



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ADDRESS:

91-1298 Renton Road
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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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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.”*

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

FOCUS: God’s ways are different from ours.

The Lord God is always faithful to his promises. As our celebration of Christmas draws near, we prepare for the coming of Christ by rejoicing with Mary and her cousin Elizabeth as they witness to the mysterious fulfillment of those divine promises in their lives.

FEELING OUR WAY FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Most of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that’s been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one’s life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That’s what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, “I come to do your will, O God.” It is Elizabeth’s story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying “Yes” to an uncharted path. Living God’s will seems mostly to be a sorting process.

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

● Reflect: **Have you responded with a wholehearted “Yes” to God’s will for you?**

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 23:

7:00 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (+Francisco Corpuz - Death Anniversary)
 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Tuesday, December 24:

7:00 AM Rosary
 7:00 PM Christmas Mass
 (Benjamin Yucoco - Healing)
 11:30 PM Christmas Caroling



Christ is Born!

Wednesday, December 25:

12:00 AM Midnight Mass
 (Mass for the People)
 7:00 AM Christmas Mass
 (Mass for the People)
 9:30 AM Christmas Mass
 (+Dancel Bulosan - RS)

Thursday, December 26:

No Mass

Friday, December 27:

6:40 AM Rosary
 8:00 AM Mass
 (Nhu Loan Nealon - Thanksgiving)

Saturday, December 28:

8:00 AM Church Cleaning
 4:00 PM Confessions
 4:15 PM Rosary
 5:00 PM Mass
 (Mark Bolo Dumadag & Alejandro Romo - RS)

Sunday, December 29:

6:15 AM Rosary
 7:00 AM Mass
 (+Violeta Caing Pedro)
 8:45 AM Rosary
 9:30 AM Mass
 (Mass for the People)
 4:15 PM Rosary
 5:00 PM Mass
 (Varez Ohana - Thanksgiving)

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec. 28: Chamorro Group/Stewardship
Jan. 4: Sacred Heart Society
Jan. 11: Knights of Columbus
Jan. 18: Couples for Christ



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. SIEG:

As we celebrate Christmas, the Season of Giving, let our hearts be filled with gratitude to our Lord Jesus, who gives Himself to us. Yes, Jesus always brings hope, peace, and love...filling each Christmas and every day with JOY!

Pope Francis was asked what Christmas means to him. Simply, the Holy Father said, "It is an encounter with Jesus; it speaks about hope and tenderness." In other words, Christmas is all about JESUS! Jesus is the reason for the season!



Let us remember that the true joy of Christmas is not so much having a lot of things but having the one thing necessary - **the grace of God.**

May our Lady "full of grace" lead us especially during these days into the fullness of Christmas joy! Merry Christmas!

~ Fr. Sieg ~



SIMBANG GABI & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 15 - 23 SIMBANG GABI MASSES:

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 - 29

**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
 BLESSING OF FAMILIES**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

The Parish Office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 24th through Thursday, December 26th**, due to the Christmas holiday season. We will reopen on Friday, December 27th.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY - MASS ON JAN. 1, 2025

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary. Let us dedicate and start the New Year, 2025, off in honor of Our Blessed Mother with Mass starting at 8:00 a.m. All are welcomed to join us. Fr. Sieg will be away at this time, so Fr. Lyndon Jong will be here to preside over the Mass.



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.

MAHALO TO EWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every year, the teachers and staff at Ewa Elementary School participate in a Thanks-For-Giving Bake and Craft Sale, which is a fundraiser to help the needs of our community. Our Food Pantry has been so blessed to be the recipient of their monetary proceeds these past few years. Pictured to the right is Mrs. Cecilia Camarillo, Chairperson for their Social & Aloha Committee, who presented a check in the amount of **\$958.00**. We are grateful for their continuous generosity to our Pantry. Mahalo, Ewa Elementary Teachers and Staff!



CCD STUDENTS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Our CCD students gathered together on December 15th in the Church hall to celebrate Christmas on their last class before the holidays. We're grateful to our DRE, Shirley Sunio, who conducted two arts & crafts activities for them to enjoy celebrating Jesus: hanging wreath decoration with stickers representing his love for us and a decorative plastic jar with lights showing him as the Light of the World. It concluded with a traditional song, "Come on, Ring those Bells!"



