



St Benedict Parish

St. John the Baptist Church

6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12

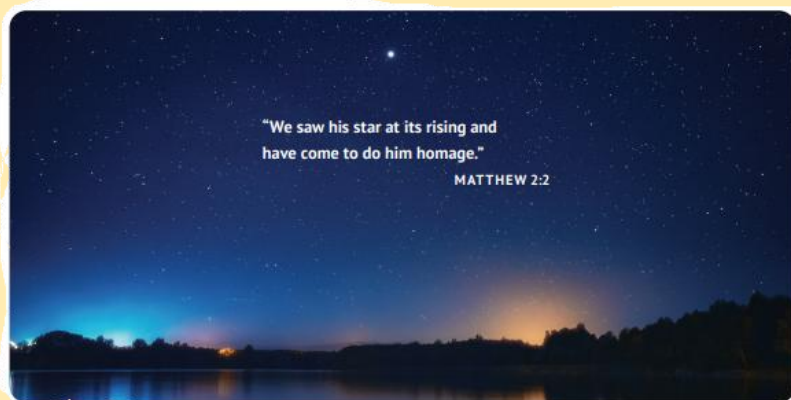
Following Jesus

Without a Star to Guide

Us “We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2)

describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to

follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not? Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—“in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

St. Benedict Catholic Church

“The Painted Church”

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*St. Benedict Mass Time

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

*ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

81-6410A Hawaii Belt Rd.

Kealahou

Confession: Sat. 9-11

St. Benedict Church

Reflect :

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions? January 4, 2026, The Epiphany of the Lord (A) Isaiah 60:1–6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12 “We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” MATTHEW 2:2 Printed with Permission by Liguori Press

Entrance: #300 - O Come All Ye Faithful

Mass Settings: begins on #295 including Eat This Bread

Resp. Psalm #878 - Lord, every nation on earth— will adore You.

Preparation of Gifts: #330 What Child is This Communion:

#329 We Three Kings

311 Go Tell it On the Mountain

Harkening back, looking ahead

Part One

12/31/2025 BY [HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD](#) **Christmas comes to the islands: How the spirit of the season found its way to Hawaii The Catholic influence**

“The Catholics were the only ones who maintained a religious observance of Christmas Day. But undergoing persecution in the 1830s and struggling to reestablish their missions in the 1840s, they made little impact on Hawaii’s early Christmas scene. In fact, the first Catholic missionary, Father Alexis Bachelot, had a most unpleasant experience during Christmas of 1831. Ordered to leave the Islands by the Hawaiian government, he had pleaded: ‘But we should be happy to put off the departure if it be possible till after Sunday which happens to be Christmas day ... and which we should like to pass on shore.’ The request was denied and he was expelled from Hawaii on Dec. 24.

“With the granting of religious freedom in 1839, the Catholic missionaries resumed their Hawaii mission the following year. That Christmas of 1840, Father Louis Maigret succinctly scribbled in his journal: ‘It is the beautiful feast of Christmas.’ No mention was made of the festive Christmas Mass that probably was celebrated in the old Mission chapel on Fort Street. But the next year, 1841, Brother Calixte Lecomte wrote in his journal: ‘For Christmas, about 350 received Communion at the first Mass.’ And he also informed us that ‘Father Mathias had forgotten to tell the parishioners on the previous Sunday about abstinence.’

“Our Lady of Peace Cathedral was completed during the summer of 1843. That first Christmas in the new church in 1843, Brother Lecomte wrote: ‘... over 500 people received Communion. Father Maigret has baptized 32 people today, Christmas Day.’ In 1847, Father Maigret was consecrated a bishop and was made vicar apostolic of the Catholic Mission in Hawaii. Christmas in the Catholic Cathedral of Honolulu was now observed with all the splendor of the traditional Roman Catholic pontifical high Mass. (...)

Glimmer of hope

“Although the Catholics maintained a low profile in their Christmas observances, they did not go unnoticed in 1861 when the Polynesian had this to say: ‘... among the many Christian Churches in this town, the Catholic Church ALONE devoted a portion of the day to religious services, and that portion of the population, foreign and native, alone seemed to remember that on that day a child was born.’ (Continue to the back page)

Mass intentions

January 4, 2026

SATURDAY

4:00 PM Leodigaria Mascarina

6:00 PM +Alex Cadang

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Dao Family, Spec. Intention

10:00 AM Areana Luben, Healing

WEEKDAYS

Tues. 7:00 AM In thanksgiving for St. Benedict

Wed. 7:00 PM +James and Carol Gibbons

Thurs. 7:00 AM +Marilyn McClory

Friday 7:00 AM Misa Pro Populo

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for your generosity!

Dec. 24-25 & Dec. 27-28

Collection \$ 2007.00

Maintenance 131.00

Food Pantry 751.00

Christmas Eve 2180.00

Christmas Day 1182.00

Total \$6251.00

Attendance 12-27-28-2025

St. Benedict 64 10

St. John 83 16

TOTAL 147 26

Thepaintedchurchhawaii.org

DEAR VISITOR TO ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALOHA! THANK YOU FOR VISITING US TODAY! WE WISH YOU A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE AND THAT YOU LEAVE ST. BENEDICT’S, TODAY, REFRESHED IN SPIRIT AND WITH PEACE IN YOUR HEART! SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH, IT HAS BEEN A CATHOLIC TRADITION TO OFFER A “MASS INTENTION”. THIS IS A WAY OF REMEMBERING A PERSON AND LIFTING THEM UP IN PRAYER. YOU MAY ASK THE GREETER FOR A FORM AND ENVELOPE.

