

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection Retirement Fund for Religious Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm
Religious Education Classes at 8:00am

Monday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 13

Memorial of St. Lucy, virgin, martyr
Advent Evening Prayer at 5:40pm
Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 14

Memorial of St. John of the Cross, priest, doctor of the Church
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am
Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 15 – *Advent Weekday*

Friday, December 16 – *Advent Weekday*
Advent Penance Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 17 – *Advent Weekday*
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am
St. Marianne Devotional Group at 12:30pm

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection Repair & Maintenance
Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm
Religious Education Classes at 8:00am

Calling All Women

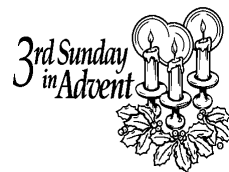
You have been humbled and it is God's appointed time to exalt you! 2017 is your year of significance! Our women's ministry, Most Beautiful Among Women, is presenting a women's workshop on Saturday, January 7, 2017, in the Kamiano Center from 8:30a to 4:30p. Come and share fellowship, worship and praise, teachings on the journey! Let your Light shine. Register at www.significance.com ASAP as space is limited. There is no charge or fees for attending. Parking will be validated.

Advent Penance Service

Our Cathedral Basilica Advent Penance Service will be on Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance as part of the Advent of experience of hopeful anticipation.

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 13,268.34
Weekday Collection	\$ 1,851.59
Coffers	\$ 623.76
Holy Day Collection	\$ 174.23
Total	\$ 15,917.69



Bell Tower Lighting Ceremony

Please join us for: Bell Tower Lighting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of Phase 2a of the Cathedral Renewal Campaign.

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Time: 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Location: Cathedral Basilica at the top of the Fort Street Mall

What to expect:

Blessing and lighting of the newly renovated bell tower

- Projection light show
- Christmas music
- Pupu and drinks
- Tours of the Cathedral Basilica at 5:00 pm & 7:15 pm

Please RSVP to: CRC@rcchawaii.org | 808-585-3329

Cathedral Renewal Campaign

Cathedral Renewal – Bell Tower Renovations

Phase 2a of the Renewal project began on November 14th with repairs to the bell tower, tower stairs, and basement. Recent work includes: repairs to the coral and plaster walls of the basement and tower stairs; reinforcement of the bell tower's concrete slab framing for our two historic bells; repair bell tower ceiling and re-paint interior of tower; and, installation of new grating and mesh in the tower arches to keep birds out. Workers are expected to be finished next week and the newly renovated bell tower will be celebrated with a lighting ceremony on December 21st complete with Christmas music and festivities.

Phase 2 of the Cathedral Renewal project will continue in the new year with Phase 2b starting in February-March 2017.

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

December 11, 2016 – Third Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 | Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist was a forceful prophet who preached a message of repentance while pointing to the Messiah. His followers knew of the works that Jesus was doing while John was imprisoned. They came to see for themselves if Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus, using the images of Isaiah, points to what they see: "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:5).

We know there are many in need. We have seen the powerless in our world. Their faces haunt us in our newspapers and on street corners. We know there are many who are shunned because they are strangers or are imprisoned and oppressed. Just like the Israelites and disciples, we hear challenging words about a God who cares for these very least ones. The echoes of these words reverberate across the distances. The work of this Advent is to let the word echo in our hearts and change our lives.

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Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14 | Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-24

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Family:

As we light the rose colored candle on this 3rd Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the joy that should characterize this season. While the anticipation and celebration of Christmas is often filled with happiness, we know that sometimes it is not. It can be an especially difficult time for those who see others being joyful, but are not feeling joyful themselves. This season of joy invites us to discover a deeper joy and peace that comes to us when we ask Christ to give us these gifts. Today's scriptures suggest to us how this can happen.

We discover this deeper joy and peace when we ask for God's healing and share it with one another. Isaiah and Jesus make it clear that a primary sign of the coming of the Messiah is dramatic healings of those normally not expected to get better. We all have been hurt and, because of personal sin, hurt ourselves, others, or our relationship with God. Jesus wants to minister to those hurts, if we will let him. Through the sacraments, and through the love that we share with each other, miraculous healing can happen.

We discover this deeper joy and peace when we practice patience. It is not easy to wait in a world that demands instant gratification and faster and faster results. Over and over again, God teaches us that some of the best things in life take time to develop and speeding up the process is not good. To practice patience is to make ourselves wait; to allow God to dictate the timing of our lives.

We discover this deeper joy when we are willing to stand up for our convictions and be firm in our beliefs and behavior. Jesus points out that John the Baptist was not a "reed swayed by the wind", but was a man who bravely prepared the way for Christ. We can be tempted to think that happiness is found by mere accommodation; taking the path of least resistance and agreement. Practicing this sort of "peace at any price" always leads to more internal and external conflict. It robs us of real joy.

Let us pray that as we prepare the way for the Lord this Advent we will seek the joy and peace that only Christ can give.

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