



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-Kahalua
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, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12 noon

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

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **January 12, 2025 | 12 de enero de 2025**

The Baptism of the LORD

Reading I - **Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11** | Psalm - **104:1b-2,3-4,24-25,27-28,29-30** | Reading II - **Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7** | Gospel - **Luke 3:15-16,21-22**
Primera Lectura - **Isaías 40:1-5,9-11** | Salmo - **103:1b-2,3-4,24-25,27-28,29-30** | Segunda Lectura - **Tito 2:11-14;3:4-7** | Evangelio - **Lucas 3:15-16,21-22**

CALLED TO SERVE

For many weeks now, we have been celebrating the appearance of the divine presence in human form. As a child, he came to Mary and Joseph, was seen by the shepherds, and then by some wandering magi from the East. Today we celebrate another showing, later in time, to a group gathered at the Jordan River.

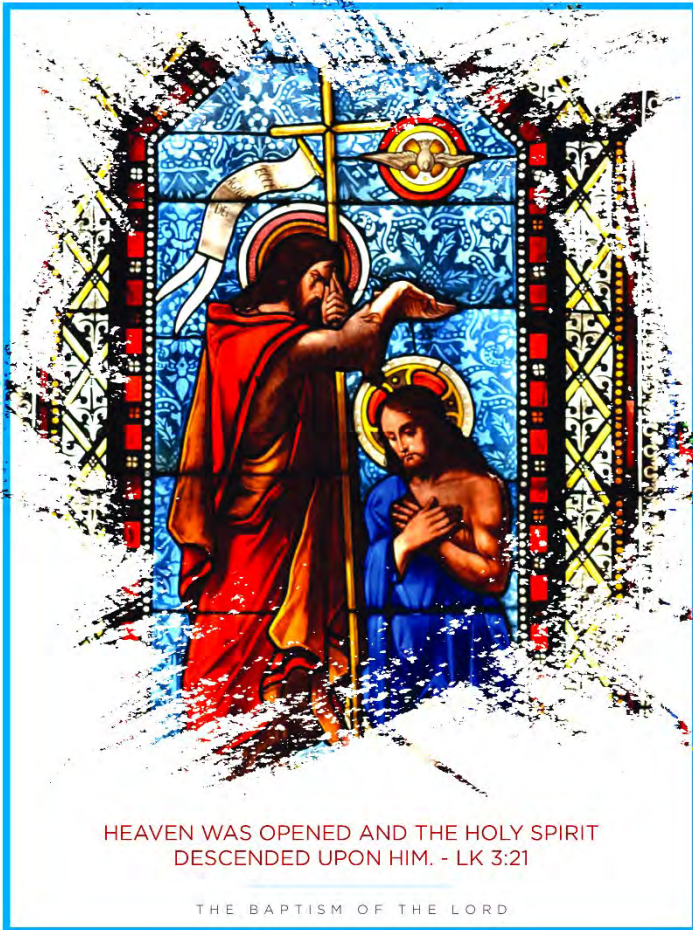
John hesitated to baptize Jesus, whom he recognized as “one mightier than I.” But he did as Jesus asked, and the “Holy Spirit descended” and heaven’s voice spoke to Jesus, “You are my beloved Son.” Jesus was beginning his public life of teaching and service. Soon he would start calling others to join him.

Peter was one of the first to be called by Jesus. In today’s second reading, he announces the heart of the message, “peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” Peter was called, and you and I are called to spread that message and to serve God’s word.

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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.



HEAVEN WAS OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED UPON HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS • 2001, 1970 CCD, © LPL

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Isaiah (Isaías) 62:1-5**

Psalm/Salmo: **96(95):1-2,2-3,7-8,9-10**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

Segunda Lectura: **1 Corintios 12:4-11**

Gospel/Evangelio: **John (Juan) 2:1-11**

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.

January 12, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

In many renditions of the Baptism of Jesus, artists connect the scene at the Jordan River with Jesus' death. A withered tree, for example, reminds us of the cross, or a mountain points to Mount Calvary. These connections show a real relationship between Jesus' baptism and his passion: his baptism marks the acceptance and beginning of his mission, which would ultimately lead to his crucifixion. For us, too, baptism is a decisive moment which destines us for - you guessed it - death! Not physical death (which will happen regardless), but a death to everything that is not of God. By making us part of God's family as his adopted children, our baptism summons us to "die" to our old life of sin and take on new life in Christ. This means turning away each day from sin so we can become increasingly fit to spend eternity with God. Like Jesus who rose both from the baptismal waters and from the tomb, we are meant, by our daily efforts to be faithful - to "rise" with him in the new life he won for us.

