

Issue: December 14, 2008

Hilo Roman Catholic Community



St. Joseph Church

43 Kapiolani St., Hilo, HI 96720
Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: (808) 935-1465 Fax: (808) 969-1665
Emergency after-hours number: 899-9453



Malia Puka O Kalani Church

326 Desha Ave., Hilo, HI 96720
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon
Phone: (808) 935-9338

Mass Schedule

St. Joseph Church

Weekdays:

Mon. - Fri.

6:00 am & 12:15 pm

Legal Holidays:

7:00 am

Saturday: 7:00 am

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

Spanish Mass:

7:00 pm

Sunday:

St. Joseph Church

7:00 am, 9:00 am,

11:30 am & 6:00 pm

Malia Puka O Kalani Church

Sunday: 9:00 am

St. Joseph

Elementary School Chapel

Tuesday & Friday

7:00 am

Confession:

Saturday

10:00 am - 11:00 am

St. Joseph Church

or by appointment

*Please note:

confession schedule

does not apply

during some

liturgical seasons.



Congratulations!

Monsignor John Mbinda

on the 40th Anniversary of your Ordination!

Important Dates

Sunday, Dec. 14

Jubilee Mass

Fr. John Mbinda

40th Anniversary of Ordination

6:00 pm / St. Joseph (Youth Mass)

Missa de Gallo

Dec. 17 (Wed.) / 4:30 am

St. Joseph Church

St Joseph Parish

Finance Council Meeting

Dec. 17 (Wed)

7:00pm / Rectory Library

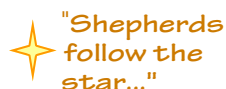
Installation of Fr. Thomas as Pastor

presiding

Bishop Larry Silva

Sunday, Dec. 21

6 pm Mass at St. Joseph



Please join us for Father Thomas' Installation for Incardination Celebration with fellowship to follow. Parishioners please bring a potluck dessert to share.

NOVENA Date Change Monday, Dec 22

(this week only)

because of the

Advent Penance Service.

Tuesday Dec. 23

Advent Penance Service

7:00 pm / St. Joseph



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24 (Wed)

5:00 pm •Malia

6:00 pm •St. Joseph Church

9:00 pm •St. Joseph Church

Midnight •St. Joseph Church

Christmas Day

Dec. 25 (Thurs)

7:00 am •St. Joseph Church

9:00 am •St. Joseph Church

9:00 am •Malia

11:30 am •St. Joseph Church

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Thomas Purayidathil, Ph.D.

I am happy to join the Hilo Roman Catholic Community to offer hearty congratulations and joyful celebrations to Fr. John Mbinda. Fr. John, you have been a blessing to us here in Hilo and may the Lord fill your days ahead with joy and serenity! Fr. Tom



Story of my Conversion and Vocation to Priesthood

by Fr. John M. Mbinda

Journey to Conversion

There was no Catholic Church in my home area as I grew up. My parents and the whole family were members of the Salvation Army. As I began going to elementary school in 1950, my family changed to another church, the African Inland Mission that sponsored the school.

After five years in that school, I had an opportunity to choose where to go for my fifth to eighth grade education. I opted for a Catholic school because the year before I had seen a marching band from the only Catholic boys school in the area. When I passed the exam and got my invitation letter to go there, my mother objected and asked me to go to a Protestant school which was near where she had been born, but that plan failed because the fifth grade in the school was full. I travelled back home to report to my mom and dad, and they then allowed me to go to the Catholic school. I still recall my first night in that boy's dormitory and waking up at 5 am to wash up and be ready for the Mass at 6 am. I recall following other boys towards the church, and at the door, I saw the boy ahead of me touch something and then not knowing what he did, I also touched it and licked it. I later discovered that it was the Holy Water, and that did it! From the very first day, I was drawn towards the Catholic Church, particularly because of the example of the priests who taught us and said Mass for us every day. At the end of my first year (1955) in the Catholic School, I had already decided to become Catholic and was taking my catechumenate class. At the age of 14, I was baptized on Christmas Eve, 1956 along with many of my classmates.

