



# St. Benedict Catholic Church

## Sunday December 22, 2019

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### He's One of Us



*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."*  
MATTHEW 1:23

The Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win. When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David "according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a "son of David" (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph's legal son, he also was a "son of David." Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth. Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection ☐: How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life? We are on the threshold of Christmas. What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart?

**PARISH:**  
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**MISSION CHURCH:**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
 Kealakekua

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**St. Benedict, Honaunau**  
 Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 7:15 a.m.  
**St. John the Baptist**  
 Kealakekua  
 Saturday 6:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 9:30 a.m.

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

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

**PASTOR**

**Rev. Siegfred Dosdos**

**DEACON**

**Craig Camello**

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

**Susan Keen**

**OFFICE STAFF**

**Penny Burgess**

**GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE**

**Peter Estoy**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Edwina Fujimoto**

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT**

**Edwina Fujimoto**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**Ariel Hadap**

**FOOD PANTRY**

**Francisco and Debra Javar**

**TODAY'S READINGS**

*USCCB Daily Readings*

**First Reading** –The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Is 7:10-14)

**Psalm** - Let the Lord enter, He is king of glory (Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

**Second Reading** -his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power (Rom 1:1-7)

**Gospel** - "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid ..." (Mt 1:18-24)

**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

We welcome all visitors this weekend, and hope you will enjoy being part of our liturgical celebration. If you are living here, we invite you to become a member of our parish family. You may register by coming to our Parish Office during the week or by calling us at (808) 328-2227. There are also registration forms at the entry of the church.

**“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”**  
*Romans 15:7*

## WELCOME OUR LADY INTO YOUR HOME

This week Father Sieg will be commissioning the Marjorie Fujimoto Ohana to take the “traveling statue” of the Blessed Virgin home where they will pray the rosary daily. If you would like to take part in this special devotion, please sign up at the back of Church.

**“The family that prays together stays together.”**  
*-Fr. Patrick Payton*

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Father Sieg will be available to hear confessions 20 minutes before each of the weekend Masses or by appointment.

## EUCARIST TO HOMEBOUND OR HOSPITALIZED

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

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

## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS

We continue with our Coffee, Snacks and Conversation Fellowship after Sunday Mass. It has been successful. We have the first and third Sundays at St. John Mission and 2nd and 4th Sundays at St. Benedict. Bring snacks if you want. Your joining in our fellowship can be part of your stewardship of time. Come, and be happy stewards!!



## ENGLISH TUTORING OFFERED

Beginning January 27, 2020, Monday and Wednesday evening, ESL (English) classes will be given at Konawaena High School. See or call Georgia Goegas (895-0156) ASAP for information and a brochure.

## HOLIDAY & UNITY MASS SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, 12/24:** Christmas Eve Mass at St. Benedict Hall—7:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY, 12/25:** Christmas Day Mass at St. Benedict Hall—10:00 AM, Pot Luck to follow.

**SUNDAY, 12/29:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—Unity Mass at St. Benedict Hall—10:00 AM with Pot Luck and BINGO to follow.

**WEDNESDAY, 01/01/2020:** 8:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist Mission

## HOLY FAMILY UNITY MASS, POT LUCK & BINGO

December 29th Unity Mass will be held in St. Benedict Hall at 10:00 a.m. The Church celebrates “The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph”. Our parish will also celebrate “Family”. All are welcome for the fun. Bring your favorite dish to share and also, if you are able, bring a prize for Bingo. We had great fun at our last gathering on September 29th.



## COMING WEEK AT A GLANCE / PARISH CALENDAR

| MON 12/23                            | TUES 12/24  | WED 12/25  | THUR 12/26                             | FRI 12/27                           | SAT 12/28   | SUN 12/29   |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| No Masses<br><i>Father's Day Off</i> | <b>7PM:</b><br>Christmas Eve Mass at St. Benedict<br><br>No 7am Mass<br>Office Closed | <b>10AM</b><br>Christmas Day Mass at St. Ben.<br><br>No 7AM Mass<br>Office Closed<br>*Cruise Ship:<br>Pride of America | <u>NO</u> 7am:<br>Mass at St. Benedict | <u>NO</u> 7am: Mass at St. Benedict | 4pm: Mass St. Benedict<br><br>6pm Mass St. John Mission | <b>UNITY MASS</b><br><br>10am St. B. Hall with Pot Luck and Bingo!<br><br>No Mass at 7:15 or 9:30 am. |



## PRAYER

### DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER



As a spiritual devotion to Mary, our Blessed Mother and the Patron Saint of the U.S., the Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary are prayed at

approximately 35 minutes before all weekend Masses at St. Benedict and St. John. Join in this powerful prayer to our Mother who intercedes for us.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH FOR:

Chickie and Tony Dias, Phyllis Blank Leathhead, Marya M., Rodney Crusat, Davies Lynn Carstens, Charles Tripoli, Dolly Primacio, Danny Burgess, Helen Doria, Linda Adkins, DeeDee Tripoli, Robin Crusat, Guy Miranda, Stephen Texeira, Venancio Mendoza, Alexi Veloso, Keiki San Filippo, Michael Suber, Bobbie and Eddie Navas, Theresa Flemming. Call the office to add your loved one or yourself to the list of those needing prayer.

