

The Church's Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass at 6:00pm

Lessons & Carols at 11:00pm

Midnight Mass at 12:00am

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

Wednesday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, *The First Martyr*

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mass at 12:00n

Cathedral Basilica closed after Noon Mass

Thursday, December 27 – *Advent Weekday*

Feast of St. John, *Apostle and evangelist*

Friday, December 28 – *Advent Weekday*

Feast of the Holy Innocents, *martyrs*

Saturday, December 29 – *Advent Weekday*

Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 30

Feast of the Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Religious Education at 8:00am

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of Monsignor Gary, Father Marvin, Deacon Joe, and our Cathedral Basilica Staff (Alika, Joe, Paula, Calvin, Gary, Zara, Chris, Mike, Harold, and Kamalani), we would like to wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas Season. Our office staff is here to help you out with any of your pastoral or sacramental needs. Please consider an end-of-the-year gift to the Cathedral, which would be deductible from your 2018 taxes, to support the important work of the church.

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

Micah prophesies the birth of the Savior from the least of the clan of Judah. God's intervention in human history often shatters our expectations. The Savior is born in lowliness and the extension of his reign is a work of peace and not control through power. The author of Hebrews portrays Jesus as God's obedient servant who offered for all humankind the one perfect sacrifice. This sacrifice was the gift of perfect obedience to God, culminating in Jesus' complete gift of himself on the cross. Like Jesus, we are called to proclaim in word and deed our obedient service to all that God asks of us. We can do so only if we unite ourselves to Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth acknowledges in Mary the dwelling place of God's promise fulfilled. Mary, like her ancestors in faith, believed that God's promise would be fulfilled, and by God's graciousness, bore the Savior of the world.



Young Adults

Join the Young Adults ages 18-39 for fun and learning together on Sunday, January 6 at 1:00pm at the Rectory. Contact Dcn. Joe and Easter at ealmuena@rcchawaii.org

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 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

Mary and Elizabeth are waiting. Both had unusual pregnancies announced by angels. Both were part of a people who had long waited for a Messiah. Luke offers them as faithful witnesses that God's promises would be fulfilled and that God indeed works in and through his people.

We are part of a long line of believers who waited for God to intervene in human history. God did not come with power or triumphal force. Rather, he entered the world as a baby. God did not come with armies or angels, but was born in the small, inconsequential town of Bethlehem to a young woman who trusted in faith. By her acceptance of God's will she gave birth to the Messiah and became the Mother of God.

Will we bring God to our neighborhoods and families? Are we willing to give birth to God in our offices and homes? Will we help our communities to see God in their midst? If we say "yes" as Mary did, the world will never be the same. Our leap of faith will show us to be faithful disciples living God's will just as Mary showed us how to do so many years ago.

CELEBRATING THE LECTIONARY © 2018 Resource Publications, Inc.

Christmas Readings:

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

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*

Next Sunday's Readings: "Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph"

*1 Samuel 1:20 - 22, 24 - 28 | Psalm 84:2 - 3, 5 - 6, 9 - 10 | 1 John 3:1 - 2, 21 - 24 | Luke 2:41 - 52
or Sirach 3:2 - 6, 12 - 14 | Psalm 128:1 - 2, 3, 4 - 5 | Colossians 3:12 - 21 | Luke 2:41 - 52*

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

On this last Sunday of Advent, God's word invites us to take some time to reflect on the "reason for the Season". It is so easy to get caught up in all the hectic preparations and forget to prepare spiritually. It's not too late to look for the most important gift of all; God's peace and joy!

God's peace and joy is found when we trust that God can bless our lives, no matter how humble or disadvantaged our circumstances. The Prophet Micah speaks of how God would bless Bethlehem which was the last place that anyone expected the Messiah to come from. God will do the same kind of thing in our lives if we trust in Him. When we least expect it, God will come.

God's peace and joy is found when we do God's will. It's so easy to want things our way which is not always God's way. Hebrews reminds us that what we want to give to God may not be what God wants. It is important that we ask God to reveal to us what he wants for us and our lives. And, once we get an answer, we need to pray that we will agree to do what God tells us.

God's peace and joy is found by when we believe as Mary did. Luke's gospel reminds us that Mary's blessedness happened because she believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. This belief was so powerful that Christ really came to live within her! We can have the peace and joy of Christ living within us if we believe that what God has promised to us will be fulfilled.

As we celebrate these last days of Advent, let us search for the gift of God's peace and joy. Only when we find it, can we share it with others.

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