

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection for Religious Retirement

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Monday, December 11 – *Advent Weekday*

Tuesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 13

Memorial of St. Lucy, virgin

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15 – *Advent Weekday*

Saturday, December 16 – *Advent Weekday*

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

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

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection for Repairs & Maintenance

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Most Beautiful Among Women

Calling all women of all ages to come join us on Sunday, December 17, 2017, in the Kamiano Center from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm for our Christmas fellowship, prayer, thanksgiving, praise and worship, lunch, a teaching as well as sharing insights from the Word of God, personal testimonies, and a joyful day together in the Lord! Come meet new friends!

Adult Faith Formation

Come and join us for Advent reflections by Bishop Barron and Advent activities on Sunday, December 10th at 11:30am at the Kamiano Center. For more information, please call Easter Almuena at (808) 585- 3342 or email her at ealmuena@rcchawaii.org. Please bring a friend.

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 7,908.50
Weekday Collection	\$ 1,781.66
Coffers	\$ 557.46
Holy Day Collection	\$ 33.00
Total	\$ 10,280.62



Religious Retirement

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Mahalo!

Cathedral Renewal Campaign

Many Thanks!

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the great many supporters who have come together to make possible the upcoming renovations to the Cathedral's sanctuary. Over the past year, the Cathedral Renewal Campaign has raised an additional \$1,876,000 from the combined gifts of individuals, parishes, foundations, religious orders and local businesses. Mahalo nui loa for your generous support!

Funds collected in 2017 will directly support renovations to the Cathedral's sanctuary, which will begin in early 2018. Exciting upgrades to the sanctuary will take place behind a partition wall and will be unveiled in August 2018, the 175th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral. Parishioners and visitors can look forward to a new extended sanctuary platform with new screens on either side, while the current scrim will be taken down. Bishops' Burial Chapels will be added on either side of the high altar, which will be cleaned and restored during this next phase.

Have you considered a year-end gift or a pledge to help restore and preserve our historic Hawaiian Cathedral?

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.

We also offer a menu of individual naming opportunities, which may be obtained by contacting the campaign office:

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

December 10, 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

It's over. Whatever darkness had claimed the human heart is now dispelled, so there's no choice but to make merry and rejoice! For Isaiah, the "darkness" was Israel's exile, the merited punishment whose end he announces with exuberant poetry. His energetic words tell us that there's no time to dwell in the past. God is doing something so new that even the geography will change: mountains will be leveled and rough ways made smooth! That's a welcome message for any season. A fresh start is only as far away as tomorrow's sunrise. For that new day, Peter offers a question to ponder: What sort of people ought we be? Peter says we are to be people of "holiness and devotion," who live in a way that actually hastens the coming of the "day of God" (2 Peter 3:11-12). Jesus is coming back. Though we don't know when, apparently we can speed the day by how we live our lives. We long and pray for Christ's coming and, remarkably, our faith and virtue can help bring it about. But it will happen in God's time, not ours. "Soon" for God can be eternity for us. Nonetheless, Christ's return is assured. Today's message, whether spoken by Isaiah, Peter, or John the Baptist is clear: Be ready!"

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Next Sunday's Readings: "3rd Sunday of Advent"

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 10-11 | Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

This is the time of the year when we often welcome guests to our home for visits, parties, etc. What occurs before the visit or party is important as we do cleaning, decorating, cooking, and all the tasks associated with making our homes a place of hospitality. Our Advent scriptures today remind us that we are preparing for the most important guest of all. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we rejoice that Christ was born among us long ago and we pray that we can welcome Him again into our hearts and homes. What do I need to do to prepare the way of the Lord?

In Christ's love,

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

Rector

Sharing Faith

◆ When was the last time you felt like you were starting fresh, perhaps in a relationship, your job, or your approach to life? What gave you the confidence to start anew? Did it last? What helped sustain the newness?

◆ Have you known the "desert" and the "rugged land" in your life? In what ways has God cleared the way for you and made your paths straight?

◆ Discuss the power of the Holy Spirit in the creation of the world, the Incarnation of Christ, and the preaching of the Apostles after Pentecost. How do you see this power active in your life?

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; / he will prepare your way. / A voice of one crying out in the desert: / 'Prepare the way of the Lord, / make straight his paths' " (Mark 1:2-3).

Living the Liturgy

◆ What future aspect of your life are you most looking forward to — marriage, a special vacation, grandchildren, retirement? What are three things you could do to prepare for that situation? Could you do the same exercise in regards to your hopes for eternity?

◆ Think of or ask someone about a time when prayers were answered years after they were prayed. Was the prayer's answer "late" or still timely? What did you learn about God's time versus your time?

◆ John the Baptist fed on locusts and wild honey. Enjoy a special snack of apple slices dipped in honey as a reminder of the sweetness of God's love and goodness. As you eat, make a game of counting your family's blessings, and see who can think of the most.