



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ADDRESS:

91-1298 Renton Road
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Open Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed from 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Also closed on Saturdays & Sundays

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EMAIL: iccewa@rcchawaii.org
www.immaculateconceptionewa.org

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MISSION STATEMENT: “We, the people of Immaculate Conception Parish in Ewa, declare our firm loyalty to our Lord Jesus Christ, our Roman Catholic Church, and to the Diocesan Bishop of Honolulu. Our strength is in our unity as a Christian Family of Faith, and we inspire to reach out to everyone with the embrace of Christ.”

Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

Focus: The Lord rejoices over us.

According to the prophet Zephaniah, the Lord rejoices – yes rejoices – over us in gladness, and Saint Paul says to have no anxiety at all. If we trust in the unconditional love God has for us, our hearts and minds will know the true peace that only he can give.

THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE DARK FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There’s something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it’s when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It’s what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5). God’s presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of “God with us.”

● **Reflect:** Have you made kindness a regular practice?

Contact us for the following:

BAPTISM: Inform the parish 2 months in advance to allow for baptismal preparation

FAITH FORMATION (CCD & OCIA):
Contact coordinator.

MARRIAGE: Notify the parish 6 months prior to proposed date. Attending an Engaged Encounter Weekend is required prior to marriage ceremony.

COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND: Contact the office to arrange for someone to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the Sick.

FUNERALS: Call the parish before making arrangements with the mortuary.

FOOD PANTRY: Distribution happens in Parish Hall, bring ID:

- First Friday hours: 3–5 PM
- Remaining Fridays: 4–6 PM

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 16:

7:00 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (+Felipe Madamba, Jr. - RS)
 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Tuesday, December 17:

7:00 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (Cabanatan Family - Thanksgiving)
 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Wednesday, December 18:

6:40 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (+Felipe Madamba, Jr. - RS)
 5:00 PM Centering Prayer
 6:30 PM O.C.I.A.
 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Thursday, December 19:

7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Friday, December 20:

6:40 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (Nhu Loan Nealon - Thanksgiving)
 4-6:00 PM Food Pantry
 6:30 PM Youth Ministry
 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Saturday, December 21:

8:00 AM Church Cleaning
 4:00 PM Confessions
 4:15 PM Rosary
 5:00 PM Mass
 (Ruby Lobetos - Mass in Thanksgiving for Graduation from Law School)

Sunday, December 22:

6:15 AM Rosary
 7:00 AM Mass
 (Mass for the People)
 8:45 AM Rosary
 9:30 AM Mass
 (+Michael Reilly - RS)
 4:15 PM Rosary
 5:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass
 (Holy Souls in Purgatory)

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec. 21: Couples for Christ
Dec. 28: Chamorro Group
Jan. 4: Sacred Heart Society
Jan 11: Knights of Columbus



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| DECEMBER 15 - 23 | SIMBANG GABI MASSES: 5:00 PM, DEC. 21, SAT. - FR. VALENTINE SUN TUN, M.S. 5:00 PM, DEC. 22, SUN. - FR. LEONARD TUBANA 7:00 PM, DEC. 23, MON.- FR. KURT MEYER |
| DECEMBER 24 | CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES 7:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 11:30 P.M. - CHRISTMAS CAROLING 12:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT MASS |
| DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES 7:00 A.M. - CHRISTMAS MASS 9:30 A.M. - CHRISTMAS MASS (NO 5:00 P.M. MASS) |
| DECEMBER 28 | HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH BLESSING OF FAMILIES |

THE HISTORY OF SIMBANG GABI

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino tradition of attending Mass during the nine days before Christmas. Simbang Gabi originated in 1669 during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, as a practical compromise for farmers who began working before sunrise. When the Christmas season would begin, it was customary to hold novenas in the evenings, which was more common in the rest of the Hispanic world, but the priests saw that the people would attend despite the day's fatigue. As such, with the Philippines being an agricultural country known for its rice, coconut, and sugar cane plantations, the clergy began to say Masses in the early morning while it was still dark before people went out to work the land.

Literally, Simbang Gabi means "night worship." This celebration is also known by its popular Spanish name as the "Misa de Gallo" or "Mass of the Rooster." It is sometimes referred to as "Misa de Aguinaldo." In Spanish, Aguinaldo means "gift," so Misa de Aguinaldo suggests a gift for the Child Jesus. Simbang Gabi is held daily from December 16th thru the 24th, and it occurs at different times ranging from as early as 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Anticipated celebrations, meanwhile, are held from December 15th thru 23rd, typically at 8 p.m. or as late as 11 p.m.

Whatever its title, this pre-Christmas observance is surely a sacrifice of love, for it requires dedication and discipline to complete the 9-day novena before Christmas.

LIGHT A STAR



If you would like to remember your loved ones during the Advent and Christmas seasons, you may pick up an envelope and write their names so that the Masses can be offered for them. Their names will also be written on our special angel ornaments and placed on the **Light a Star Tree**. Envelopes can be found at the entrance of the church. Please drop your envelopes in the collection basket during Mass or in the box at the entrance. You may also bring them to the parish office. Please submit their names before Dec. 23rd.

