

The Church's Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 17 – *Advent Weekday*

“O Wisdom”

Tuesday, December 18 – *Advent Weekday*

“O Sacred Lord”

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 19 – *Advent Weekday*

“O Flower of Jesse's Stem”

Confessions at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 20 – *Advent Weekday*

“O Key of David”

Friday, December 21 – *Advent Weekday*

“O Radiant Dawn”

Penance Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 22 – *Advent Weekday*

“O King of All the Nations”

Confessions at 10:00am

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

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Penance Service

Our Cathedral Advent Penance Service will be on Friday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance as part of the Advent experience of hopeful anticipation.

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

Sunday Collection	\$ 7,539.74
Weekday Collection	\$ 2,431.13
Coffers	\$ 603.18
Holy Day Collection	\$ 627.00
Total	\$ 11,251.05



Advent Season

Zephaniah proclaims a day of festival to celebrate God's presence in the midst of his people. It is interesting to note that he portrays it from the perspective of God celebrating over his people. God exults, renews, dances, and shouts for joy. We are heirs of God's promise, of God's joy. In the second Reading today, Paul assures the community at Philippi that he desires their happiness, the gift of peace that accompanies the Lord's presence. When anxiety seeks to rob us of God's peace, Paul counsels prayer. We offer prayers of intercession, for God alone can give us his peace; and we pray in thanksgiving, for we trust that God will provide the gifts we need.

John's ministry penetrates people's hearts to the degree that they wonder about the ways their lives needed to change. As John concretely responds to tax collectors and soldiers, he announces the coming of the one who will baptize in the power of the Holy Spirit. God's word challenges us to new patterns of justice and mercy, while God's Spirit enables us to live this new way of being.



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 16, 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

Prophets often came into a world that was desolate and barren, and to a people desperately in need of hearing their message. Yet, often the people were resistant to the word of God, the promise of good news, spoken through them. John the Baptist was a prophet who proclaimed a message of good news. He, too, met resistance, but many did open their ears and hearts to listen.

Some people wanted a triumphant messiah who would destroy Israel's enemies. Others hoped a catastrophe would overthrow the present world order. But John heralded the Messiah who asked for a change from within, a conversion of heart. John's message was concrete and immediate: share what you have. Be fair and just. Don't take advantage of your authority and power.

Now it is our turn to reflect deeply on the Baptist's call and offer the Messiah our receptive and open hearts. John laid out the mission. Jesus lived the mission in his very person and his ministry. Now is our turn to proclaim and live the good news, to make known the promise that the Messiah will come again in glory.

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

Micah 5:1-4a | Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 | Hebrew 10:5-10 | Luke 1:39-45

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

Today we light the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath to symbolize the joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ. As we give thanks for his coming at Bethlehem, we joyfully await his coming at the end of time and we pray that we will welcome him as he comes into our lives today. This 3rd Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday; "gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice". We know that this is a season of joy, but we also know that, for some, it is a time of sadness. When everyone else appears to be happy, it is difficult to admit that you are not. We also know that sometimes we settle for superficial happiness and fail to desire the deeper joy that God is offering to us. God's Word today gives us some hints about how we can "guard our hearts" so that we can experience the unshakeable happiness and peace that God offers to us.

First of all, we should do good and avoid evil. In the gospel, John the Baptist gives concrete examples of what can be done to prepare for the coming of Christ. Paul, in the second reading, reminds us that our "kindness should be known to all". All of this tells us that real joy is found when we take the focus off ourselves and put it on others and their needs. By helping others to be happy, we experience happiness.

Secondly, we need to face our fears and not hold on to anxiety. The first and second readings clearly remind us that we don't have to remain fearful and anxious. This only leads to discouragement and robs us of joy. While we will always have things that concern us, we can face those concerns with faith and bring them to God in prayer. We can admit them to ourselves and others. With God's help, we can confront them. This is the way to know "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding".

Thirdly, we can preach the good news by being good news! For those who believe that Christ has come and that he will come again, "the glass is always half full". Pessimism and negativity ought to be foreign concepts for the followers of Christ. While we need to be realistic and truthful about ourselves, others, and life's situations, we must constantly be expecting the best. Then, as Mary did, our being will "proclaim the greatness of the Lord" and our spirits will "rejoice in God" our savior.

Today, God challenges us to "rejoice in the Lord always".

In Christ's love,
Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
Rector