

The Church's Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 19 – *Advent Weekday*

Tuesday, December 20 – *Advent Weekday*

Advent Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 21 – *Advent Weekday*

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 22 – *Advent Weekday*

Friday, December 23 – *Advent Weekday*

Saturday, December 24 – *Advent Weekday*

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Damien Devotional Group at 12:30pm

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Lessons & Carols at 11:00pm

Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

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

No Religious Education Classes

Next Sunday's Reading

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

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

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

Day - *Isaiah 52:7-10 | Psalm 98:1-6* / *Hebrews 1:1-6*
/ John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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.

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection \$ 8,568.91

Weekday Collection \$ 2,953.48

Coffers \$ 703.56

Holy Day Collection \$ 653.00

Total \$ 12,878.95



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 18, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

Even after years of delivering babies, obstetricians can still speak of the miracle of birth. A baby comes through an amazing transformation and growth process. It carries a promise of the future and hope for days to come. A baby reminds us that we begin life totally helpless and dependent on others. We can see how God speaks to us in many ways through the powerful event of birth and reminds us of our dependence on a power greater than ourselves.

We are approaching the great feast of the incarnation. We come with renewed awe about the significance of "God with us". Quoting Isaiah's ancient verse about Emmanuel, the writer of Matthew tells us about Joseph's dream: The baby will upset his life, but this child was the promised one of God and destined to save his people. Matthew provides us with Joseph's perspective. He is a good and righteous man who keeps the law and listens to God with his heart. He comes to the logical conclusion that Mary has been unfaithful to him during their period of engagement or betrothal. Joseph cares enough to plan a quiet way to divorce her and try to protect her from the outrage of the community, which stones unfaithful women. The angel reassures Joseph that God is the master of this situation and he is to protect this special child and mother. The infancy narratives detail how God intervenes in human history and overcomes all obstacles, from the barren womb of the elderly Elizabeth to the miraculous conception and protection of Mary's child. Matthew provides the genealogy that establishes Jesus' family lineage through the family of Joseph, fulfilling the prophesy that the Messiah would be of the house of David.

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From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Family:

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." At the beginning of today's gospel, and at the beginning of this last week of Advent, this statement is more than just announcing the historical recounting of Christ's birth. It is inviting us to see how the birth of Christ comes about here and now, in and among us. Jesus is alive and wants to be reborn in each of us this Christmas.

The birth of Jesus Christ comes about when we ask and expect God to give us signs of his love and power. Ahaz, in the first reading, refused to ask the Lord and used an excuse because he really wanted to trust in someone else. The Lord spoke to Ahaz and he did not listen. Joseph listened to God and did as the angel directed him. God wants us to ask and expect that we will receive many signs of God's love and power. Often, we don't experience the rebirth of Christ because we don't ask for it. Our needs are not met because we have not asked God to meet those needs, but have entrusted them to someone else. "Ask and you shall receive."

The birth of Jesus Christ comes about when we are not afraid or ashamed to be with Christ and to take responsibility for nurturing His presence and bringing Him to life. Joseph, afraid of causing Mary shame, was going to leave her. But, God asked him to stay with her and Jesus. We can be tempted to allow our fear or shame to prevent us from staying with Jesus. God is inviting us to trust that the Holy Spirit will enable us to conquer fear and shame and be able to be part of bringing Christ to birth.

The birth of Jesus Christ comes about when we believe and live as if "God is with us". The birth of Christ is the sign that God has not abandoned us and that God wants to be closer to us than we are to ourselves. It is so easy to forget that God is with us and to feel as if we are alone and without God's help. Joseph and Mary knew that God, in Christ, was really present. Christ became flesh. God wants us to know the flesh and blood reality of the presence of Christ.

The birth of Jesus Christ comes about when we expect God's love and power, when we are not afraid of being with Christ, and when we believe and live as if God is with us. My prayer for all of us is that, as we do the last minute preparations for Christmas, we do the most important preparation of all. Let us prepare our hearts to receive the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

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