Journey to Priestly Vocation

In 1957 I was confirmed and I then felt a sense of service urging me to consider doing what I saw the priests doing in the parish and in the school. During the same year, the Rector of the Junior Seminary (elementary-high school education) visited our school to recruit possible candidates. The principal encouraged those who wanted to go for an interview. I was among 5 other boys and before the end of the year I was called to join the seminary. Towards the end of 1957, when I went home for Christmas, I was faced with the dilemma of how to explain to my mom and dad that I was going to a Junior Seminary (a concept unknown to them). This was too complicated to explain and so without telling a lie, I told them that I was being transferred to a better Catholic boarding school with a scholarship. The fact that my education hence would cost them only my transportation to and from school was attractive. I was in that school for 5 years, only to face another dilemma at the end of my 12th Grade, when most students then went on to look for a career. So when I went home for Christmas in 1962, I knew that my dad would ask me what career I was going to pursue. Since my dad knew Father MaCauley, pastor of the parish in the town of Machakos, that explanation would be convincing. Father MaCauley had come to our village looking for land to extend the Catholic Church in our area. So when my dad asked me what I intended to do, off came the straight answer: "I would like to become a priest like Father McCauley." My dad responded positively saying that it was a good profession and that I should go ahead. That part of the battle on the side of my dad was over. I still had to face my mom. I decided to say the same thing I had said to my dad, and off came a question I had not anticipated from mom. She wanted to know how much I would be earning in that

continued on page 4

December 14, 2008: Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11; 1 Thes. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah contemplates his mission, the effect of his message, and the joy of all people in the fulfillment of God's word. Jesus would later appropriate to himself that description of the prophet's role in the opening verses: to proclaim the good news, which has power to heal and set free in the Spirit (cf. Lk. 4:16-22 where Jesus obviously refers to this text).

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Mary's canticle, a hymn of praise at the awareness of God's overwhelming favor toward his "little ones," picks up and continues the theme of the last verses of the first reading. Response: "My soul rejoices in my God."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul in the second reading exhorts the Thessalonians to rejoice always and pray that they remain holy and blameless as they await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The joy Paul speaks of here is not merely an empty and superficial joy, but a deep and enduring quality of a Christian life in community and in love. For Paul, joy is a gift of the Spirit and is derived from thankful prayer and gives rise to it.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

In this passage, John's Gospel intends to do two things. First the passage introduces John the Baptist, depicting him professing strongly that he is not the Christ. Thus, the negation of John as a personality of importance throws the importance of Jesus into sharp relief. John the Baptist is not the light, but only a witness to the light. Secondly, John's purpose is to point to Jesus as the important figure. The identity and personality of Jesus, not John, is at issue here. John the Baptist clarifies his own identity further when he says, quoting Isaiah, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." We also note that John's Gospel here contrasts the baptism of water with the baptism of the Spirit, but elsewhere he unites water and the Spirit as one (see Jn 3:5).



Scripture Readings

Sunday, Dec. 14

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54
 1 Thes 5:16-24
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, Dec. 15

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
 Ps 25:4-9
 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23
 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10
 Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17
 Mt 1:1-17

Thursday, Dec. 18

Jer 23:5-8
 Ps 72:1, 12-13, 18-19
 Mt 1:18-25

Friday, Dec. 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
 Ps 71:3-6, 16-17
 Lk 1:5-25

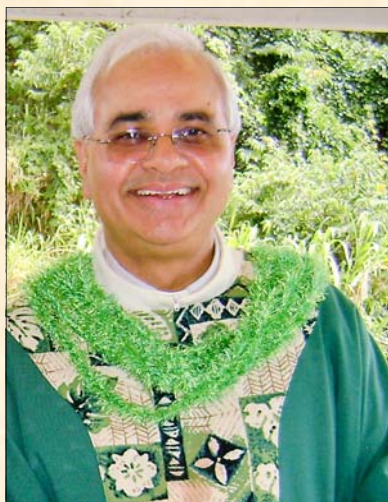
Saturday, Dec. 20

Is 7:10-14
 Ps 24:1-6
 Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 21

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
 Rom 16:25-27
 Lk 1:26-38

Congratulations on the anniversary of your Ordination!

