

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

(starting January 5th) WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

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

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **December 29, 2024 | 29 de diciembre de 2024**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Reading I - 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 | Psalm - 84:2-3,5-6,9-10 | Reading II - 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 | Gospel - Luke 2:41-52
Primera Lectura - 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 | Salmo - 83:2-3,5-6,9-10 | Segunda Lectura - 1 Juan 3:1-2,21-24 | Evangelio - Lucas 2:41-52

HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

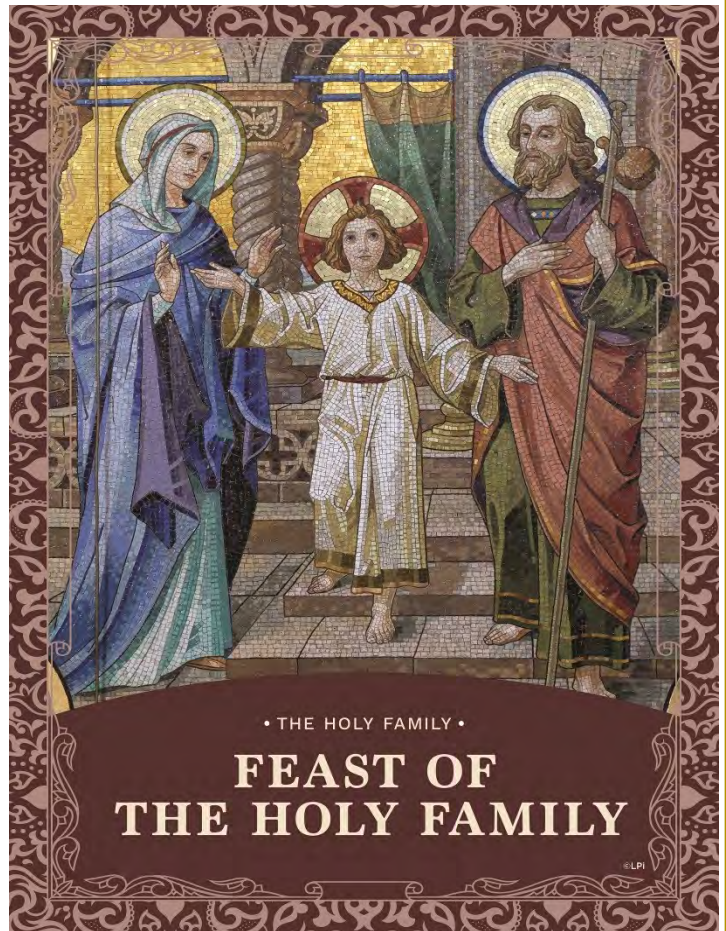
The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always "get it right," but they always tried to. These three "amateurs" were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation - to do his Father's work - but he also returned home with his parents.

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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.



