Services scheduled in our West Hawaii Vicariate are:

Thursday, Dec. 5 @ 6pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Honokaa

Friday, Dec. 6 @ 6pm - Annunciation, Waimea

Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 6pm - St. John's, Kealahou

Friday, Dec. 13 @ 6pm - Sacred Heart, Hawi

Spiritual Book Club

Our next Spiritual Book Club meeting is on Thursday, December 19th at 4pm in the Grace Parish Center. This month's book is *A Still Small Voice: Practical Guide to Reported Revelations*. Written by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, the book is considered to be a classic work for the Catholic layperson regarding miracles, visions, and other religious phenomena. Meetings are now available via Zoom. Call the Parish Office for more information. Come join us!

Men of Faith

Would you like to increase your spirituality with fellow men of our parish? Well, that opportunity is available to you every Wednesday! Our meetings focus on reflections on the prior weekend readings as we strive to grow closer to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ and His church. We meet on the St. Michael's south lanai from 5:30-6:30pm.

Life Care Ministry

Come join our Communion Service on Thursday mornings from 9:45am to 11:00am at Life Care Center of Kona. We begin at 10am with Communion Service in the recrea-

Stewardship of Treasure

November 18th - 24th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 1,883.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 15,808.57
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 5,493.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,446,982.42** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

Mahalo for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2024

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

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.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab**. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

tion room with the residents who can come. After the Communion Service we have a fun singalong. We then visit and bring Holy Communion to the rooms of those who were unable to come to recreation room. Life Care is a facility for long term skilled nursing care and rehab residents. Residents are extremely grateful for our visits, bringing Christ to them in the Eucharist, in his Holy Word, with Prayers, song and joy. This is truly a work of mercy and act of God's love. Please consider joining us on Thursdays. Contact the office with any questions and to schedule an orientation.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes will be held on Sundays, **December 1, 8, and 15**. We are in need of a Faith Formation teacher for 4th grade which meets every Sunday after the 9:00 Mass in Grace Parish Center. The requirements are a love of God and a desire to teach children more about their Catholic faith. If this is something you might enjoy doing, please contact Margaret through the Parish Office. *- Margaret Essex, Cathecist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

No Youth Ministry class on Dec. 1st. Have a blessed Thanksgiving weekend and Happy Advent. We will meet December 8th and 15th. *- Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Want to become Catholic? Want to receive the Sacraments?

Anyone age 18+ who is curious about the history, rites, and spirituality of Christianity and wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, the development of Sacred Scripture, and/

or is thinking of becoming Catholic to delve into deeper relationship with God as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

Join us for an informal conversation that may lead to receiving the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). We meet weekly after the 9am Mass on Sunday. Contact Deacon Sándor for more information.

First Sunday of Advent

When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, "Don't be afraid." She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, "Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen." A few days later she died.

Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves "fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity? Maybe you're troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere. Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds. Then pray: "Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming."

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Everyday Stewardship - Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate - do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season - the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way - that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point - Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God - and just as

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*Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
West Hawaii Vicariate*

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
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DAVE BATEMAN
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SHARMAYNE NAONE
*Stewardship Committee Chair
& Safe Environment*

DON DAVID
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

TJ MOSES
Parish Life Coordinator

WALTER BACXA
Music Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH / LOUELLA BRANCO
Funeral Ministry

PAULETTE ADAMS
Wedding Coordinator

MAYRA RAMIREZ
Spanish Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator

BILL CULHANE
Food Pantry Ministry

THELMA BACXA
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much reason, too. The very name of the season - "advent"- encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget - our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Remembering Advent

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent. What a funny juxtaposition - all of us stringing twinkling lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent. There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkling lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I over-decorate, I overgift. All this "over" leads to - you guessed it! - overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My spiritual Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished - all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkling lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door and the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
4pm - Patty Jo Hart, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7am - Necitas Revilla, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Donald Bearth, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 1:30pm - Theresia J. C. Hildebrand, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Anori Atienne Galindo, Blessings & Good Health

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

- 7am - William "Bill" Nelson, 12th Anniversary of Death
- 5pm - Rudy Garcia, Birthday Blessings

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

- 7am - Ben Cuaresma, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Don Owings, for healing; Don Nelson, special intention; Cliff Arnett, Amelia Lesnikowski, Mary & Rusty Bredsnajder, Carmen Mills, Bob Sabatini, May they all Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

- 7am - Repose of the Soul of Henry Hainer
- 5pm - Margarita Morales, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

- 7am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Wilfred "Papa" Naone, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

- 7am - In Thanksgiving for Eugene & Veronica Laughlin

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**. If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, **please call well in advance of the date to secure it.**

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry
The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

If You Die Tomorrow?

