



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 15, 2024 | 15 de diciembre de 2024**

Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I - **Zephania 3:14-18** | Psalm - **Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6** | Reading II - **Philippians 4:4-7** | Gospel - **Luke 3:10-18**
Primera Lectura - **Sofanías 3:14-18** | Salmo - **Isaías 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6** | Segunda Lectura - **Filipenses 4:4-7** | Evangelio - **Lucas 3:10-18**

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

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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.



Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Zephaniah(Sofanías) 3:14-18**

Psalm/Salmo: **Isaiah (Isaías) 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Philippians (Filipenses) 4:4-7**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 3:10-18**

Christmas Eve Mass 5pm & 7pm Christmas Day Mass 7am & 9am, 11:30am (Spanish)

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 15, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

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

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them – indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold*



Rejoice
in the Lord always.
I shall say it again:
rejoice!

(Phil 4:4)

Getty Images/Dorngel

Life of Stewardship

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the Latin word for “rejoice”) this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, “The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...” Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul’s instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live out* this sense of thankfulness, making our lives a “Christmas gift” to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist’s message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same.” He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God’s gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News

Don’t Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card

We’re still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven’t returned your Commitment Card, it is NOT too late. Please take this opportunity to discern how God is calling you to grow closer to Him.

Sacred Heart Parish-Hawi Special Collection

Our special collection this week is for Sacred Heart Parish-Hawi. Envelopes were provided in last week’s bulletin and is available in the kiosks. Your gift will help to ease their current financial hardship.

Las Posadas: December 15 - 23, 2024

Las posadas is a tradition brought to Latin America by the Spanish in the 16th century and was used to evangelize the native Americans especially about the birth of our Lord Jesus. The tradition consisted of praying the Rosary for nine days before Christmas symbolizing the nine months of pregnancy of the Virgin mother of God. Following the Rosary is the singing of the song, “las Posadas” and the children break a piñata to collect the treats in-side. The seven points on the piñata symbolizes the seven capital sins. Las Posadas will be held at 6pm at St. Paul’s Pavilion in Honalo. Everyone is invited.

Simbang Gabi: December 15 - 23, 2024

The annual Simbang Gabi Novena will be held on December 15-23 at St. Michael’s. Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a nine day series of Novena Masses practiced by Filipino Catholics in the Philippines and around the world by other Filipino Catholic communities. During Mass, sponsors carrying their parol are blessed by the celebrant to share in the “Light of Christ” to the parish community. Some believers say that if all nine days are completed by the parishioners, their wishes and prayers will be granted. Everyone is invited to attend the Simbang Gabi. Please join us!
Weekday Masses begin at 5pm. Masses on Saturday and Sunday begin at 4pm.

Change of Sunday Mass Schedule - 2025

Effective January 1st, 2025, our Spanish Mass will begin at 12noon. There will be no 1:30pm English Mass.

Kupuna Ministry

The **Kupuna Ministry** meets Wednesdays, 8:30am to 10:30am in the Grace Parish Center and welcomes seniors of all ages. Come at any time and stay as long as you want. We begin with social time, then coffee, snacks, song and group prayer. We pray a special prayer for the return of our family and friends to the Faith with the intercession of Saint Monica. Craft making follows or you can play Mah Jong, beginners welcome, or just come for company and fellowship.

Men of Faith

Our Men of Faith pray that your Advent Journey this season is life changing. In the spirit of Christmas and New Years, the Men of Faith will be postponing our Wednesday gathering on December 25th and January 1st. We will come together to share scripture on a continue journey of spirituality on Wednesday, January 8th. The Men of Faith of St. Michael’s the Archangel wishes all of our brothers and sisters a Blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

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!

Grief Recovery Outreach Program

If your heart has been heavy at times this holiday season, there is effective help available to you.

The Grief Recovery Method program, a structured and confidential group education program, will provide you with steps and actions to heal pain from loss, either recent or long ago.

There is **no cost for this program**, but it requires a firm commitment, and attendance at all weekly sessions.