• THE HOLY FAMILY •

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Isaiah (Isaías) 60:1-6**

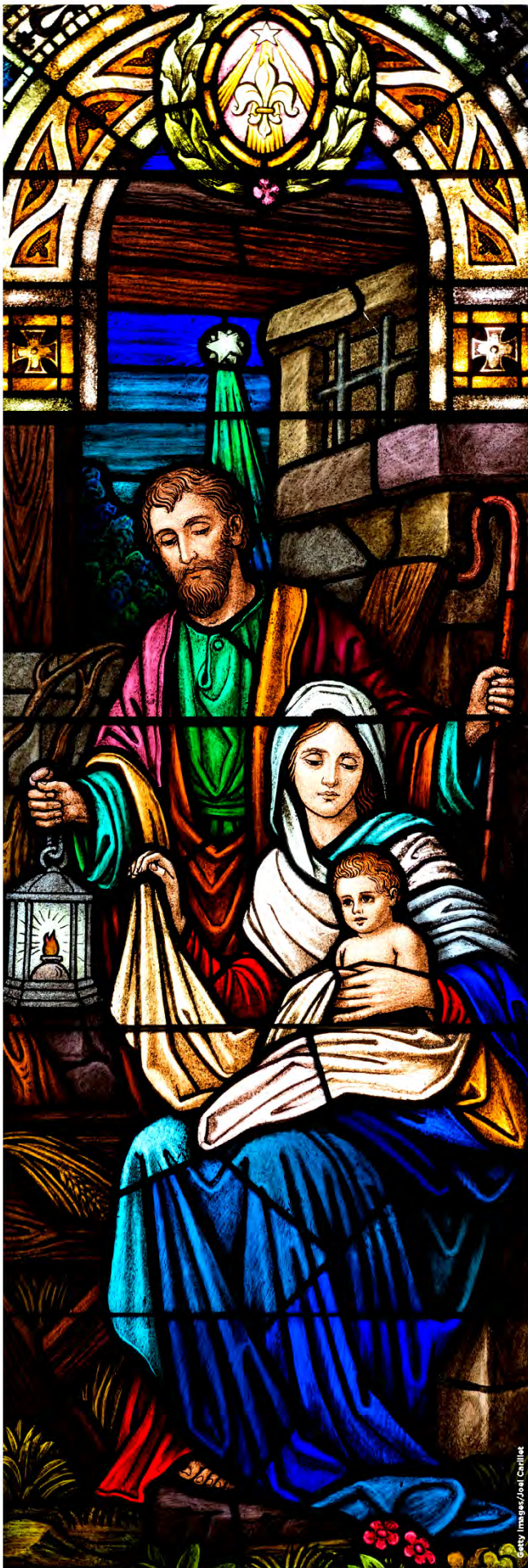
Psalm/Salmo: **72(71): 2,7-8,10-11,12-13**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Ephesians (Efesios) 3:2-3a,5-6**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Matthew (Mateo) 2:1-12**

NEW Sunday Mass Schedule starting January 5 - 7am, 9am, 4pm (English) 12noon (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 29, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Lk 2:41-52

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

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These are the attributes Paul instructs the Colossians in today's reading to "put on" or to "clothe" themselves with. It's quite a list, isn't it? Paul goes on to talk about the virtues of the Christian family, which is fitting for today's Feast of the Holy Family. It is reasonable to expect, then, that the Gospel passage would follow through by expounding on the virtues of *the perfect family*: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Instead, in Luke's Gospel, we have the only story in all of Scripture of Jesus' childhood. The only one that shows the specific interactions of them as a family – it tells the story of Jesus at age 12 who stays in Jerusalem without Mary and Joseph knowing and who are unable to find him for days. Prayerfully reflecting on this unique glimpse of the Holy Family working through misunderstandings, fear, and hurt helps us relate even more to the true humanness of Jesus and the Holy Family.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the Holy Family, we see a model of relationship in human form. We are part of a holy family as well: we are children of God. And like Mary and Joseph, our family is enriched and strengthened when we are attentive to the presence of Jesus in our lives. Luke writes: "[Mary] kept all these things in her heart." Like Mary, let us strive to hold Jesus' words and commandments in our hearts so we can focus on God's divine plan for our lives. In the next line of Paul's letter offering us the "tools" for loving relationships (compassion ... patience) he adds, "bearing with one another and forgiving one another." In other words: love. We must put Jesus, who is love, at the center of our relationships and do everything in his name. Then our family, and our lives, will be holy indeed.

SING

*Mary, mother of faithful love;
Joseph, gentle and humble man of God;
Jesus, Son of Mary,
Bless, guide and protect the families you created.*

Life of Stewardship

The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life.

The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was 12 years old, they went up according to festival custom." This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The "Holy Couple" carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully.

We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in the coming year, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Change of Sunday Mass Schedule - 2025

Our New Sunday Mass Schedule starts on Sunday, January 5. We are combining the afternoon Masses and will celebrate **one Mass at 4pm**. There will no longer be a 1:30 Mass. Our Spanish Mass will begin at **12noon**.

Immigration Ministry Seminar

Please join us on Sunday, December 29 at 12:30pm in the Grace Parish Center for an informational one-hour seminar on immigration by attorney Evita, who will discuss federal immigration laws. If you, or someone you know from any country in the world, are here in the USA without legal status and are not sure where to begin the process to become legal, this is a must attend. All immigration questions will be answered.

