

St. Elizabeth Church

DECEMBER 6, 2009

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"A voice crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him.' " Luke 3:4

1

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 7-13, 2009

7th - MONDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

6:30 PM Women's Hula - Hall

7:00 PM Advent Penance Service - Church

7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2

7:00 PM YAM - Young Adult Office

8th - TUESDAY

Immaculate Conception ~ Holy Day

7:00 AM MASS - Church

8:15 AM SES Mass - Church

2:45 PM Beginning Hula - Hall

6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2

7:00 PM MASS - Church

7:15 PM FCC Board Meeting - Conf Room 3

9th - WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

3:00 PM Intermediate Hula - Hall

6:00 PM 8am Choir Practice - Church

6:30 PM Tai Chi - Conference Room 1-2

7:00 PM YCL Gathering - Hall

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus - Hall Meeting Room 8

8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

10th - THURSDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

5:00 PM Line Dancing - Hall

6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2

7:00 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

11th - FRIDAY

7:00 AM MASS - Church

8:15 AM SES Mass - Church

5:00 PM Adoration / Benediction - Church

12th - SATURDAY

7:00 AM MASS / Novena / Rosary - Church

8:30 AM CCD Classes (K-6) - Hall Meeting Rooms

10:00 AM Hula - Hall

6:00 PM Mass - Church

7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom

8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

13th - SUNDAY *(Regular Mass Schedule)*

9:30 AM RCIA - Conf Room 1-2

9:30 AM FCC Meeting - Hall

4:30 PM CCD Classes 7th-HS) - Hall Meeting Rooms

Today's Readings

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

2nd Rdg: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

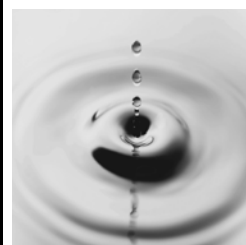
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Next Week's Readings

1st Rdg: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

2nd Rdg: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



A few words for today ...

Our Hawaiian "winter" seems to have started ... you can tell by the rain and the cooler temps at night. If you're one of those fortunate people who don't still have to get up at 4:00 am and start the trek to work, it's very tempting to turn off the alarm and snuggle back under the covers for just a "few more" minutes.

When you make your own schedule or to-do list, you have to have a sense of priority and what needs to be done. What day is today? Who did I promise to meet for lunch? Didn't I have a doctor appointment tomorrow? And horrors – I forgot to get a new set of Advent candles.

Today's readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent evoke miraculous and joyous happenings The highest mountains made low; the valleys are raised and the gorges are filled, and the winding roads are made straight. Indeed, we are called to Rise Up! and be awake, not forgetful or lethargic.

The sounds and senses of Advent should fill our homes and hearts. Especially today, when the figure of John the Baptist appears ... he strides out of the desert, strong and defiant, calling us to the heights of repentance and humility, love and mercy.

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation, of sitting in silence and the joy of God's remembrance of us. It's a time of repentance and a re-ordering of our life; making those crooked pathways straight.

It's a time for being without so we can be filled. Even our sanctuary should be solemn and quiet in décor with the lovely Advent wreath as a focus. The beautiful candlelight leads us in sequence to the joy and splendor of the holy night of the Nativity.

So the Advent journey to the manger is one we walk every year, but it should never be a time of stuff as usual. It's a time of wonder and awe, a time of being a child again, of acknowledging God's fatherhood over us and placing ourselves in his care, trusting in his love.



Pastor's Corner

Fr. Thomas Purayidathil





THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (DECEMBER 8)

This liturgical feast helps us to understand better the place of Mary in God's plan of our salvation. It is a dogma of faith. As early as the 4th century, the Church believed that Mary had been kept free of all stain of sin by God because she was to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God. In 7 AD, monasteries in Palestine used to celebrate the feast of "Conception of Mary by St. Anne." Pope Pius IX declared the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith on December 8, 1854. Four years later when Our Blessed Mother appeared in Lourdes to St. Bernadette, she identified herself saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception." In this way Mary herself confirmed the Pope's declaration four years earlier. In 1908 the feast was established as a Solemnity for the entire Church.