FOR STRENGTH, PEACE
AND HEALING
MERCIFUL GOD, HEAR
OUR PRAYERS.

*Terrance Terada
*Hano Grace
*Craig Camello
*Pam Shultise
*Merla Kline
*Paul Ruskey
*Carla Vonderahe
*Mahina Kaupiko
*John Sanchis
*Kamala Galletes
*Hank Silva
*Miriam Janczak
*Joevelyn Delas Reyes
*Gwen Menchaca
*Deb Reed
*Gloria Grapa
*William Anderson
*Elizabeth Aw
*Johnny Koene
*A Friend

Dear Padre

January 4, 2026

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me? My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God. Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on. It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ● Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Looking Ahead-January 2026

Santo Nino Planning Committee 1/9 , Friday meeting, 6PM at St. Benedict Lanai

*Hawaiian Mass: 8:00 Sunday, **January 11th**, St. Benedict

* Fr. William is asking the 2 congregations to come together to help **clean St. Benedict Chapel on Sunday, Jan 11th, 1:00 pm** bringing the Chapel back to it's Normal state, by **removing and packing up Christmas decorations.**

Pohnpei Mass: 10:00 AM Sunday **January 18**, St. John

*Meetings: St. Michael's Vicariate Meeting Jan. 13, 10-12, Lunch following

*Pastoral Council Tuesday, Jan. 13 6:30 St. John Hall

Destination Wedding: Jan. 9, 2026 12:00 Noon St. Benedict Church

Celebration of Life :

+ **St. Benedict Church Kathy Wood Friday January 8** 10:00 Mass

Visitation/lunch after Mass on the Lanai

+Funeral: **St. John Church Marciana O. Estencion 1-23-26** Vis. 8:30, Eulogy 9:45, Mass 10:00 Lunch at St. John following burial at Kona Memorial Gardens

+ Funeral: St. Benedict Chapel: **Freeman David, 1-24-26** Vis. 9-10:30, Sharing & Eulogy 10:30-11:00, Mass 11:00, Lunch 12-2:00. Hawaiian Mass.

January 1 begins changes for online giving: Our Sunday Visitor Company (OSV) . This system is used by 2 other churches in our Vicariate and give good reviews.

Due to the Holidays, my training should begin quickly. Call Carolyne 816-520-1350 after the first week of January, please. The PayPal online giving will be active for awhile longer in January. We have a few hiccups to work through. Thank you for your patience.

It would a great help If you would sign your name ,address, phone number and Envelope # to update my member information in our church records. Carolyne

MONDAY

January 5
St. John
Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

FRIDAY

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

SATURDAY

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

SUNDAY

January 11
The Baptism
of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Mt 3:13-17



The Epiphany Treasure Hunt

[Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6,

1. The word **E**_____ describes the “*manifestation*” of God in the person of Jesus.
2. What is the **word** Matthew used to describe Herod’s *mood* when he heard that a new king had been born?
3. **How** did the magi know *where* to find Jesus?
4. The magi’s gifts represented Jesus’ *divinity, sacrifice/ humanity, and royalty*. Which of these is connected to each gift?
 gold = _____
 frankincense = _____
 myrrh = _____
5. **Why didn’t** the magi return to Herod after seeing the child Jesus?
6. **What** are **two (2) words** that describe Isaiah’s message in today’s *First Reading*?
7. In the *Second Reading*, **what** is the **mystery** that was made known to Paul by revelation?

Answers to Last Week’s Treasure Hunt

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

-1- to go into exile in Egypt; -2- to kill Him; -3- the death of King Herod; -4- Herod’s son was the ruler in Judea; -5-honor, authority; a firmly planted family is raised in justice to God; -6-compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV Let us resolve to bring [God’s] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

Stories of the church’s early trailblazers were masterfully retold by the late Father Louis H. Yim, the diocese’s archivist and historian from 1985 to the 1990s. Father Yim, who died in 2022 at age 90, faithfully and meticulously researched the stories of Catholicism’s rich history and published many historical accounts in the Hawaii Catholic Herald.



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“But Christmas in mid-19th century Hawaii was witnessing a glimmer of change among the Protestant missionaries. An event during the Christmas of 1857 in Honolulu received some attention to this effect. Rev. Samuel C. Damon, chaplain of the Seamen’s Bethel Church (which gave Bethel Street its name) was commended in the Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

“The turning point in the history of Christmas in Hawaii would have to be its celebration in 1862. The Hawaiian Kingdom from hereon, would designate Christmas as a national holiday on its calendar and, gradually, all of its citizens, ‘foreign and native,’ would be involved with the Christmas observance.”

Over the next 18 months, the diocese plans to offer spiritual preparation that aims to inspire people to renew their faith, reflect on the past and look toward a future filled with bold action. Events will include liturgies — including a large-scale Mass on the actual anniversary date — retreats, days of study, pilgrimages, various types of entertainment, student involvement and more.



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“They were overjoyed at seeing the star... they opened their treasures and offered him gifts.”

Sheepish Question:

Instead of wishing, how can I put my faith in Jesus—the true light of the world—into action?