Monthly Food Pantry & Diaper Ministry Drive

The monthly parish food & diaper drive will be held on **Monday, December 30 from 9-10am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot**. We are grateful for any donations you may have. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry. We are helping to feed many people in our local community.

Diaper sizes needed are size 6 and Pull-Ups 4T-5T Boys and Girls. You are also welcome to leave food & diaper donations in the baskets at the Church entrance when you come to Mass.

Children's Rosary

St. Michael's Children's Rosary Club meets on the last Sunday of each month. This is a great way for children to recite their prayers and also to start praying together as a family.

Our next meeting will be after the 9am Mass on December 29. We will pray one decade of the Rosary at the grotto.

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 gatherings and reconvene 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.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, January 4 after the 1:30pm Mass**. We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy. For more info, contact Romana through the office.

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. 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

Classes in January will be on Sunday the 4th, 11th and 26th from 10:15 - 11:20. We are in need of a Faith Formation 4th grade teacher. 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 call Margaret through the Parish Office.

- Margaret Essex, Catechist

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Classes are held on most Sundays from 5:15 - 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Please enjoy the holidays with your families. We will meet again in January 12, 19, and 26.

- 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

Stewardship of Treasure

December 16th - 22nd, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 4,270.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 13,538.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 17,609.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,511,395.62** 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.

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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, "Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us." I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God's grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary "after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers..." (Luke 2:46). We don't know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and

resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss - just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God's presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before. - *Father John Muir, ©LPI*

Treasures From Our Tradition

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage - the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind! - *James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

Everyday Stewardship-All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating - who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful - perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?



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 (OFFICE CLOSED)

WEDNESDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

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
(Classes resume in January. 1/5 for Gr. K-5; 1/12 for Gr. 6-12)
- 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.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

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

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



*Beloved,
we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not
yet been revealed.*

- 1 John 3:2a

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

4pm - Alejandro, Justino & Placida Ganir, Marcelo Ganir, Loreto Ganir, & Jose Ganir, May they rest in peace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

- 7am - Jack Derzay, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 1:30pm - Ian Rojas Rosas, Birthday Blessings
- 4pm - Sean, Lorraine and David Wilkinson, deceased

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

- 7am - All Suicides
- 5pm - Betty C. Nelson and son William, may they rest in peace

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

- 7am - Travis Wayne O'Brien, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - In Thanksgiving, Eugene & Veronica Laughlin

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND

- 7am - Robert "Bob" McClean, 14th Ann. of death
- 5pm - In Thanksgiving, Eugene & Veronica Laughlin

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD

- 7am - In Thanksgiving, Eugene & Veronica Laughlin
- 5pm - Jordan and Annalise Awa

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

- 7am - Bazil Laughlin, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

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.**

Just Like a Normal Family

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 - Samuel's birth
- ▶ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 - We are children of God
- ▶ Luke 2:41-52 - The boy Jesus in the Temple

With the story of Jesus' birth still fresh in our minds on this first Sunday after Christmas, the church uses the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It is fitting that the Gospel reading gives us a glimpse into the less-than-perfect nuclear family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It offers a good reminder that even though they are holy, that doesn't mean their family life was idyllic all the time.

As Catholics, we believe that Mary was conceived without sin (the Immaculate Conception) and that Jesus was sinless. Joseph was a regular guy like the rest of us. Still, living in a family is hard at times, whether your family is 2/3 sinless or not. When people live in close quarters, and there is stress about food, housing, travel, childcare, and extended family ("who was supposed to be watching Jesus, anyway?"), it's normal for frustration and impatience to flare. Factor in a budding teenager who is pushing for greater independence and parents who don't fully understand their son and you have a story like we hear today.

Mary and Joseph's feelings of anxiety and guilt at the end of their journey—and their frustration with Jesus after they found him—weren't sinful. Neither was Jesus' exasperated response, which he very well may have delivered with an eye-roll:



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"We are God's children now;
... we shall be like him."

Sheepish Question:
Recognizing my own shortcomings, how can I strengthen--and be strengthened by--God's holy family?

