

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6p

No Religious Education Classes

Monday, January 2

Memorial of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Tuesday, January 3 – *Christmas weekday*

No Cathedral Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 4

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, January 5

Memorial of St. John Neumann, bishop

Friday, January 6 – *Christmas weekday*

Saturday, January 7 – *Christmas weekday*

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

St. Damien Devotional Group at 12:30pm

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, January 8

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6p

Religious Education Classes at 8:00pm

Adult Faith Formation

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 8, 11:30am-12:30pm for Bishop Robert Barron "Catholicism" series. Talk at Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Monday, Jan. 16 at 7pm. Contact Deacon Joe and Easter at 227-7309 or email: ealmuena@rcchawaii.org

Pictures Wanted!

We invite you to send us any pictures that you may have taken while attending services or visiting the Cathedral Basilica during the Christmas week. You can either post your pictures to our Facebook page (become a friend of the Cathedral Basilica) or send them to coolop@rcchawaii.org. We are proud of our "Mother Church" of the Diocese of Honolulu and wish to share her with everyone!

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,801.46
Weekday Collection	\$ 1,684.49
Coffers	\$ 599.56
Holy Day Collection	\$ 15,661.54
Total	\$ 21,747.05



Cathedral Renewal Campaign

The Cathedral Basilica Lights-up the Night!

Repairs to the bell tower were completed this month, culminating with the Bell Tower Lighting Ceremony on December 21st. The event featured a blessing and lighting of the newly renovated bell tower, which now has permanently installed lights for the first time in her 173 year history. Set to a timer, the new tower lights will automatically illuminate at dusk and extinguish at dawn.

In early 2017, the project team will add a final touch: installation of bronze mesh in the tower windows to screen out the birds. The specialty bronze mesh will be more visually appealing and appear more transparent than the bulky white lattice that was there before.

Restoration of the bell tower is just the beginning of Phase 2. In the New Year, work will continue with renovations to the sanctuary, sacristies and basement. In the sanctuary, we will clean and restore the high altar, remove the screen, extend the altar platform to accommodate large celebrations, add a wheelchair accessible ramp and construct Bishops' Chapels on either side of the high altar.

A minimum of \$2.5 million is needed to complete Phase 2, and the cost of the entire project calls for a minimum of \$15 million to complete all of the planned renovations and repairs.

Mahalo nui loa to the 400+ generous individuals, families, parishes, staff, deacons, clergy, religious orders and foundations who have helped us raise more than \$1.5 million in the past year. This holiday season we thank you graciously for your gifts to the Cathedral Renewal Campaign and wish you and your families all the best in the New Year!!

Please join in supporting the Cathedral Renewal Campaign with a sacrificial gift or pledge today!

To learn more about Cathedral Renewal Campaign and/or to make a contribution: Visit us online at: www.HonoluluCathedralRenewal.org Click on the "Learn" button, or select "Renewal Campaign" in the toolbar to view our 5 ½ minute campaign video.

Email: CRC@rcchawaii.org Phone: (808) 585-3329

January 1, 2017 – The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Numbers 6:22-27 | Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:16-21

Mary faced a great mystery she could not understand, reflected on God's will for her, and was affirmed in her yes to become the mother of the Savior. We face many challenges during life, must ponder God's will for us, and be affirmed in our yes when we encounter the One who comes to save. The name Jesus (=savior) already points to a life of self-giving and suffering that Mary as Jesus' mother will experience. The surprise suggested by the first two readings is that we who are God's children (second reading) also participate in this experience of self-giving and suffering; this is how we receive blessing (first reading). The yes all of us must make to do God's will necessarily means that we cannot escape dying to ourselves. We are affirmed by this festival's readings, however, in that we are given the grace to place ourselves in God's hands and do God's will. Like both the shepherds and Mary, we seek healthy affirmation by returning over and over again to encounter the divine Son.

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Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6 | Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Matthew 2:1-12

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Family:

As we continue the celebration of the coming of Christ in the flesh as a human person we honor Mary, the Mother of God. Even Jesus had a mother. The Motherhood of God and Mary's example reminds us of how we are called to "mother God" to give birth and to nurture the real presence of Christ. Mary did it in a unique way, but we are called to imitate the essence of her example.

Mary was open to God's word and will and so welcomed and nurtured the presence of Christ within her. She made a place for Jesus in herself. We are called to make room for Christ in our lives.

Mary endured the pain of giving birth to Jesus Christ. She accepted the discomfort of this delivery so that the world might be delivered from sin. We are called to endure the pain that makes possible the presence of Christ in our world.

Mary presented Jesus to the world. She held on to Him and then let him go. She gave to God and the world what was most precious to her. We are called to give to God what is most precious to us.

The Motherhood of God teaches us that Christ becomes real when we imitate Mary's example. The human and divine Christ is the Prince of Peace. It is when we give birth to Christ and allow all that is human in us to be transformed by God that we experience real and lasting peace. May God's grace and peace fill us all this New Year.

Happy New Year!

In His love,
Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
Rector

Cathedral Basilica Outreach Ministry

Cathedral Basilica Outreach ministry looking for assistance as with assisting in our community. If you are interested, please email Ron Gochenouer at gochron@gmail.com