On Tuesday (December 8) the Church keeps this solemnity. It is a day of obligation even in Hawaii. Try to attend mass and sanctify the day. For the convenience of those who are working, there will be an extra mass at 7 pm on the same day. We need the special protection of Our Blessed Mother.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

One important way to prepare for the feast of Christmas is by making your confessions. We will be holding the Advent Penance Service on Monday, December at 7 pm. Several priests will be available for confessions that evening. Please mark your calendars and attend.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA (December 15 to 23)

To help us in the immediate preparation for Christmas, we will be having the Christmas Novena from December 15 to 23. During the nine days preceding the vigil of Christmas, we will have mass (*Simbang Gabi*) at 7 PM followed by the Christmas novena prayers. (On 19th Saturday and 20th Sunday, the 6 PM masses will be the novena masses.) The **Filipino Catholic Club** will be animating the liturgy. The service will be totally in English and all are welcome. Mark your calendars and try to attend.

It is important to keep up our enthusiasm in our Advent observance. '*Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus*' should be on our lips continuously!

With blessings & prayers,

Fr. Tom



CANDELABRA FOR BENEDICTION

We are looking for two candelabras (candleholders) for our weekly Adoration & Benediction service. It would cost approximately \$1,300.00.

Anyone willing to share in the expense is most welcome! Please call Fr. Tom.



Retirement Fund helps senior religious.

"As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," note a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

Breaking Open the Word for December 06, 2009: The Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

The book of Baruch is part of the list of God-inspired (or “canonical”) books of the Catholic Church, but is not part of the Jewish canon or the canon of other Christian denominations. The authorship of this book is attributed to Jeremiah’s scribe, named Baruch. However, the actual author of the book of Baruch actually lived during the 2nd or 3rd century B.C. This author made use of the setting of the Babylonian exile in order to get his message across to the Jewish minority who were living in the large Egyptian cities at this time, where life was not easy for them. In enthusiastic and poetic language, the sacred author encourages his fellow faithful to realize that “God will show all the earth your splendor.” The author offers a prophetic vision that Christians can easily apply to themselves: “Jerusalem” - symbolizing the Christian people - should “look to the east,” where the rising sun symbolizes Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, in Christian tradition. Thus, the message of Advent is to have faith in a better future, because Christ will come again.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

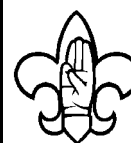
Psalm 126 celebrates Israel’s return from the Babylonian exile. In that return, the psalmist recognizes that God has indeed intervened for His chosen people, and so those who had left Israel weeping in sorrow can now return in joy. Over time, the people of Israel had come to use this psalm during times of threat or danger. Their remembrance of God’s past saving actions for them as a people served as source of confidence that God would again intervene to save them.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

St. Paul is writing his letter from prison to the Philippian community that he visited on his second missionary journey through Asia-minor. Rather than being discouraged because of his own predicament, Paul is full of hope and confidence. Thus, he can tell the Philippians “that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” That “day of Christ Jesus” is His expected second coming, which Paul himself was expecting would be within his own lifetime. Paul’s prayer for the Philippian community is very similar to the prayer he had for the Thessalonians which we heard last Sunday. He prays that the community will grow in love as they await the Lord’s return, because Paul is confident that God will again save His people as He has always done in the past.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

On the second and third Sundays of Advent each year, the Gospel readings focus on John the Baptist. Luke has a different view of John the Baptist from Mark. Mark thought of the Baptist as the “beginning of the gospel,” or the point at which the salvation event began. Luke, in contrast, places the Baptist before the start of the salvation event. In either case, the whole of the Old Testament salvation history is summed up in the person of John the Baptist, because he points to the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, just as all of the O.T. prophets did. Thus, John’s baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins is essentially preparatory for the coming of the Messiah, as John quotes from Isaiah 40. In the book of Isaiah, the “Lord” for whom the way is being prepared is God; in the Gospels, the “Lord” is Jesus; by reinterpreting the words of Isaiah, the Gospels’ authors are teaching that Jesus is God.



Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts at St. Elizabeth...we are looking to revive our program.

Parents with young boys interested in scouting are asked to speak with the Scout Master, Mr. Donald Clemons, to see what we might be able to do to get the program up & running again. Mr. Clemons can be reached at 487-6738. Mahalo for your help!