Stewardship of Treasure

December 2nd - 8th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,580.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 14,335.26
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 8,251.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,469,562.42** 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 DECEMBER 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.

The 8-week program will be held on **Wednesdays, January 8 - Feb 26, 2025**, from **10 am - 12 noon**, at St. Michael's. Please note: this well-studied and effective program is **not** counseling or therapy, is **not** a drop-in program. Recovery from the grief of significant emotional loss, is achieved through a series of correct actions, learned in a confidential class setting.

For more information and to register, contact **Suzanne Zaw**, Grief Recovery method Specialist, at **(808)339-7980** or leave a message for her at the **Parish Office**.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Our last class for 2024 will be held on Sunday, **December 15**. We will meet again in the New Year on Sunday, January 4. 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, *Catholicist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Our last class for 2024 will be held on Sunday, December 15 from 5:15 - 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center. We will meet again in the New Year on Sunday, January 4.

- 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, "What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?" The Saint responded, "I'd keep hoeing this row of beans." Preparing for this world to end - whether by our death or by Jesus' glorious coming - invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus' coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It's so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don't know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That's what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: "Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming." Then make the appropriate changes.

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Everyday Stewardship - The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And

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

Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email baptism.stmichaalkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

not just any water - living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment - so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question - right away, no doubts or hesitations - there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" that his reply was not going to be: "Keep doing exactly what you're doing."

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That's a hard thing to do, and I don't do it enough. Too often, I'm afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation - and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question? - Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

4pm - Repose of the Soul of Joseph "Joey" Francis Harris

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7am - Mary Peralta, Rest in Peace, Jenny Peralta, Rest in Peace, and Dianne Goetz for Healing
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 1:30pm - JP Urgino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Florence & Aurora Arellano & Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

- 7am - In Thanksgiving for Eugene & Veronica Laughlin
- 5pm - Vera VanSchaiek, 1st Anniversary of Death
- 5pm - The Wilson & Bravo Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

- 7am - Pauline Amarino, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Shirlen Haanio, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - In Memory of JP Urgino, Gunther Hannes, and beloved members of the Francisco family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO
- 5pm - The Afaga Families

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

- 7am - Debbie Gallo for Healing
- 5pm - Christopher Cilia for Healing
- 5pm - The Bergonia & Villegas Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

- 7am - Cresenciano Delos Reyes, 4th year Death Anniversary
- 5pm - Carmen Mills, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Kona Visayan Club

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

- 7am - James Akiona, Jr. Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**.

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.**

John Was Serious!

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Zephaniah 3:14-18a - Promise of a savior
- ▶ Philippians 4:4-7 - Joy and peace
- ▶ Luke 3:10-18 - John calls the people to justice

This week we hear John the Baptist give concrete examples of what it means to “prepare the way of the Lord.” He tells the crowds, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Three hundred years later, St. Basil took John the Baptist (and Jesus) so seriously that he wrote, “When someone steals another’s clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.” Do we take these words so seriously? If not, why not?

John the Baptist directed his next two examples of preparing the way for Jesus to particular groups of “middle-men” in his society: the tax collectors and Roman soldiers. Tax collectors notoriously padded their wallets by collecting more than the Jewish peasants legally owed to their Roman rulers. Theirs was like white collar crime today—maybe not violent or vicious, but unjust and hurtful, especially to people poorer than them. John the Baptist also challenged the Roman soldiers to stop using their strength and position to extort money out of fear. The Jews had more than enough trials in life without being threatened and falsely accused by the police force of their time. Some parallels might be the racism experienced by people of color in America today (particularly at the hands of the police and criminal justice system), and the power that



“With thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Sheepish Question:
Here in Advent, how can my attitude in prayer quell my anxieties and open me to God’s peace?

employers have over undocumented workers and those who don’t speak fluent English.

For John, preparing the way for Jesus was about much more than going through a baptismal ritual. It required concrete changes in how people lived their day-to-day lives. Perhaps we need to be reminded of that when we approach any of the sacraments ourselves. Are we committing to live out what we say we believe?