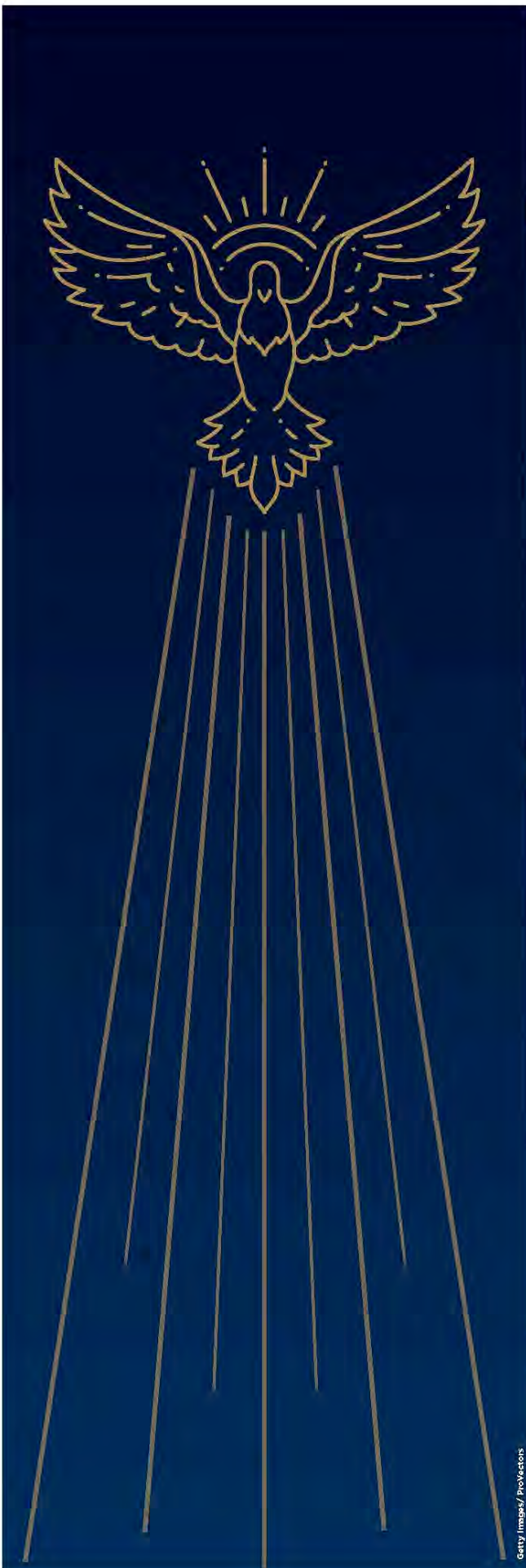
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus is baptized, two important events occur immediately: the Holy Spirit descends upon him while God the Father proclaims his delight in his Son: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Here we see the profound meaning of our own baptism and its effects. In addition to cleansing us from the stain of original sin, baptism: 1) gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit; and 2) welcomes us into God's family as his adopted children. Armed with the Holy Spirit and the assurance of God's fatherly care, we are equipped to engage in the daily struggle of dying-and-rising in Christ. We can always call on the Holy Spirit for strength when we face temptations or difficult decisions. Likewise, when we are discouraged or we confront our own weaknesses, we can look to the Father for help. Recall the words which the Father spoke to Jesus, and which he says to us in our baptism (and he doesn't take them back!): *You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased.*

CELEBRATE

Find the date (or approximate date) of your baptism and the baptismal dates of your immediate family members. Make a list of the dates and spend time thanking God for his fatherly care for you. Then, when someone's baptismal anniversary comes around, make sure to celebrate!



Life of Stewardship

As we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we can study His actions at the Jordan River as a powerful example of servant leadership. We see in Jesus a type of leadership that is characterized by humility and leading by example.

Certainly, the sinless Savior did not need a baptism of repentance! But Jesus humbly made Himself one with his people to draw us to Him and create a relationship with us so that we would be open to His teachings and influence.

As a servant leader, we also see that Jesus leads by example. He doesn't just tell the people they need to be baptized. He shows them how and does it Himself to teach them. To lead like Jesus, we, too, must "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk." If we want those who we lead to be generous and hard-working, then we must show them how to do this by demonstrating generosity and hard work ourselves.