### PRAYER FOR HEALING

Almighty God, we give You thanks, for You are the Creator of all life and goodness.

We praise You for the world You have made us to build up and enjoy.

Loving God, Help us to be faithful heralds of Healing and Hope. Grant us the awareness of the healing needs of those around us and the compassion to respond willingly to those needs. We ask this through Christ, Our Healer and Source of all Hope. Amen



**A WORD FROM Pope Francis-** We need, then, to open our hearts to the true light, Jesus Christ. He is the light that can illumine life and turn our darkness into light; the light of goodness that conquers evil; the light of the love that overcomes hatred; the light of the life that triumphs over death.

—ADDRESS TO VATICAN CURIA, DECEMBER 21, 2018

## FAITH FORMATION

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Faith Formation classes for all grades are from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, St. John the Baptist Hall, every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Parents please meet with Fr. Sieg in the church.

### CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### The Good News: God has sent his Son

**422** 'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>1</sup> This is 'the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God':<sup>2</sup> God has visited his people. He has fulfilled the promise he made to Abraham and his descendants. He acted far beyond all expectation - he has sent his own 'beloved Son'.<sup>3</sup>

**423** We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth, born a Jew of a daughter of Israel at Bethlehem at the time of King Herod the Great and the emperor Caesar Augustus, a carpenter by trade, who died crucified in Jerusalem under the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of the emperor Tiberius, is the eternal Son of God made man. He 'came from God',<sup>4</sup> 'descended from heaven',<sup>5</sup> and 'came in the flesh'.<sup>6</sup> For 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. . . And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.'<sup>7</sup>

### DEACON'S CORNER

**This is what God is like** - he is faithful, and he keeps his promises. He loves us more than we love ourselves. He wants to fill our lives with grace, wisdom, strength, and peace. That's why he came to earth in the first place! Christmas proves this love. Good Friday proves it. Easter proves it. Every detail of our Lord's life proves it. This Christmas let's give Christ the present he wants most. Let's open our hearts to him a little bit more than we have in the past. Let's let him into the secret corner where we have been following our own lead instead of his lead, and let's say to him, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done not mine." No present will please him more, and no present will do better for our own interior peace and moral strength. Christ came to earth because he wanted to be close to us, so that he could save us from frustration and sorrow. May the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with joy and happiness all the days of your life.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

*Deacon Craig and Pamela Camello*



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Help us adorn the Chapel in St. Benedict hall for the Nativity of the Lord. When Jesus was born the Magi brought expensive gifts to the Infant King. Can each family bring one poinsettia plant to prepare the hall for His joyous coming? Certain parishioners donate beautiful flowers quite often. It would be a blessing for them if we could all donate this time.

**FOOD PANTRY**

The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on **every 2nd and 4th Friday** of the month. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Food Pantry, with monetary or food donations, or volunteering your time. Next open for distribution on Friday, January 10, 2019.

**CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY**

December 28, 2019 —St. Benedict: Peter.  
St. John: Maryann Mariano & Families. We appreciate all of you who labor faithfully to keep our churches clean, and...  
...if you are able to join any of the church cleaning groups, please contact Ramona Ciriaco at 756-2943. More volunteers are needed!

**MAHALO FOR YOUR FRUIT DONATIONS!!**

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate fruit to our gift shop. We are grateful for all. The tourists love the abundance of your tropical farm produce. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated.

**HELP YOUR PARISH!!!**

It is high season for visitors. Come to the Painted Church and greet them. Remember the Pillar of Hospitality. Talk to Father or anyone on the Stewardship Committee or call the office. Bus tour days will be posted on the "week at a glance" schedule in the bulletin. That is when we really need your presence. We need to get serious about fund-raising for our treasured Painted Church, like giving one hour a day, or one day a week, or one week per month. Whatever you are able to do would be a tremendous help. The more, the merrier!!

*"Mankind is a great, an immense family...This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."* -Saint Pope John XXIII

*Dear Padre,*

**December 22, 2019**

**Why did early Christians begin celebrating Christmas on December 25th?**

Placing Christmas near the winter solstice can be traced to pagan celebrations in Christianity's early years. The celebration of Christmas in December began in Rome as a Christian response to a civil festival honoring the sun god Sol. The Romans celebrated the sun climbing into the northern skies, signaling the lengthening days after the cold winter nights. On December 25, 274, Aurelian proclaimed the sun god principal patron of the empire. Christmas originated when this sun cult was strongest. Christians wouldn't go to the temple to pay homage to a sun god. They believed in the one true God, and God's only son made human, Jesus Christ. It's almost as if Christians substituted "son" for "sun" and celebrated the birth of the son of justice into this world. The parallels are uncanny. As the extending sunlight broke night's grip and softened the cold sting on the world, so Jesus' coming broke the long reign of sin and darkness. Jesus was the true son, the light and life of the world, the reason for renewed hope. Narrow fundamentalists fail to understand that Christmas is more than a birthday celebration of the day Christ was born. It's wider in scope, celebrating the reality that Jesus was born human. It's not the when but the what that we celebrate. So, Jesus' precise birthdate doesn't matter. What matters is that Jesus was truly born human—like us in all things but sin. For this we celebrate.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSSR

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