

## The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 17

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Repairs & Maintenance**

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Monday, December 18 – *Advent Weekday*

Tuesday, December 19 – *Advent Weekday*

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 20 – *Advent Weekday*

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 21 – *Advent Weekday*

Friday, December 22 – *Advent Weekday*

Penance Service at 6:00pm

Saturday, December 23 – *Advent Weekday*

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

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

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Church Closed after the Noon Mass

### **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**

Vigil Mass at 6:00pm

Lessons & Carols at 11:00pm

Midnight Mass at 12:00am

Monday, December 25

### **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm**

*All Offices Closed*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Please note Masses are Saturday Vigil at 5:00pm, 6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:00 noon.

There is no scheduled 6:00pm Mass.

## Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection \$ 8,660.22

Weekday Collection \$ 2,582.10

Coffers \$ 829.92

Holy Day Collection \$ 60.00

**Total \$ 12,132.24**



## Most Beautiful Among Women

Calling all women of all ages to come join us today, 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!

## 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 \$1,995,500 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 175<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:CRC@rcchawaii.org) Phone: (808) 585-3329**

# December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

## Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

*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*

John announces that someone great is among us. The presence of Jesus is not always easy to recognize. Sometimes we are too busy, and sometimes we are blinded by preconceived notions and prejudices. Let us open our eyes, see the truth, and testify with joy to the world that we believe.

Like John, we can use this Advent time of waiting and preparation to testify to God's goodness. We can promise now to do more to reach out to those in need. We can seek help when we need it. We can look with tenderness and kindness on those who need our love. We can be the faithful servants God calls us to be. All of these actions help us to "make straight the way." They help us to become the faith-filled and holy community Saint Paul discusses in his letter. Although his words were to an early Christian community, they still serve us well today.

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### **Next Sunday's Readings: "4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent"**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 | Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38*

### **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

#### **"At the Vigil"**

*Isaiah 62:1-5 | Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 | Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 | Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25*

#### **"Mass During the Night"**

*Isaiah 9:1-6 | Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-14*

#### **"Mass at Dawn"**

*Isaiah 62:11-12 | Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12 | Titus 3:4-7 | Luke 2:15-20*

#### **"Mass During the Day"**

*Isaiah 52:7-10 | Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 | Hebrew 1:1-6*

## From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we are reminded of the joy that we know characterizes this season. The decorations are filled with light, the festivities are filled with fun, and our hearts are filled with happiness as we anticipate gathering with friends and family and as we reminisce about Christmases past. But, we also know this can be the most difficult time of the year for some. For those dealing with loss, sadness, or other hardships the joy around them often serves to only remind them of their pain. And, for all of us, the danger is that the joy we express is only superficial and artificial.

God's Word to us today reminds us of how we can seek and experience the deeper and more lasting joy that God wants us to have. Isaiah tells us that this kind of joy must come from the spirit of the Lord. Because we have all been anointed in Baptism, we are clothed with the "robe of salvation". When we acknowledge how much God has blessed us, even when things are not perfect, we experience this joy.

This deeper joy is found by those who seek the holiness described by St. Paul in today's second reading. This holiness comes when our spirit, soul, and body are all working together and in balance. This integration of body, mind, and spirit is what gives us the "wholeness" which is at the heart of holiness. This holiness allows us to experience peace, even when we feel like our good deeds and words are like a "voice crying in the wilderness". Like John the Baptist, our conviction about God's love for us, can lead us to "prepare the way of the Lord" even when it is not easy.

We are also told today that deeper joy is found when we are generous. Because we have received the Good News, we need to be Good News for one another. When we bring glad tidings to others by concrete acts of love and concern, we allow our happiness to have an outlet. The joy flows in and out of our lives; we are blessed and others are blessed as well.

In Christ's love,

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

Rector