



# St. Benedict Catholic Church

## Sunday December 20, 2020

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### How can this be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others. The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing." Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding. Now we are ready for Christmas.

-Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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**MISSION CHURCH:**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
Kealahou

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
**St. Benedict Hall, Honaunau**  
**Saturday 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday 8:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**St. Benedict, Honaunau**  
**7:00 a.m. Tues., Thurs. & Friday**  
**St. John the Baptist**  
**Kealahou**  
**7:00 a.m. Wednesday**

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#### FOR REFLECTION

☪ *Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?*

☪ *How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?*

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

#### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Should you build me a house to dwell in?"' **2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16**

**Psalm: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.** **PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29**

**Second Reading:** To him who can strengthen you...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. **ROM 16:25-27**

**Gospel:** "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." **LK 1:26-38**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The office is closed on holidays and weekends.

**BULLETIN:** Articles and photos (with caption) for the bulletin must be *emailed* to [st.benedict@rcchawaii.org](mailto:st.benedict@rcchawaii.org) Submission deadline: **TUESDAY** at 5:00pm.

**WEBSITE:** [thepaintedchurchhawaii.org](http://thepaintedchurchhawaii.org)

# HOSPITALITY



## ALOHA AND WELCOME HOME

In compliance with Bishop Silva’s directives, our Masses are being held at St. Benedict Hall Chapel. Social distancing and masks are required. Due to limited space it would be best to arrive early. No one has been turned away yet, however more are attending each week. Thank you for your understanding.

### SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION - NEW -

Bishop Larry Silva has issued the following directive, “I am extending the [Sunday Mass] dispensation through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the day before Ash Wednesday ... I would urge all our parishioners who can safely do so to return to worship at Sunday Mass.”

### SACRAMENTS

**Funerals** may now take place again in St. Benedict Hall Chapel according to the same guidelines as weekend Masses, i.e. following all health and safety precautions. Funerals at this time may not include visitation times, only the Vigil for the Deceased, a Funeral Mass and Committal may be held.

**Baptisms** may take place according to the same guidelines as weekend Masses. They will be done in such a way that the same water is not poured on more than one person or stored in the font after use.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

At this time Father Sieg is available for Confessions by appointment, observing all proper precautions. Call the office 328-2227.

### Eucharist to Homebound and Hospitalized

Call the office to arrange for a visit from a priest or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

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**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS INFO\*\*\***

In order to accommodate as many parishioners and visitors at Christmas as possible, we need **every family, couple or individual to reserve your seating.** Call or email the office, or for your convenience you may sign up today at the table by the entrance of the hall. Thank you for your cooperation!

## LIVE STREAMING ONLINE MASSES

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace—Oahu  
Sunday: 10am (Bishop Silva) Mon—Sat: 12pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/HonoluluCathedralBasilica/live>  
St. Michael 9am English and 11am Spanish:  
[www.facebook.com/onecatholicohana/live](http://www.facebook.com/onecatholicohana/live) or  
YouTube channel: [bit.ly/stmichaelkonayoutube](http://bit.ly/stmichaelkonayoutube)

### PRAYER FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up your power and might, O Lord, and come. Rescue us through your great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins may be hastened by the grace of your gentle mercy. Through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



### YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter about St. Joseph, “*Patris Corde*” (“a father’s heart”) and has declared a “Year of St. Joseph” to be observed from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The diocese will be sending resources to help celebrate this important year. It is the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX declaring him Patron of the Catholic Church.

### A Christmas Message



This Advent Season I have prayed that each of you would find time to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that we desire, whether we realize it or not, our *ultimate* desire

is, and must be, Jesus Himself. For this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we have hoped is fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child. In the midst of current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son. With the angels in Bethlehem, we rejoice and sing: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!” We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our love of God and neighbor.

May Jesus, bless you, your families and loved ones at this joyful time of hope and grace. May Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Benedict Parish, always.

*Fr. Sieg*



PRAYER

**ADVENT PRAYER FOR MARY'S INTERCESSION**

May the Virgin Mary help us to open the doors of our hearts to Christ, Redeemer of man and of history; may she teach us to be humble, because God looks upon the lowly; may she enable us to grow in understanding the value of prayer, of inner silence, of listening to God's Word; may she spur us to seek God's will deeply and sincerely, even when this upsets our plans; may she encourage us while we wait for the Lord, sharing our time and energies with those in need. Mother of God, Virgin of expectation, grant that the God-who-comes will find us ready to receive the abundance of his mercy. May Mary Most Holy, "Woman of the Eucharist" and Virgin of Advent, prepare us all to joyfully welcome Christ's coming and to celebrate worthily his sacramental presence in the mystery of the Eucharist.