Immediately after His baptism, we learn of the powerful affirmation of the Father who opens the heavens, sends the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in bodily form, and says audibly, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased." Let us be filled with gratitude for our amazing God and be reminded that when we are grateful followers of Jesus and servant-leaders in imitation of Him, the Father will be well-pleased with us, too.

Let us be filled with gratitude for our amazing God and be reminded that when we are grateful followers of Jesus and servant leaders in imitation of Him, the Father will be well pleased with us, too. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Spiritual Book Club

Our next Spiritual Book Club meeting is on Thursday, January 16th at 4pm in the Grace Parish Center. This month's book is *Gardete Et Excultate - On the Call to Holiness in Today's World* by Pope Francis. Meetings are now available via Zoom. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Feast of Santo Niño - Sunday, January 19

The feast day of Santo Niño de Cebú comes each year on the third Sunday in January. The country's oldest Catholic icon is the Santo Niño. In the words of Pope Francis, the Holy Child is the Protector of the Philippines thus his significance both in Filipino history and culture. This is a devotion that centers around the image of the Christ child, and celebrates the conversion of the Philippines to Christianity. The festival, known for street parties, parades, and dancing, is called Sinulog meaning "like water current movement"- based on the movement of the dance which tells the History of the conversion to Christianity. This year, we will celebrate this special feast at our 9am Mass on Sunday, January 19th. There will be Filipino desserts during our coffee service after Mass.

March for Life Activities - Saturday, January 25

Over the past 52 years, the March for Life has collectively united millions of pro-life Americans from every age, background, nationality, and faith with a common purpose: to witness the inherent dignity and worth of every single human life. The March's powerful presence at our nation's capital every January has demonstrated the seriousness, conviction, and

permanence of the movement. It has also helped educate Americans about the beauty of the lives of unborn children and their mothers so that a majority of Americans now support protections for life in the womb.

Join our Respect Life Ministry in our March for Life activities on Saturday, January 25th. We will pray the Rosary at 2:30pm at the Grotto, followed by sign waving on Alii Drive outside our Front Entrance and then we will attend the 4:00pm Mass. For more information, contact Bonnie through the Parish office.

"Word of God Sunday" - January 26

As disciples of Jesus, we emphasize the importance of the Bible in Catholic life and encourage one another to read and study the **Word of God** as a regular part of our lives.

Pope Francis, has instituted the **Sunday of the Word of God** to be celebrated annually on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. We ask you to bring your personal Bibles to Mass. At Mass, we will have a commitment prayer and blessing as you hold your Bibles to your hearts.

Men of Faith

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 weekly on Wednesdays on St. Michael's South Lanai from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

Spiritual Book Club

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Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Please join fellow parishioners on January 19th after the 7am and 9am masses for a delicious breakfast and warm fellowship in the Grace Parish Center. The \$5 per person (children free when accompanied by parent) menu items include pancakes, sausages, fruit, juice, water and kona coffee.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend

All couples planning to receive the Sacrament of Marriage are required to attend a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend. We are fortunate to host two weekends on our island. St. Joseph in Hilo offers one on February 22 & 23. St. Michael's will offer one on September 13 & 14. Other weekends are offered on the outer islands. If you are getting married, please sign up for one weekend. For a complete list of weekends offered on all islands, visit <https://hawaii.engagedencounter.com/>.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Please take note the time change for all classes. **Starting January, we will meet from 10:15 to 11:50.** January classes will be held on Sunday the 11th and 26th. No class on January 19th. We are in need of a Faith Forma-

Stewardship of Treasure

December 30th, 2024 - January 5th, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 9,850.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 16,617.11
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 30,062.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,563,188.97** 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 JANUARY 2025

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 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. Happy New Year! Classes for January will be held on 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 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.

The Baptism of the Lord

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy

penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself - or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love - until those words find a home in your heart.

- Father John Muir, ©LPI

Everyday Stewardship - I Hope I Am Like Him

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?" Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist - a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power - a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ - and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament - he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan? *- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI*

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments *Beneath the Surface*

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the Sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.



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 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section 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.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

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

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed. To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow - and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPi

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Bishop Larry Silva inaugurated the Holy Year, or Jubilee Year, in Hawaii on Christmas Eve at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu. During the 11:30 p.m. Mass, a special "jubilee cross" created by Deacon Ray Lamb was carried into the co-cathedral, where it will remain for veneration throughout the year.