Questions of the Week

- 1 What is your reaction to St. Basil’s quote? Does it contain a challenge to you? What is it?
- 2 What are some forms of “socially acceptable” crime today that could be considered similar to the tax collectors and Roman soldiers of John’s day? Do you see evidence of them in your work or profession?

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoice always! Rejoice!

Almighty God,
giver of all that is good,
you have done glorious things.
You have turned away our enemies and
removed misfortune.
Help us to be unafraid,
to not be discouraged,

to give to those who want.
We sing praise,
rejoicing always, rejoicing,
knowing that you are our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 15, 2024

The Lord Is Near



Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. On this Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, the second reading and the entrance antiphon proclaim, “The Lord is near.” On Gaudete Sunday, a rose-colored candle is lighted on the Advent wreath, along with two purple candles from the previous two weeks of Advent. The purple candles symbolize our prayer and preparation; the rose candle symbolizes our joyful anticipation at the halfway point of Advent.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem after the nation's sinfulness. He

invites us to not be discouraged, but rather to “Shout for joy . . . / Sing joyfully” and “Be glad and exult with all your heart.” The faithful today, like the people who approached John the Baptist in the Gospel, are filled with expectation.

This week, to continue preparing your heart for the full joy of Christmas, dedicate time every day to pray. As St. Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians, “with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” Begin your prayer by expressing your joy and gratitude to God. How will the Lord's nearness inspire you to share your kindness with others? End your prayer by resting in the peace of God.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 16

Trust

In today's Gospel, religious leaders question Jesus' authority as he taught and ministered. At times, you might find yourself faltering in your faith and may question God's authority in your life. Spend some time journaling about your trust in the Lord. How have you questioned him? After your reflection, pray with today's psalm, then choose a line or phrase that stands out to you, calling it to mind throughout your day. Ask for the strength to trust in Jesus. *Today's readings: Numbers 24:2–7, 15–17a; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 21:23–27.*

Tuesday, December 17

O Wisdom

The "O" antiphons date back to around the eighth century. They accompany the Magnificat during evening prayer between today and December 24. As the final days of Advent are entered, dedicate time each evening to meditate with the "O" antiphon of the day. Today's antiphon is "O Wisdom of God our Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!" How can you look to Wisdom to guide you this week? *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*

Wednesday, December 18

O Sacred Lord

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and, similarly to Mary's call at the annunciation, tells him to "not be afraid." Joseph courageously responds by taking Mary "into his home" and faithfully accepting his role as Jesus' earthly father. Today's "O" antiphon is "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" As you pray with the antiphon, consider how you might courageously respond to God. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8, Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

Thursday, December 19

You Are My Hope, Lord

In today's Gospel, the angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and tells him that Elizabeth, his barren wife, will give birth to John. Questioning Gabriel, Zechariah notes that he is "an old man, and [Elizabeth] is advanced in years." Gabriel renders Zechariah speechless because of his disbelief. As you light the three candles on your Advent wreath today, pray for those who struggle with their faith. Consider how you might "speak of the mighty works of the Lord." *Today's readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab, 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

Friday, December 20

The Lord Is with You

The angel greets Mary, saying, "Hail, full of grace." Today you might ponder how Mary may have received those words. Spend time with the Gospel reading, using the prayer form *lectio divina*, a slow and repetitive reading and praying with Scripture. In this practice, a phrase is repeated and meditated upon in prayer. At the end of your prayer, pray for pregnant women and those who will give birth today. *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

Saturday, December 21

O Radiant Dawn

Today's antiphon is "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." As you pray with today's antiphon, take a moment to pray for those who may "dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death" near you. Dedicate time to serve them this weekend: visit a shelter, a soup kitchen, someone who is homebound, or reach out to a person in mourning. *Today's readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*



REV. KONELIO FALETOI
Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
West Hawaii Vicariate

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
Parochial Vicar

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