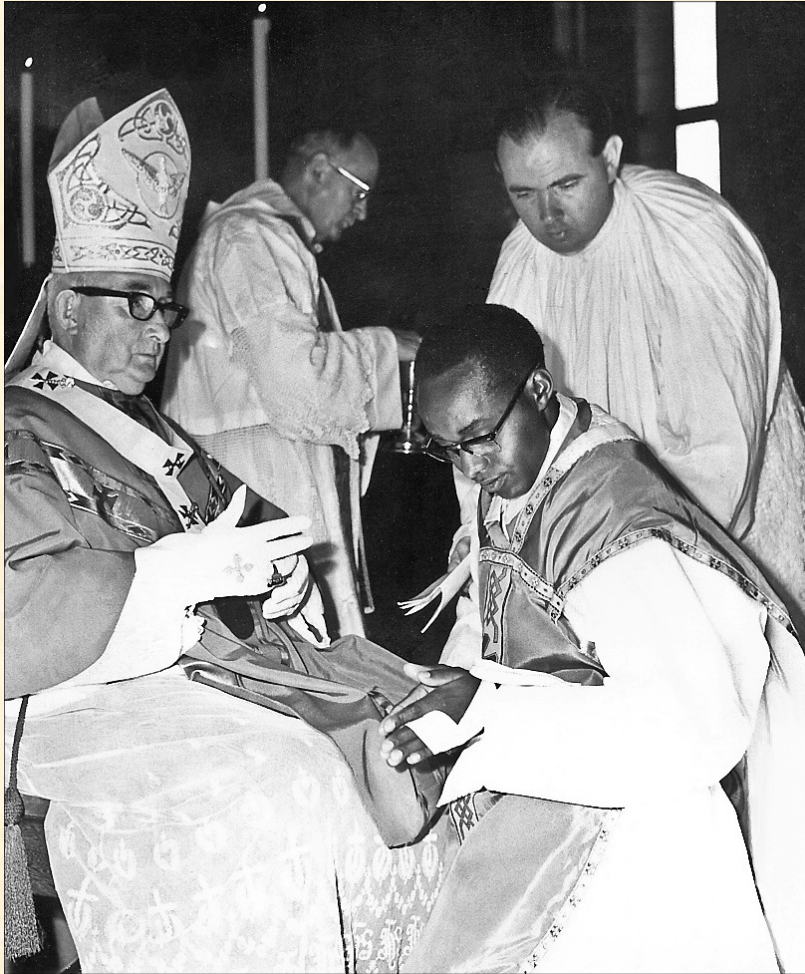


Fr. Tom Purayidathil
 Ordained Dec. 14, 1980



Fr. John Freddy
 Ordained December 14, 2002

Prayer of Consecration



Before the consecration, holy oil was placed on Fr. John's hands. Then, the hands were bound together during the prayer of consecration.

career, and when was I planning to marry! To the first question I knew that she wanted to be sure that I would help her and the family. So without knowing where the money would come from I told her that I would support the family. That was one down. On the marriage question, I was not prepared to deal with it now, and I postponed it by telling her that I still had time to think.

From a Tax Collector to a Priest

My seminary studies were to begin in mid-January 1963, but suddenly postponed to mid-April. The chancery office told me that I was free to either stay at home or to seek temporary employment during that period. I chose the latter, and strangely on applying for a government job, I was immediately employed by the Kenya Income Tax Department to collect road transport taxes and driver license renewal taxes. For three months I was tested in that lay environment and led to clarify that the Lord was indeed calling me from collecting taxes like Levi to be a priest. But that period was also providential because I was able to give to my mom part of my salary after paying for my rent. My senior seminary years from 1963 to 1968 were in a sense quite stimulating and challenging, but around Easter 1966 my dad died suddenly in a tragic car accident that involved 3 other relatives on their way to finalize my cousin's wedding. Some relatives persuaded me to leave the seminary in

order to help my siblings complete their education. After burying my dad I pondered on what I should do. With neither life insurance nor social security for my dad, my family was in great need of financial help. The pastor of my parish without any request from me travelled to my home and offered to pay the tuition for my two siblings (my brother and sister) who were just about to finish their high school education. By now both of them had become Catholics, and they immediately took the responsibility to support mom. Though the question of marriage remained in my mom's mind, she never raised it again. I was so much helped by the prayers and support I got from relatives and friends to complete my seminary studies in 1968.

