



St. Benedict Catholic Church

December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

The Jesus Stories of Christmastime

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all such trappings, however, our cultural Christmases are really disguised and unrecognized celebrations of God-made-flesh. "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep.



"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is about a misfit reindeer with a "wrong-colored" nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frosty the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he'll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in "A Christmas Carol", all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us. Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life.

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For Reflection

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** How do you experience God-made-flesh during these Christmas days?*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: "Your God is King!" Is 52:7-10

Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. Ps 98:1-6.

Second Reading: ...when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.* Heb 1:1-6

Gospel: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jn 1:1-18

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 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 Submission deadline: TUESDAY at 5:00pm.

WEBSITE: thepaintedchurchhawaii.org

PARISH:

ST. BENEDICT, Honaunau
84-5140 Painted Church Rd.

Captain Cook, HI 96704

Phone: 808-328-2227

Fax: 808-328-8482

email: st.benedict@rcchawaii.org

MISSION CHURCH:

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Kealakekua

WEEKEND MASSES

St. Benedict

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:15 a.m.

HAWAIIAN MASS

Every Second Sunday

7:15 a.m.

St. John the Baptist

Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Benedict Honaunau

7:00 a.m. Tuesday,

Thursday & Friday

St. John the Baptist

Wednesday 7:00 a.m.

PASTOR

Rev. Siegfred Dosdos

BUSINESS MANAGER

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OFFICE STAFF

Penny Burgess

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION &

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Edwina Fujimoto

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ariel Hadap

FOOD PANTRY

Francisco and Debra Javar



ALOHA AND WELCOME HOME!

Updated Covid-19 Liturgical Directives and Cold & Flu Guidelines

All remaining Covid-19 liturgical restrictions are lifted except for the suspension of the distribution of the Precious Blood to the congregation.

As always, you are reminded to use common sense for your health and safety during the annual cold and flu season. If you are feeling ill or think you may have been exposed to a virus, you should refrain from coming to Mass. In the same way, you should refrain from offering your hand to others at the sign of peace. A smile and a heartfelt "Peace be with you" should suffice. All of us must be aware of such sensitive matter in the intimate life of the Christian community and we should expect that some will refrain from a physical expression of the sign of peace out of care of our well-being and not out of unkindness or lack of piety.

SACRAMENTS

Funerals Please contact the office for information about available dates *before* making arrangements with the mortuary or cemetery.

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.

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The great mystery of our faith is shown in this simple sign of the Nativity scene....God loves us to the point of sharing our humanity and our lives. He never leaves us alone; he accompanies us with his hidden, but not invisible, presence. In all circumstances, in joy as in pain, he is the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

HOMILY, SHRINE OF GRECCIO, RIETE, ITALY, DECEMBER 1, 2019



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and
open the door 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 which 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 beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SAINT OF THE WEEK– FEAST DAY DECEMBER 27 SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST (APOSTLE)

St. John and St. James the Great were sons of Zebedee and Salome. They were chosen by Jesus as Apostles during Jesus' first year of public life. Jesus called them the "sons of thunder". John was also known as the "beloved disciple". He is the only one of the "Twelve Apostles" that remained with Jesus in His Passion and stood at the foot of the cross, where the Savior said to Mary—"Behold your son." and to John - "Behold your mother." He cared for Mary until her Assumption into heaven. St. John is known as the author of the Gospel of John (Jn 21:24) and, the three Epistles of John as well as the Book of Revelation. However this authorship has been debated since AD 200. St. John is also called the Apostle of Charity, for following the example he was given by his Divine Master which he truly did in word and deed. He is symbolized by an Eagle. He is believed to be the only Apostle not martyred. He died in Ephesus after AD 98.



The
Virgin
Birth of
God
Incarnate
For Our
Salvation



Pray the Rosary Daily

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Ever-living and ever-loving, Lord God,
You are the everlasting salvation
of those who believe.

Hear us on behalf of our friends who are sick.
We ask You to have mercy on them
that, bodily health may be restored.

We thank You and praise You
through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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

Clifford Chow Jr., Patsy Sabarre, Bernard Labasan,
Azarias Dosdos, John Herman, Janet Katakura, Merton
Ogata, Carol Crusat, Henry Borges, Jim Shrewsbury, Emily
Griego, John Sanchis, Rafael Ramirez, Jeffrey Crusat,
Robin Crusat, William Anderson, Linda Adkins, Gloria
Grapa, Tamayo Hanato, Caroline Smith, Hilda Sebastian,
Elizabeth Awa, Ruby Ann Kaho'onei, Johnny Koene, Ruby
Best, Jimmy Best. Keiki San Filippo.