*-Pope St. John Paul II*



**A PRAYER FOR HEALING**

Dear Jesus our Lord,  
We ask you to have mercy on all who are sick. Give them your strength and your love, and help them to carry their cross with great

faith in you. May their sufferings be one with yours. Help them to overcome the power of evil, and lead others to our Father in heaven. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH, KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

Linda Laskow, Caroline Smith, Liam Jones (age two), Hilda Sebastian, Stephen Texeira, Dorothy Kelepolo, Rudy Crusat, Elizabeth Awa, Ruby Ann Kaho'onei, Johnny Koene, Chickie and Tony Dias, Robin Crusat, Charles Tripoli, Danny Burgess Jr., Helen Doria, Linda Adkins, DeeDee Tripoli, Guy Miranda, Venancio Mendoza, Keiki San Filippo, Michael Suber, Eddie Navas, Dottie Combs.

\*Call the office to add your loved one or yourself to the list of those needing prayer.



PRAYER

*An Act of  
Spiritual Communion*

*My Jesus,  
I believe that You are  
present in the Most  
Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all  
things, and I desire to  
receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this  
moment receive You sac-  
ramentally, come at  
least spiritually into my  
heart.*

*I embrace You as if You  
were already there  
and unite myself  
wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be  
separated from You.*

*Amen.*

*Thank God...  
for the gift of Jesus  
in the Eucharist!*

CALENDAR

**Monday** DECEMBER 21  
Advent Weekday Sg 2:8-  
14 or Zep 3:14-18a Lk  
1:39-45

**Tuesday** DECEMBER 22  
Advent Weekday 1 Sm  
1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday** DECEMBER  
23 Advent Weekday Mal  
3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday** DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday 2 Sm  
7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk  
1:67-79

**Friday** DECEMBER 25  
Christmas Is 52:7-10 Heb  
1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1  
-5, 9-14

**Saturday** DECEMBER 26  
St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Mt  
10:17-22

**Sunday** DECEMBER 27  
The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph Sir 3:2  
-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6;  
21:1-3 Col 3:12-21 or  
3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-  
12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or  
2:22, 39-40



*"Consecrate  
them in the  
truth. Your  
word is truth."*

John 17:17  
From the prayer of Jesus



***Witnesses  
to Jesus' Birth***

1. Our presence as 'messengers' is a truth of faith. Like Mary, we are thin veils separating Heaven from Earth. Our praises of the Savior's birth are sung at Masses (except during Advent and Lent).
2. We were all descendants of King David—my great-grandfather was Eleazar; my grandfather, Matthan; and my father, Jacob. Holy Scripture contains no record of me even uttering a word.
3. Although we were common people in Jesus time, we have a symbolic connection to both King David and Jesus. We also are linked historically to this week's 'mystery place.'
4. I am a place located just outside of Bethlehem. Sheep raised under my watch were chosen for sacrifice in the Temple of Jerusalem. Because of my location so close to The Nativity, #3 may not have been so common after all.

**The Nativity Scene includes witnesses to the humble birth of Jesus. Three of them are described above. Identify them AND this week's 'mystery place'. Bring your answers to Mass, or email them to us. [Include your name.]**

**A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING**

Henry Van Dyke

**The day of joy returns**, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

**Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus**, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wisemen.

**Close the doors of hate** and open the doors of love all over the world...

**Let kindness come with every gift** and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us from evil**, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

**May the Christmas morning** make us happy to be thy children,

**And the Christmas evening** bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Dear Padre,*

**Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?**

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11). In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth. God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us. Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

**Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR**

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

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SERVICE

**ST. BENEDICT FOOD PANTRY**

The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Next open for distribution on **January 8, 2021**.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK**

**SAINT JOHN KANTY 1390—1473 Feast Day December 23**

Greatly revered in his native Poland, this saint, also known as John Cantius, spent most of his life teaching at the University of Krakow, where he was a noted professor of sacred Scripture. He also spent an interval as a parish priest, reputedly forced on him because of academic jealousy. At the university, he impressed on students the need for moderation and good manners in controversy, and was famous for his boundless generosity to Krakow's poor. A personal austerity contributed to his reputation for holiness: He ate no meat and slept on the floor.