Another jubilee cross has been commissioned to travel throughout the diocese. The plan is for the traveling cross to visit every parish in the diocese "so that people can gather and pray around the cross as a way to be connected to the Holy Father and the events in Rome. Along with the cross, study days will be held on different topics related to the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" as well as Vatican II documents. Participants will be able to obtain a plenary indulgence associated with the Holy Year. Bishop Silva will also lead a pilgrimage to Rome in the fall.

The Office of Worship and the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis are helping to organize Jubilee Year events which include study days to offer faith formation opportunities that have diminished. We will post information in our bulletin as specific details become available. - *Hawaii Catholic Herald* 1/1/25

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH
4pm - Wilfred Naone, Sr. Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- 7am - Adam Santos, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, May he Rest in Peace
- 4pm - JP Urgino, Rest in Peace, and Fr. Jack Stacwysk, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH

- 7am - Paula Lagana, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - David Torres, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

- 7am - Dominic Rozario, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Tony Roensch, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH

- 7am - Vijay Paul, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Pat Wilkinson, 97th Birthday Blessings

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH

- 7am - Meaghan Grande, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Barbara Sarris for Healing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH

- 7am - Alice Bailado and Jodene Dela Cruz, May they 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.**

You Are God's Beloved

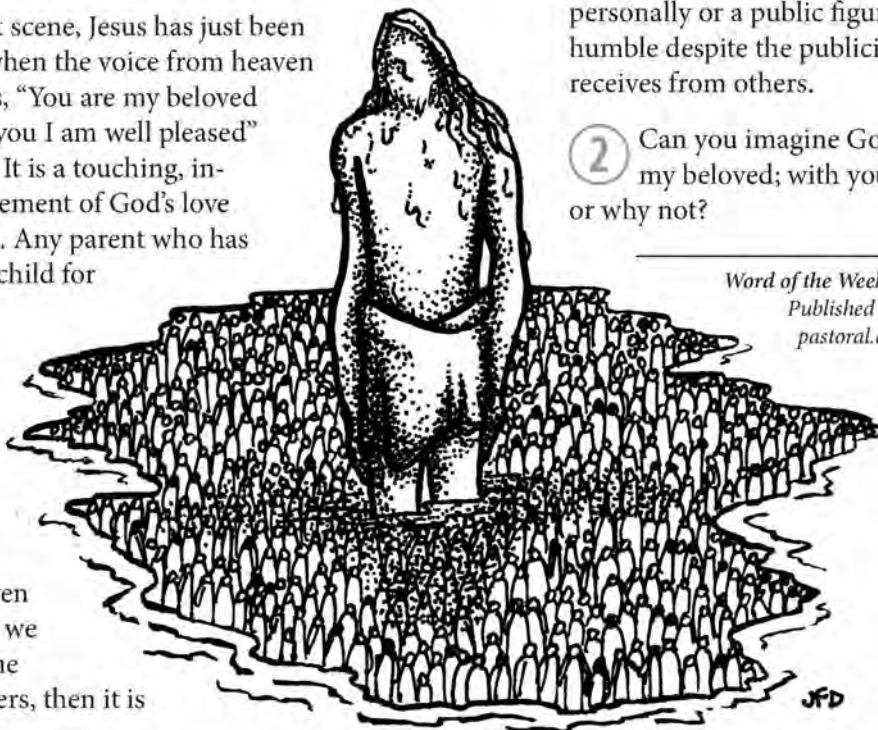
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 - The servant of the Lord
- ▶ Acts 10:34-38 - The good news of peace
- ▶ Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 - Baptism of Jesus

John the Baptist is an intriguing figure in the Gospel of Luke. Immediately before this passage, John was drawing large crowds to listen to him speak. He wasn't coming into the big city and towns to tour; he was staying out in the desert region, in Jewish history a place symbolic of hardship, trial, and personal encounter with God.

John had the reputation of being a bit of a wild man out there, dressed in camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey while preaching repentance. The people were going out in droves to see for themselves who this man was that everyone was talking about. Obviously, there was something compelling about what John was saying and how he was living. Many were so taken by his message that they wondered if he was the promised Christ. Their respect for him didn't go to John's head, however, and he remained humble, insisting that he was only a servant for Christ.