Call the office to add your loved one or yourself to the list of those
needing 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
sacramentally,
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!*

PRAYER

CALENDAR

MONDAY December 26 St.
Stephen, First Martyr Acts
6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–
22

TUESDAY December 27 St.
John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8

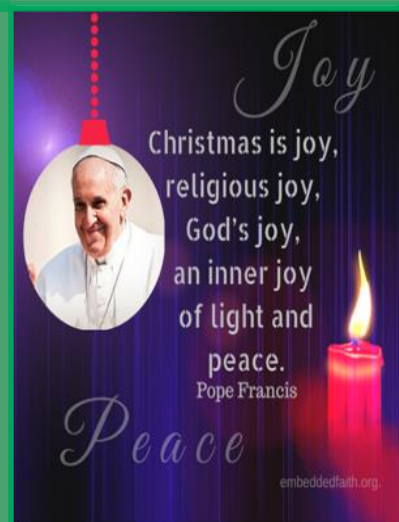
WEDNESDAY December 28
Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn
1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18

THURSDAY December 29
Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 2:3
–11 Lk 2:22–35

FRIDAY December 30 Holy
Family of Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Col 3:12–21 or Col 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

SATURDAY December 31
Christmas Weekday 1 Jn
2:18–21 Jn 1:1–18

**Guide me in your truth and
teach me, for you are God,
My Savior, and my hope is in
you all day long.** Psalm 25:5





The Nativity of the Lord

[December 25, 2022]

Treasure Hunt

1. The Nativity, or b_____ or the Lord, begins the liturgical season of C_____.
2. In his homily last week, Father Sieg showed us that the candles of Hope, P_____, Joy and L_____ on the Advent Wreath ARE the g_____ we are called to give others.
3. There are three gospels for Jesus' Nativity, Matthew recites Jesus' g_____ as a fulfillment of prophesy; L_____ directly tells the famed Christmas story; John identifies Jesus as the W_____ in Genesis.
4. What two (2) SIGNS did the angel tell the shepherds to look for when they went in search of the Savior?
5. What part of the Mass is the heavenly hosts' (and our) proclamation of Jesus' birth?

BONUS: How many generations were there between Abraham and Jesus? _____

[DO THE MATH: *Between Abraham and David, there were _____ generations + between David and the Babylonian exile, there were _____ generations + between the Babylonian exile and the birth of Jesus, there were _____ generations which equals _____ generations.*]

Answers to last week's Treasure Hunt Fourth Sunday of Advent

-1- Angel's, Love; -2- divorce, dream, prophesy; -3- He refuses to ask the Lord for a sign of salvation; 4- apostleship, faith; -5- St. John Paul II; **BONUS:** (a) labyrinth; (b) prayers, actions or good works.

Dear Padre

I haven't been to Mass in a long time, but lately I feel drawn to come again. Can you help me better understand the Mass? Welcome home!

To learn more about the Mass, you might consider participating in your parish's program for those who are thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, we can offer five principles that form the foundation for what happens at Mass. Participation rather than passive attendance: Mass is a time of prayerful activity—listening intently, praying fervently, reflecting quietly, singing and worshiping joyfully. Gratitude for God's mercy as we acknowledge our sinfulness: There are several occasions during Mass when we are called to acknowledge that we sin, but also that mercy and forgiveness are offered freely to all who acknowledge their imperfections and sinful behavior. Word and sacrament: The liturgy comprises the Liturgy of the Word (penitential act, Scripture readings, homily, and prayers of the faithful) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of gifts, eucharistic prayer, and Communion rite). Both are important. Christ's Real Presence: Under the forms of bread and wine (the Eucharist), the Real Presence of Christ retains a prominent place in the Mass. Christ is also present—in different ways—in the words of Scripture, in the presence of the priest, and in the assembly gathered in his name. A celebration of family and community: Jesus fostered a sense of family among his disciples. Parish liturgies should be a time when young and old, rich and poor, families and single people join together to experience unity in Christ Jesus. • - The Redemptorists DearPadre.org

SERVICE

MAHALO FOR THE FRUIT!

Thank you to all who share their abundance of fruit with our Painted Church visitors. We can always use more!

ST. BENEDICT FOOD PANTRY

The **regular** St. Benedict Food Pantry schedule continues to be the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. **Next Distribution will be on Friday January 13, 2023.**



Father Sieg wishes Everyone

*A Very Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year !!*