2ND COLL: RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Women and men religious offer gratitude. "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift, in the amount of **\$1,881.00**, so far, impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org. Mahalo for your generosity.

SIMBANG GABI - GRATITUDE TO OUR PRIESTS

We would like to extend a sincere Mahalo to all our visiting priests from the Leeward Vicariate, who presided at our Simbang Gabi Masses: **Fr. Lyndon Jong, Fr. Joey Ranjo, Fr. Ed Barut, Fr. Rheo Ofalsa, Fr. Eric Castro, Fr. Paulo Kosaka, Fr. Valentine Sun Tun, Fr. Leonard Tubana, and Fr. Kurt Meyer**. Their presence was a blessing to us each evening and we have been spiritually enriched by their enlightening homilies and lifted up in our worship to God.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Dec. 14 - 15 2024

Weekly Offering	\$3,409.00
Sat. 5:00 PM - \$ 700.00	
Sun. 7:00 AM - \$ 1,071.00	
Sun. 9:30 AM - \$ 935.00	
Sun. 5:00 PM - \$ 703.00	
Repair & Maintenance	\$476.50
Building Fund	\$30.00
Flowers	\$262.50
Candles	\$125.00
Book of Intentions	\$85.00
Mass Intentions	\$115.00
Funeral	\$300.00
Light A Star	\$395.00
Knights of Columbus Books	\$3.00
Thanksgiving	\$50.00
ICC Feast Day donations	\$2,196.43
Christmas	\$25.00
Hawaii Quilt Guild R/M	\$50.00
Special Projects	\$100.00
Sacred Heart Society	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$7,642.43



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Ohana in Christ	\$25.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$1,376.00



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ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD
OCT. 15 - DEC. 7

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Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day. The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

●The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK

A word from POPE FRANCIS

Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good....The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.

ANGELUS, ROME,
DECEMBER 19, 2021

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



St. John of Kanty – Feast Day is December 23rd. Born John Cantius, he was a 15th c. Polish priest, scholastic philosopher, physicist, theologian, and scholar. Being a simple and humble man, he showed kindness, generosity, and compassion toward the poor and needy and was often taken advantage of. He only kept clothes and money that he really needed to support himself. He led an austere and penitential life in spite of suffering opposition from others. He's also noted for copying manuscripts of the Holy Scriptures and other theological and scholarly works. St. John is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, the Pontifical Gregorian University, as well as students and other academic institutions, due to his dedication to education and knowledge. Even though he hoped to be martyred, he ended up living a long life.



St. Stephen – Feast Day is December 26th. A 1st c. relative of St. Paul, St. Stephen was a deacon in the early church in Jerusalem and is noted as being the first martyr of Christianity back in 34 AD. He was a disciple of Christ, who was blessed with strength, courage, and peace by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news. He's noted for performing numerous miracles, especially raising seven dead people back to life and curing a multitude of sick. While teaching that the laws of Moses were being fulfilled by Jesus, he was accused of speaking against them and the temple. He was stoned to death by the Jewish Council in Jerusalem after he condemned them for murdering Jesus. His last words were in a prayer of forgiveness for his attackers, which echoed Jesus' words on the cross. He's the patron saint of deacons, bricklayers, and stonemasons.



St. John the Apostle – Feast Day is December 27th. Also known as St. John the Beloved, this fisherman was the youngest of Jesus' 12 Apostles, whose faith was rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus. Described as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," he was there at the Last Supper, given the honor of caring for Mother Mary, and stood beneath the cross. He was one of Jesus' three closest disciples along with Peter, and his own brother, James. Known as "the Apostle of Charity," he exhibited this virtue by word and example. He's considered the author of the 4th Gospel, 3 New Testament epistles, and the Book of Revelation. His gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus and his glory. He's the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendship, and authors as well as the country of Turkey. He didn't suffer martyrdom, but died of natural causes while in exile in Patmos near Ephesus (Turkey) and survived all of the Apostles.

		DEC. 7-8		DEC. 14-15	
WEEKLY MASS COUNT	Day/Time	Adult	Child	Adult	Child
	Sat. 5:00 PM	155	20	143	9
	Sun. 7:00 AM	225	10	180	9
	Sun. 9:30 AM	200	30	248	59
	Sun. 5:00 PM	159	22	227	29

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family:

1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24
Luke 2: 41-52