This Week's Readings at Mass

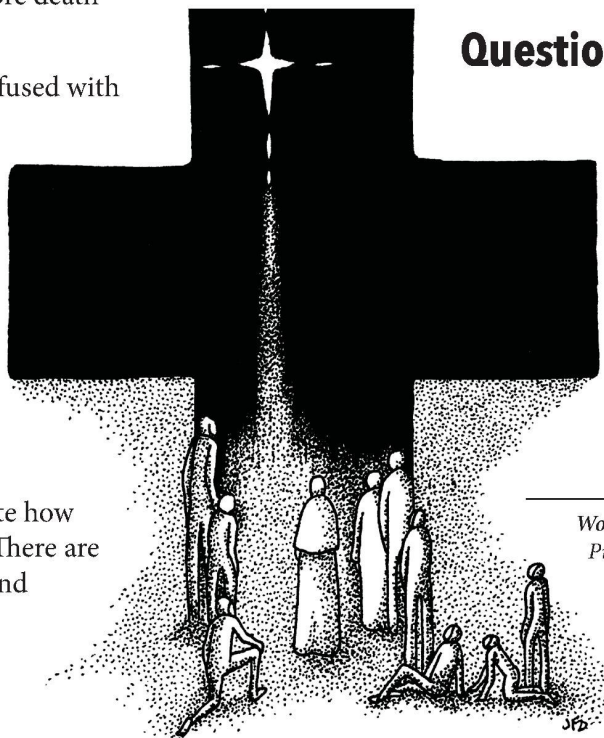
- ▶ Jeremiah 33:14-16 - Restoration of Jerusalem
- ▶ 1 Thess. 3:12-4:2 - Plea for growth in holiness
- ▶ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 - Coming of the son of man

Advent always begins with a Gospel reading in which Jesus tells his listeners to be on guard, alert, and watchful. In that context, Jesus was referring to his Second Coming and the end of the world as we know it. The gospel writers and Jesus' followers were certain Jesus meant this would happen in their lifetimes.

Two thousand years later, we don't usually assume that the world will end at any moment, so what are we to be vigilant and on guard for?

We may not be worried about the apocalypse happening tomorrow, but we can still take Jesus' words to heart because none of us know when we or our loved ones will die. Anyone who has ever received the news of a frightening medical diagnosis or had a friend or relative receive one will recognize how quickly it can change our perspective. Unimportant things that we spent our time on suddenly don't seem very important in light of the love we want to give and receive before death occurs.

If our hearts are confused with distractions (read: wasting time on social media, watching Netflix, overeating or drinking, or generally spending our days doing less-than-meaningful things), Jesus wants us to reevaluate how we spend our time. There are children to read to and tuck into bed, aging parents and relatives who long for our



companionship, friends to re-connect with, grudges and past hurts to be reconciled. Hungry people need food today, homeless men and women are longing for respect and dignity, and sick and lonely people need someone to reach out to them. How would Jesus want us to spend our time if we were to die tomorrow? Let's be alert to that.

Questions of the Week

- 1 In what ways have you slipped into "drowsiness," distraction, or a pattern of wasting time on unimportant matters which you would like to change?
- 2 What do you want to be more vigilant about this upcoming week? How do you think Jesus is inviting you to spend your valuable time and energy?

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Patient Anticipation

God our Father,
fulfiller of promises,
you illuminate our way to justice.
Guide us to humbly and kindly
increase and abound in love for one other.
May our hearts be strengthened
as we look past the distractions of this season.