Readings for the Week

Monday, December 7

Tuesday, December 8 (Holy Day)

Wednesday, December 9

Thursday, December 10

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

Ephesians 3:8-12; Isaiah 35:1-10

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47

WEEKLY COLLECTION



Last Week's Collection	\$ 11,186.50
Building Fund	\$ 144.00
Energy	\$ 121.00
All Souls	\$ 75.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 3,950.00
Total Collection for 11/28-29/1//09	\$ 15,476.50
<i>Catholic Herald</i>	\$ 50.00
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	\$ 106.00
<i>Capuchin</i>	\$ 23.00
<i>World Mission</i>	\$ 38.00

Every year, the Diocese approves a list of second collections and provides envelopes for this purpose. In December, the collection is for: Retirement Fund for the Religious (Dec 12-13, 2009). To assist with this, St. Elizabeth's will donate 10% of the 4th Sunday's collection in November.



ADVENT TRADITIONS.... The Manger Scene

Tradition credits St. Francis of Assisi with creating and popularizing the manger scene. Making the manger a focus of family prayer turns it into more than just another Christmas decoration.

Set aside time as a family to set up the manger scene together. As you take out each of the figures, explain their role in preparing for and welcoming the child Jesus. Be sure to leave the crib empty, waiting until Christmas Eve or Christmas morning to place the child Jesus there. The empty crib will serve as a reminder that we are still waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus. You may also want to wait until Christmas to display the Wise Men, or you could place them on the other side of the room and move them closer and closer each day as Epiphany (The Feast of the Three Kings) approaches.

Prayer at the Manger. Loving God, as we stand before this manger, help us to make a place for your Son in our home and in our hearts. Help us to welcome him by being kind to one another and responding with love to those who need us. We thank you for the great gift of Jesus, in whose name we pray.



Congratulations to the parents & welcome little ones into our parish family.

- Brayden Villanueva Dasalla*
 - Nathaniel Lamar Cash McDonald*
 - Gia Marie Kirk Polyascko*
 - Jolie Estelle Kirk Polyascko*
 - Kai Brennan Sanborn*
 - Quinn Ikaika Sanborn*
 - Alyna Yukiko Whitaker*
 - Tyler Ariston Wininger*
 - McKayla Summer Yalung Yanga*
- May God bless you & grant you joy & happiness forever!*

Lighthouse Catholic Media discussion sessions

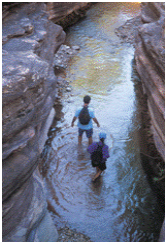


On Saturday, January 09, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. (room to be announced prior), there will be a one-

hour discussion session on Matthew Kelley's "A Call to Joy," (of the Lighthouse Catholic Media CD collection) for all who are interested. This first session will be led by Fr. Jon Cabico, with the frequency of future sessions and CD selection dependent on participants' input and feedback. We hope to have a lively and enlightening discussion, so please listen to "A Call to Joy" prior to the session. CD's are available in the display stand at the back of the church. Please contact Angela Haissig if you are interested in joining us, or for further information, at 678-9160.



RCIA - the Journey of a lifetime



The RCIA Sponsor

Sponsors in RCIA walk the journey of faith with the person entrusted to them. Especially for a person who is not a Christian, having an enthusiastic and active Catholic, one who loves the Church and the parish can make all the difference in that person's life. The

RCIA Sponsor represents the parish which is preparing to embrace the individuals preparing for full initiation through the sacramental life of baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

A Sponsor confirms to the Bishop at the Rite of Election (1st Sunday of Lent) that their catechumen has been faithful to engaging in the process and has shown signs of growth in faith and love. It's a large responsibility but one that the good Lord has entrusted to us as believers and persons faithful to the Mission of the Church – the announcing of the Gospel. Listen to the whispers and respond!

"Our God is not a distant God ... Our God has a heart," Pope Benedict XVI

For more information ... please contact our Ministry Coordinator, Linda Cacpal, at 487 7994 or by email at: RCIA2000@hawaii.rr.com



Capuchin Appeal

A sincere mahalo to all who gave so generously to the Appeal...the Capuchin Friars are truly blessed to have the support of so many.

Advent blessings to all!

Donation Total: \$6,587,00



I.H.S. UPDATE

from Carol Savea, Youth Ministry

Last week we served 68 women & children, and 197 men at the shelters.

The youth appreciated being able to serve at IHS...it was a very humbling and heart-warming experience. Thank you for giving YCL this opportunity.