FOOD PANTRY CLOSURE

The **Food Pantry** will be **closed** on **Friday, December 27th** due to the Christmas holiday. We will resume the following Friday, January 3rd, 2025.

NO CCD CLASSES

There will be **No CCD** classes on **December 22nd** and **29th**, due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Classes will resume on Jan. 5th, 2025.

SOLEMNITY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CELEBRATION

To all of our ICC Parishioners:
 Thanks for your support in making our Feast Day in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary so special! I appreciate all of our ministries and everyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure. It was a joy-filled celebration! Mahalo and God bless.
 Fr. Sieg



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Dec. 7 - 8, 2024

Weekly Offering \$9,956.00
 Sat. 5:00 PM - \$ 883.00
 Sun. 7:00 AM - \$ 967.00
 Sun. 9:30 AM - \$ 1,072.00
 Sun. 5:00 PM - \$ 3,034.00

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Repair & Maintenance | \$4,197.00 |
| Building Fund | \$230.00 |
| Flowers | \$20.00 |
| Candles | \$95.00 |
| Book of Intentions | \$185.00 |
| Mass Intentions | \$120.00 |
| Baptism | \$20.00 |
| Light A Star | \$515.00 |
| Word Among Us donation | \$50.00 |
| Special Projects donation | \$200.00 |
| ICC Feast Day donations | \$343.00 |
| ICC Feast Day Food donation | \$40.00 |
| ICC Feast Day Hermanas | \$7,001.00 |
| Sacred Heart Mbshp Dues | <u>\$35.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$19,007.00 |



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Ohana in Christ | \$40.00 |
| Capital Campaign for Human Development | \$10.00 |

2ND COLL: RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

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ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD
 OCT. 15 - DEC. 7

Call me for a **FREE** consultation
 with **NO** obligation to enroll.



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My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference. Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," which can often provoke the familiar idiom "them's fightin' words." My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all.

● Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

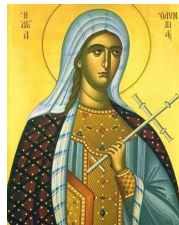
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A word from POPE FRANCIS

[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] "What shall we do?" By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK



St. Olympias - Feast Day is December 17th. A Roman noblewoman of Greek descent who lived in the 4th c., she was dedicated to the Christian faith and committed to helping the less fortunate. After the death of her wealthy parents, she began to distribute her inherited wealth to the needy, especially to the poor, orphaned, and widowed. In addition, she gave generous donations to churches, monasteries, hospices, and homeless shelters. She was appointed deaconess of Constantinople and performed her duties honorably. As one of the supporters of St. John Chrysostom who were all wrongly accused of arson, she was fined considerably and suffered persecution and imprisonment. After dying in exile, her relics brought miracles and healings. She's the patron saint of widows, the suffering, and the wronged.



St. Vincent Romano - Feast Day is December 20th. This 18th-19th c. Italian Catholic priest, also known as Vincenzo Romano, was ordained at a young age and became a village parish priest. He became a role model for living a simple life, which showed great love and devotion to God and humanity, sacrifice, and benevolence. His ministry was focused on the education of children, especially orphans. Being so dedicated toward serving his community, this earned him the title of "Worker Priest," as he constantly uplifted those in need and was a beacon of hope and solace for the poor and oppressed. He also built hospitals and schools and even assisted in cleaning up from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and in rebuilding his town of Torre del Greco. His simplicity, humble service, and selfless love toward others have become an inspiration to Catholics worldwide. He's the patron saint of his town, orphans, sailors, and against throat tumors.



St. Peter Canisius - Feast Day is December 21st. A 16th c. Dutch Jesuit priest, he was known for his strong support of the Catholic faith during the Protestant Reformation. His life was one of study, reflection, prayer, and prolific writing. As one of the Doctors of the Church, he was known for defending Catholicism through his teaching, preaching, and writing of catechisms. He has been considered the 2nd Apostle of Germany after St. Boniface and has been renowned as a popular preacher, whose gospel proclamations were so eloquent that churches were packed to hear him speak. Being blessed with many talents, he developed them for the sake of the Lord. He established Jesuit education and many institutions have been named for him. His zeal for the apostolate led him to visit the sick and imprisoned. He's noted as the patron saint of Germany.

PARISH MINISTRIES

- Parish Pastoral Council
• Parish Council of Ministries
• Finance Council
• Parish Planning & Building
• Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
• Stewardship Committee
• Music Ministry
• Money Counters
• Bereavement
• Religious Education
• Lectors
• Ushers
• Altar Servers
• Flowers and Environmental
• Knights of Columbus
• Event Planners
• Food Pantry
• Couples for Christ
• Youth & Young Adult Min.
• Sacred Heart Society
• Secular Franciscans
• Chamorro Group

Table with columns: WEEKLY MASS COUNT, Day/Time, DEC. 7-8, Adult, Child. Rows: Sat. 5:00 PM, Sun. 7:00 AM, Sun. 9:30 AM, Sun. 5:00 PM.

Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent: Micah 5: 1-4a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1: 39-45

