

The Church's Calendar This Week

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 & 12:00n

All Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, *The First Martyr*

No Cathedral Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 27

Feast of St. John, *Apostle and Evangelist*

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, *Martyrs*

Friday, December 29

Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

New Years' Eve Holiday

(Observed)

Offices Closed

Mass at 12:00n

Saturday, December 30

Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Sunday, December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 8,956.68
Weekday Collection	\$ 2,009.37
Coffers	\$ 597.11
Holy Day Collection	\$ 150.00
Total	\$ 11,703.16



On behalf of Monsignor Gary and the Cathedral Basilica Priests and Staff, we would like to wish you and your ohana a very Blessed Merry Christmas!

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 175th 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 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 Phone: (808) 585-3329

December 24, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

David wanted to do something “nice” for God. He lived in kingly splendor while the Ark, the sign of God’s presence among the people, was in a tent. The prophet Nathan gave him a green light, but God turned it red. God might seem downright ungrateful, but his message is clear: I am God and you are not. Humility and gratitude are humanity’s proper stance before the Lord. David gets a good reminder of what God has done for him and what God *will* do for him. All you have come from me, God tells him, and all you will have will also come from me. It’s that simple: God’s in charge, the author of our destiny. God doesn’t need anything from us, not even a great temple. If and when that time comes, God will make it happen.

Although God *needs* nothing from us, God does *want* something from us: obedience. Today, the virtue of obedience is rarely discussed and may be out of style, or even sound demeaning. But it’s God, not some human lord, asking our obedience. The almighty, eternal God who is love itself expects, and indeed demands obedience from us. Mary sets the example. She is no beaten down victim, no insecure or frightened robot blindly doing what she’s told. Mary dares to ask, “How can this be?” But when she’s told, there’s nothing more to say than, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

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Next Sunday’s Readings: “The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph”

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 | Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 | Colossians 3:12-21 or Hebrew 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | Luke 2:22-40

Or Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 | Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 22, 39-40

From the Rector’s Desk

Dear Cathedral family:

“We are going to have a baby!” On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, as we are involved in the final preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, God’s Word invites us to ask: “How is it that the Body of Christ is given life in each of us?” “How can we ‘conceive’ Jesus?”

First of all, we need to hear God speaking words of favor to us. It is troubling to think of how much God loves us. It is troubling because we know that being loved engenders in us the expectation to love in return. If I hear, as Mary did, God saying “I love you” can I honestly say “I love you” in return?

Secondly, we need to have faith, otherwise fear will “have” us. It is normal to have times of fear and to question God as Mary did. But, can we move beyond our fear and trust in God’s plan? Otherwise, we live in fear and Christ cannot be reborn and live in us.

Finally, we need to say yes and allow God to be in control. If we always have to be in control, and have all the answers, we effectively reject God’s intervention. To conceive you have to receive.

As we finalize our Christmas preparations, let us not forget to prepare spiritually that Christ may be conceived and given life in each of us. I look forward to celebrating with you the birth of Christ! May you have a Blessed Christmas.

In Christ’s love,

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

Rector