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please remember in your prayers our brothers & sisters who have been deployed to the Middle East.



- Spc Nick Abelardo
Army National Guard*
- TSgt Frank Keoni Abreu
US Air Force*
- Ethan Mae Aganon, E2
US Army*
- Spc Romar Agmata
US Army*
- Joseph K. Ahsing
Hawaii National Guard*
- PO1 Marc John Alejo
US Navy Reserve*
- SSgt. Roke Almeida
US Army*
- Major John E. Amadeo, Jr.
US Military Service*
- Sgt. Efren Antonio
Hawaii National Guard*
- PFC Rene Baliscao
US Army*
- Capt Brad Bellis
US Navy*
- CSMJ James Bickie
US Air Force*
- SSgt Tevet Bruhn, Jr.
US Air Force*
- MSgt John Buendia
US Air Force*
- Sgt Clyde Bueno
Hawaii National Guard*

- MRC Antonio Castro
US Navy*
- BGen Joseph J. Chaves
Hawaii National Guard*
- 1Lt Joseph Chaves, Jr.
US Army*
- Capt Frank Cho
US Army*
- Sgt Prescott Dela Cruz
US Army*
- Lorenzo Depaynos, Jr.
US Military Service*
- SSgt Samuel DeMent
US Army Special Forces*
- SSgt Darrell DeMotta
US Air Force*
- Lt. Col. David Doherty
US Army*
- Howard Egger
Civilian*
- Sgt. Bernard Espinosa
US Air Force*
- Sgt Edwin Espinosa
US Air Force*
- Pelias Espinosa, Jr.
Hawaii National Guard*
- James Fea'tiame
US Military*

- CW3 Tomas Flores
US Army*
- PO1 Arnel Gacad
US Navy*
- Capt Ron Geronimo
US Army*
- LCrp Jose Giron
US Marine Corp*
- Sgt Livingston D. Hodges III
USMC, 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines*
- Sgt Shawn-Patrick Keola Kalani
Hawaii National Guard*
- CWO Andrew Keahiolalo
US Army*
- PO2 Kristopher Keahiolalo
US Navy*
- Pete Leao
US Military*
- Tofi & Frank Lopez
US Military*
- Spc Liza Lehua Lino
US Army*
- Brian Marcos, E7
US Air Force*
- Ryan Mina
Hawaii National Guard*
- SFC Sampson T. O'Toole
US Army Engineers*

- Bienvenido Jason Pascua III
US Army Reserve*
- PV2 David Luis R. Quiambao
US Army*
- PV2 Richie Steven S. Quiambao
US Army*
- Tsgt. Kristie Revera
US Air Force*
- Msgt. Gary Rucks
US Air Force*
- Sgt Philip Santiago
US Army*
- Lt JG David Silva
US Navy*
- LTC John A. Smyrski
US Army*
- Eric Soares
Civilian*
- WO1 Jesse Taitague
US Army*
- Sgt Lance Taufu'asau
Hawaii National Guard*
- Cdr. Jana Vavasseur
US Navy*
- Sgt Leonard H. Ventura
National Guard Reserve*
- Jerome LeHiwa Wills
US Army*
- Sgt Clifton Young*

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

RE-DEDICATION OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. THERESA - All are welcome to celebrate the re-dedication of the Co-Cathedral with Bishop Larry Silva and the parishioners of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus on Thursday, December 10 at 7pm at 712 North School Street. A reception will follow Mass. For more information call 521-1700.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE a peer ministry support group for the widowed, divorced and permanently separated. We invite people of all faiths to join us. Call Arlene 949-3387 or Linda 294-8571 for more information.

Marriage Help – RETROUVAILLE (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information call 625-7430 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

FREE MINISTRY For nationwide Mass times & locations, call: 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or check on-line at www.Masstimes.org.

REMEMBER HIS WILL IN YOURS - You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest in your Will. Simply include the following statement in your Will - *“I leave to the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, St. Elizabeth Church, 99-312 Moanalua Road, Aiea, Hawaii 96701, \$__ or _____% of my estate (choose one). My gift may be used for general purposes (or specify for school, building fund, Diocese, etc.)”*. For more information see your Pastor or contact Robert J. Stillwell, Ed.D., Director of Development, at 203-6723.