

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection for Religious Retirement Fund

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Monday, December 10 – *Weekday*

Tuesday, December 11 – *Weekday*

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 13

Memorial of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr

Friday, December 14

Memorial of St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the church

Saturday, December 15 – *Weekday*

Prayer Group at 7:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

Ss. Marianne/Damien Devotion Group at 12:30pm

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection for Repairs & Maintenance

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation will have Advent and St. Catherine Siena as part of their continuing education. Join them this Sunday (today) at 11:30am-1:30pm. Contact Deacon Joe and Easter at ealmuena@rcchawaii.org.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

There is still time to register. Fr. Marvin is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 13-24, 2019. We will be partnering with a parish from WA, so very limited space is available. It is a great opportunity to journey in the land of Jesus. Please contact Fr. Marvin at (808) 536-7036.

Stewardship of Treasure

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 8,324.13 |
| Weekday Collection | \$ 3,976.77 |
| Coffers | \$ 382.66 |
| Holy Day Collection | \$ 140.00 |
| Total | \$ 12,823.56 |



Advent Season

The appearance of John the Baptist is central to Advent. Luke recalls for us the particular historical moment in which the word of God impelled John to come forth from the desert to preach a baptism of repentance. God calls each of us to repentance and to ministry within the concrete particular events of life and not in an abstract way that is unrelated to human history. What events has God been using to call us forth?



Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious needs your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

Cathedral Renewal Campaign

As always, Bishop Larry Silva and Msgr. Gary Secor extend their appreciation and aloha for your generous and prayerful support.

Please consider joining us with a generous gift or pledge today! To learn more and/or to make a contribution:

Call: 808-585-3357, or 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.

December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Baruch 5:1-9 | Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 | Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 | Luke 3:1-6

Advent readings are often poetic, replete with wonderful images of God freeing captives, dreaming, rejoicing, mountains being made low, or gorges being filled in. We hear these hopeful images especially in today's First Reading from Baruch and the Responsorial Psalm. Salvation has come to God's people!

Yet this Advent imagery is not complete without the Baptist's cry to his listeners to do their part to prepare the way of the Lord. John's message of repentance and his call to make the pathways straight for the Lord's coming are a recognized messages of the Advent season. John tells us that, as unlikely or amazing as it may seem, the Lord will come into our world.

He comes into our workplaces, homes, playgrounds, and neighborhoods; into the chaos of our daily struggles and difficult decisions; into the everyday moments of human lives. Yes, the Word of God became flesh and came into ordinary human history. It is for the celebration of this coming and the promise that the Messiah will come again in glory that we prepare ourselves and the world this Advent.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "Third Sunday of Advent"

Zephaniah 3:14-18a | Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:10-18

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

Advent reminds us of the three comings of Christ. Christ came to us as a human person. Christ will come again in glory at the end of time. Between these two comings we have Christ who comes to us each day and moment. The Scriptures explain that in order to get from the first coming to the last coming, and to experience the coming of Christ to us in the present, we need to prepare a highway for him. In the early Church, Christians were called followers of "The Way". To make our way to Christ, to fashion a highway for our God, we must remember three important things.

First of all, we need to know where we are going. In travelling on a highway, directions are important. Otherwise, we get lost and go in circles. If we get lost or confused, it is important to stop and ask directions. And if we are going the wrong way, we need to turn around. All of these important driving tips can be applied to travelling on the highway of life. We are on our way to be with Christ forever. If we get lost, we have the Church, God's Word, and one another to help us get back on course. And if we realize we are going the wrong way, we need to do something about it!

Secondly, we shouldn't let detours deter us. The highway seems like it is always under construction and traffic is being re-routed or slowed. We are tempted to refuse to drive or we try to avoid detours at all costs because we hate to wait. But, this is not realistic because detours happen. Life is like this sort of traffic issue as well. We can't control the things that attempt to deter us from moving toward our union with Christ. We need to be patient and persevere in the midst of life's detours.

Finally, don't get caught in a rut. The highway is never perfect and ruts and potholes are a part of the picture. Sometimes, if we are not careful, we can get caught in these and they can cause damage to our car or prevent us from arriving at our destination. In our journey toward Christ, we can get caught in a spiritual rut; we get stuck in the same old attitudes and behavior that only make life's ride a rough and unpleasant one. We risk spiritual damage. We need to force ourselves out of the rut and steer clear of the potholes so that Christ can be born anew in us.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, let us take to the spiritual highway that leads to Christ's coming. Let us know where we are going, not let the detours deter us, and not get caught in a rut. Let us follow the way that leads to the rebirth of Christ in us.

In Christ's love,

Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.

Rector