In this patient anticipation,
help us to be vigilant
so that we may be ready to respond
to the call you have placed in our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Vigilance Requires Intentional Action



Today's readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14 (1b); 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36. In the first reading, Jeremiah recalls the promise the Lord made to the Israelites regarding safety and security. Through his prophecy of restoration, Jeremiah calls the Israelites back to the Lord. Hearing this prophecy reminds us that comfort in the Lord is near!

At the beginning of the liturgical year, Advent encourages Christians to focus on keeping the Lord's "covenant and his decrees," as the psalm states. Much like the Israelites, we need to pray for prudence to recognize distractions in our daily lives. During this hectic season, we may feel pulled in

many directions, often away from God, as it is a time filled with much busyness and movement—or "the anxieties of daily life." Amid these distractions, we are to remember that vigilance requires intentional action. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells his disciples, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy." If attention is not paid, a person could be caught by surprise on the day of redemption. Keeping the Lord's covenant and his decrees requires spiritual discipline.

As this season of anticipation begins, the Advent wreath is blessed and lighted. Let us dedicate ourselves to lifting our souls to the Lord as we light a new candle each week.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 2 Healing Words

The centurion who approaches Jesus as he enters Capernaum expresses faith in the restorative power of Jesus' word: "Only say the word and my servant will be healed." Recognizing our unworthiness, we pray similar words during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This week, consider how you might be like the centurion and faithfully ask for healing. Allow the Lord's words to provide comfort and flow over you so that you can go rejoicing. *Today's readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11.*

Tuesday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was a cofounder of the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuit order. As the first Jesuit missionary, he spent much time traveling and living in foreign places to evangelize. His ministry required his learning new languages, being flexible with movement, and living in different cultures. Ask for St. Francis Xavier's intercession as you consider how you might challenge yourself to leave your comfort zone to preach the Good News. *Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24.*

Wednesday, December 4 Abundance

Today's Scriptures portray God's bountiful love for his people. First, the reading from Isaiah proclaims that the Lord "will provide for all peoples." Then Matthew's Gospel recounts how Jesus fed the crowd who had been with him for days with "nothing to eat." After Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread, thousands were offered food—and still there were leftovers! Reflect on the blessings in your life. Say a prayer in gratitude for the abundance—whatever that may be—with which the Lord has blessed you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37.*

Thursday, December 5 Sturdy Ground

The Gospel reading portrays the importance of both listening intently and intentionally responding to the Lord. Consider ways to listen and respond to God throughout the rest of this season. How can you "be like a wise man who built his house on rock"? What are some tangible ways in which you are being encouraged to act so that your faith stands on sturdy ground? *Today's readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27.*

Friday, December 6 St. Nicholas

It is easy to become consumed with shopping for gifts and preparing for many holiday parties as Christmas approaches, ultimately pushing aside our dedication to God. When losing focus on what matters, allow to echo within you today's psalm refrain: "The Lord is my light and my salvation." Recognizing this transformational prayer, celebrate the optional Memorial of St. Nicholas today with the gift of an act of service for someone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31.*

Saturday, December 7 An Abundant Harvest

That Jesus' heart was moved with pity for the troubled and abandoned can comfort us today. Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus' ministering to those who seemed like "sheep without a shepherd" and delegating his disciples to do the same. The reading from Isaiah shows that the Lord gives what is needed, answering his people "as soon as he hears" their cries. Let us find peace knowing that God is with us as we receive and, in turn, as we give. *Today's readings: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.*



Parish Life Photos

Be featured in our bulletin, website, social media, newsletters, etc. Send your ministry/parish life photos to smkonamedia@rcchawaii.org

St. Michael's
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 13227
MEETS ON THE 2ND MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH
5:45PM
ST MICHAEL'S
GRACE PARISH CENTER



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~ YOU ARE INVITED ~

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY - NO EVENTS

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 12:30-1:30pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father After 1:30 Mass
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:20am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(See the Faith Formation section of bulletin for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

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 You chose Brother Joseph Dutton as
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 I humbly ask you, through the intercession of
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 Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
 I will be forever thankful if you present my
 request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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