"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" After all, Jesus was fully human, and he had to go through the same process of growing up as any child does. He wasn't born knowing how to walk or talk. His parents had to teach him his manners and ask him to help with chores. Just like he would have experienced the "terrible twos," he had to go through puberty with all its complexities and identity conflicts. It's no wonder, then, that at the end of a long family trip with a 12-year-old, the "holy family" had a "regular family" moment.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What stands out for you most in this Gospel passage? Why?
- 2 As Christians, we believe that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. Does this story of the 12-year-old Jesus emphasize his humanity or divinity more for you? Which do you tend to relate to more when you think of him and pray to him?

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Dwell in Us

God our Father,
you astound us
with life-giving forgiveness.
We are thankful for your gift of peace
and the example of the Holy Family.

Hear our prayer:
Open our hearts.
Help us to dedicate ourselves to you
and to love one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Put on Love



Today's readings: 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28 or Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 84: 2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24 or Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:41–52. As a faithful Jewish family, Joseph and Mary traveled with twelve-year-old Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover. A day into their return to Nazareth, the couple realize that Jesus was not in their caravan. They are filled with anxiety as they make the long trek back to Jerusalem in search of Jesus. The parents find their son engaging in thought-provoking conversations with teachers—something that astounds those in the temple. Though Mary and Joseph do not fully understand Jesus' actions, we hear that Mary “kept all these things in her heart.” As a community, the Body of Christ contemplates the wisdom, faith, and mystery of the Holy Family today.

Regardless of which readings are proclaimed at the Mass at your parish, all of today's options for the Liturgy of the Word express much of what can be learned regarding striving for holiness in family life and in the community of loved ones that surrounds us. Prayer and dedication to the Lord bears much fruit for future generations; we are advised to honor and revere our parents and older generations. To grow in love for others, we remember the importance of letting “the word of Christ dwell” in us. Let us strive to be like the Holy Family: honor, forgive, be patient with one another. Every day this week, commit to one act of service for someone in your family or community that demonstrates putting “on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 30 Octave of Christmas

The octave of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. An octave is an eight-day feast, or period of celebration. Two of the most important times in the liturgical calendar are the Octave of Easter and that of Christmas. The celebration and joy experienced on Christmas Day carries through the octave of Christmas as we are invited to continue to reflect on the glory of the season. If you are able, attend Mass to continue your celebration of Christmas. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.*

Tuesday, December 31 True Light

Today's Gospel is the prologue to the Gospel of John. It highlights many themes that emerge throughout the Gospel, including light and life: "What came to be through him was life, / and this life was the light of the human race; / the light shines in the darkness, / and the darkness has not overcome it." How can you testify to the true light, to Jesus Christ, who enlightens us? With someone you love, share how Christ enlightens you. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Wednesday, January 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God

After the birth of Jesus, Mary keeps the shepherd's words about the Christ child, "reflecting on them in her heart." At the end of the octave of Christmas, spend time in silence, reflecting on the season in your heart. The birth of a child can often be a whirlwind for parents, even more so for those who have fled persecution. Say a prayer or, if you are able, send a donation to an organization serving refugee families. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Thursday, January 2 Remain in Him

In today's first reading, John stresses the unity of the Father and Son, stating, "Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father." Then the apostle reassures followers in their faith: "Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you." Many prepare to return to work today after the holiday festivities. How can you let the joy of Christmas remain in you? Consider starting your days with centering prayer. Return to the sacred word you chose throughout the day so that you can remain in Christ. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Friday, January 3 Holy Name of Jesus

Today we remember and honor the Most Holy Name of Jesus. What name or title of Jesus from Scripture stands out to you (for example, Teacher, Prince of Peace, Preacher, Messiah, Savior)? Pray with the most salient one and reflect upon its meaning for you. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Saturday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native-born United States citizen to be canonized. After her husband died, she became a Catholic and opened a school for impoverished children and orphans. She founded the Sisters of Charity, a religious society that serves the marginalized. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patron saint of converts, widows, and those ridiculed for their piety. To honor her, reach out to a teacher and ask how you can support them in their work. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*



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

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
Parochial Vicar

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