In the next scene, Jesus has just been baptized when the voice from heaven announces, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Lk. 3:22). It is a touching, intimate statement of God's love for his son. Any parent who has brought a child for baptism could easily say the same. If we believe that God loves us even more than we can imagine loving others, then it is



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"I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice."

Sheepish Question:
How does my baptism with Christ compel me to serve others?

not a leap to say that as adopted sons and daughters of God, we can trust that God feels the same for us.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share an example of a person whom you have great respect for (someone you know personally or a public figure) who manages to remain humble despite the publicity or admiration he or she receives from others.
- 2 Can you imagine God saying of you, "You are my beloved; with you I am well-pleased"? Why or why not?

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Inbreaking

God our comfort,
you are with us!
You gather us in your arms,
embrace us in protection,
purify us,
and lead us with care.
We are filled with expectation—
help us to walk by your light
and see your inbreaking.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, January 12, 2025

New Creation



Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 104:1b–2, 3–4, 24–25, 27–28, 29–30; Titus 2:11–14, 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22. John the Baptist says: “One mightier than I is coming. . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” In other words, he will come to purify us. What a gift! Jesus did not need to be baptized, but in choosing to do so, he cleansed the waters and showed his solidarity with us so that we could be reconciled to God. In baptism, the Holy Spirit “moves us to answer Christ’s call to holiness . . . we are asked to walk by the light of Christ and to trust in his wisdom,” reads the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Spend time this week contemplating your baptism.

On that day, you were welcomed into the Body of Christ and made a new creation. How does that inspire you?

On this last day of the Christmas season, we hear that at Jesus’ baptism, God’s voice proclaimed: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” God continues to make himself known to us. As we enter Ordinary Time, consider how you will remember the joy of God becoming human every time you go to Mass. How will you reflect on the gift of salvation long past the end of this Christmas season? Make it a point in your day to continue to be open to God presence.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, January 13

Repent and Follow Jesus

Jesus calls the first disciples: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Simon, Andrew, James, and John abandon their nets and follow him. Find a parish where the sacrament of reconciliation is offered this week. Repent and respond to Jesus’ call to follow him. *Today’s readings: Hebrews 1:1–6; Psalm 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9; Mark 1:14–20.*

Saturday, January 18

Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts today. It was first celebrated in 1908 because division weakens the power of the Christian witness. The entire Christian community is invited to join in prayer. Visit the World Council of Churches’ website to learn about this year’s theme and to find resources to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. *Today’s readings: Hebrews 4:12–16; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mark 2:13–17.*

Saturday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul

Today the Church observes the conversion of St. Paul. The Lord calls Saul after “a light from the sky” flashes suddenly around him. Saul is temporarily physically blinded, symbolizing his religious blindness. Though the conversion of others around us may not be as sudden as St. Paul’s, let us celebrate today by reflecting on the strength it takes to return to the Lord. Say a prayer for those who persecute followers of Christ: may their eyes be opened and may they have the courage to say yes to following the way of the Lord. *Today’s readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; Mark 16:15–18.*

Sunday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas Day. Candles might be blessed during a liturgy to symbolize Christ, the light of the world. Light a candle and say a prayer in gratitude for your faith. Since Jesus is fully human, he knows well our joys and struggles, and is thus “able to help those who are being tested.” Rest in peace today knowing that the Lord deeply understands all you are experiencing and is holding it with you. *Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*

Thursday, February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions

Jesuit brother Paul Miki, born into a noble Japanese family, and his companions were martyred by crucifixion in Nagasaki in 1597. The group consisted of Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries and Japanese lay people who were offered freedom if they renounced Christianity. They courageously declined. In today’s Gospel, we hear that Jesus sent the apostles out in twos to evangelize. Like the group martyred with St. Paul Miki, the work of brave evangelization can be done in community. Reach out to someone who inspires your faith. How can you preach the Good News together? *Today’s readings: Hebrews 12:18–19, 21–24; Psalm 48:2–3ab, 3cd–4, 9, 10–11; Mark 6:7–13.*

Saturday, February 22

The Chair of St. Peter

Jesus says Peter is the rock upon which the Church will be built. He was called to carry forth the mission of the Church so it could be passed down to future generations. The pope serves as the successor of St. Peter. Spend time learning something new about the pope and his apostolic mission today. Say a prayer in gratitude for those who have passed your faith on to you. *Today’s readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.*



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

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
Parochial Vicar

**DEACON SÁNDOR
HERNÁNDEZ MORALES**
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