

The Church's Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr

Tuesday, December 27

Feast of St. John, Apostle and evangelist
No Cathedral Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs
No Sacrament of Reconciliation
Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

Thursday, December 29

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 31

The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
No Sacrament of Reconciliation
St. Marianne Devotional Group at 12:30pm
Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6p
No Religious Education Classes

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 8,717.37
Weekday Collection	\$ 1,440.37
Coffers	\$ 461.96
Holy Day Collection	\$ 141.00
Total	\$ 10,760.70



Cathedral Renewal Campaign

The Cathedral Basilica Lights-up the Night!

Repairs to the bell tower were completed this month, culminating with the Bell Tower Lighting Ceremony on December 21st. The event featured a blessing and lighting of the newly renovated bell tower, which now has permanently installed lights for the first time in her 173 year history. Set to a timer, the new tower lights will automatically illuminate at dusk and extinguish at dawn.

In early 2017, the project team will add a final touch: installation of bronze mesh in the tower windows to screen out the birds. The specialty bronze mesh will be more visually appealing and appear more transparent than the bulky white lattice that was there before.

Restoration of the bell tower is just the beginning of Phase 2. In the New Year, work will continue with renovations to the sanctuary, sacristies and basement. In the sanctuary, we will clean and restore the high altar, remove the screen, extend the altar platform to accommodate large celebrations, add a wheelchair accessible ramp and construct Bishops' Chapels on either side of the high altar.

A minimum of \$2.5 million is needed to complete Phase 2, and the cost of the entire project calls for a minimum of \$15 million to complete all of the planned renovations and repairs.

Mahalo nui loa to the 400+ generous individuals, families, parishes, staff, deacons, clergy, religious orders and foundations who have helped us raise more than \$1.5 million in the past year. This holiday season we thank you graciously for your gifts to the Cathedral Renewal Campaign and wish you and your families all the best in the New Year!!

Please join in supporting the Cathedral Renewal Campaign with a sacrificial gift or pledge today!

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

Wishing you all a Most Blessed Christmas!

Fr. Gary

Alika

Paula

Calvin

Clara

HAROLD



Fr. Marwin

FR. GORDON

Chris

Joseph

Tammy

Aurora

December 25, 2016 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

Christmas time is full of images. Countless stories, songs, and poems have been created about the season. People recall many stories about past Christmases, favorite gifts, or treasured memories. In our Christian tradition, we, too, have stories, memories, and music to remind us about our central reason for celebration: Emmanuel entered into the human family. God came to live among us!

Our stories have a long heritage to the stories the Israelites heard throughout their history and developing relationship with God. During long years of slavery, they dreamed of a God who would save them. When they traveled their long journey home, they learned to trust the guiding hand of the God who freed them. When they saw oppression and injustice in their midst, they hoped for a king who would be true to the royal promises to care for the poor, widowed, and orphaned. Their prophets reminded them that if they kept their covenant, God would always be with them. At Christmas, we celebrate that God kept his promise to bring salvation, peace, and justice to the world. That is our story that we can tell forever!

CELEBRATING THE LECTIONARY © 2016 Resource Publications, Inc.

Next Sunday's Readings

Numbers 6:22-27 | Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:16-21

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Family:

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

When we want to communicate we often use words. We speak to one another. But these words, sometimes spoken from afar, are not as effective as actually being in the presence of the one who speaks them. When that person is physically present, we not only have their words; we can see, touch, and feel them.

When God wanted to express perfect love for us, he not only gave us the words of scripture. He sent Jesus Christ, God himself, who became a human person and was physically present. At Christmas, we celebrate the incarnation; that God's love was not just talked about but became a reality in the person of Jesus Christ. We thank God for saving us by sending the Son.

But, we are more than just grateful for what happened in Bethlehem many years ago. We believe that Christ continues to live today, especially in each of us, and wants to be really present in the flesh and blood of our lives. When we live as Christ lived, and love as He loved, we become the presence of Christ here and now. The miracle of Christmas is not just that Christ came, but that Christ continues to come to us.

My prayer is that each of us will experience a personal relationship with Jesus, who is really alive. I also pray that we will allow that relationship to empower us to be the real presence of Christ to one another. Here at the Cathedral we are blessed to have a faith community that makes Christ real. I am truly blessed to be your rector and to be reminded of God's love through each one here.

On behalf of myself and our entire staff, I want to thank you for your generous support and wish you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the joy of knowing "the Word made flesh".

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