Day of my Ordination 1968

Out of 24 in my class from 1963-68, 8 of us from different dioceses were due for ordination in 1968, but I was the only one to be ordained for my Archdiocese of Nairobi. At the age of 26, I was ordained a priest by the Most Reverend John Joseph McCarthy, Archbishop of Nairobi (of the Holy Ghost Fathers), at Holy Family Cathedral, on December 14, 1968. I recall my mom after the ordination telling other women in my presence that she found herself crying. When asked why, she said she did not know. Then she added, "when I saw my son lying down there and the beautiful choir singing, I felt so much joy that I could not explain." She would recount this story many times to relatives and friends. My mom never became Catholic until 1985 on the occasion of the Centenary of Catholicism in Kenya (1885 to 1985). By then all my siblings were Catholic independent of each other. On the day of her reception into the Catholic Church my mom told me that she felt that the family should remain united in faith, but above all it was the witness of her children that led her to conversion. By then she had come to learn the value of my priesthood. She had come to know that I was the one who in reality helped her most because she was now living in a beautiful home that I had built for her while in Rome, and was able to live comfortably in her old age. She passed on in October 2005 at the age of 93.



Fr. John Mbinda on the day of his ordination receives the "Imposition of hands."



Msgr. John and relatives in Rome

Strange Journey to a Vatican Career

In 1970, my bishop asked me to go to Rochester, New York to study sociology with a minor in anthropology. After my undergraduate studies there, I continued with a Master's degree in the same field at Syracuse University, graduating there in 1974 with specialization in research methodology. Strangely enough, it was that specialization that would lead me later to a Vatican career. On my return to Kenya, the bishops of the Eastern African Region that have a central secretariat in Nairobi were looking for someone with that background to take over a job in a pastoral institute, someone who would direct research on ecumenism as well as teach "Pastoral Anthropology." I was in that job with a staff of 5 other colleagues for 6 years (1976 to 1982) after which I was made an executive secretary of a secretariat for 7 Bish-

ops' Conferences in Eastern Africa (1982-1986). It was from there that I was called to work at the Vatican Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome from 1986 to 2006. While in Rome I completed my doctorate in the Faculty of Theology at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Before coming to the Big Island, St. Michael Church in Kona and now at St. Joseph Church in Hilo, I was a Vatican official. How would a Vatican Curial official end up in Hawaii? Many people have asked me that question. That is another interesting journey of my priestly vocation. Space does not allow me to tell that story here. Suffice it to say that this has been a most providential journey, and I just love being and serving at the Hilo Roman Catholic Community of St. Joseph Church and Malia Puka O Kalani Church.

Religious Education Catechists Luncheon



Sister Ruth enjoys a luncheon with the Religious Education Catechists.



Liberty, David, Charlotte, MaryAnn and Pat welcomed Sister MaryKutty to the R.E. program.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Sister MaryKutty renews her vows.



Sister Ruth renews her vows.



Fr. Tom presides at the school Mass celebrating the Immaculate conception.



St. Joseph school celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with a School Mass in the gymnasium.



The students present floral offerings to Immaculate Mary, prior to the school mass.



Receiving Communion.

Santa Breakfast & Book Fair

St. Joseph School cafeteria was full of children having a yummy breakfast of sausages, eggs, and pancakes early one recent morning. Nothing out of the ordinary except..... it was a Saturday? The SJS PTG (Parent Teacher Guild) held their annual Santa Breakfast & Scholastic Book Fair on Dec. 6. Families enjoyed a great meal and found some fantastic books while children were treated to a visit from Santa.

Thanks to all who volunteered their cooking and organizing skills, a good time was had by all who attended!



Beth Andrade's seventh grade class makes Advent wreaths.



Malia Puka O Kalani Church

From Fr. Joe

Today we join together in congratulating and thanking Fr. John for his 40 years of service to the church as a priest. There will be a special Mass this afternoon at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph's celebrating this wonderful event. If at all possible, please join Fr. John in thanking God and in asking God to give the church many more years of his wise, gentle, and kind service. I will join you from the mainland as I celebrate Mass for Fr. John.



Please remember to bring the gifts from the Giving Tree, if you have not done so already. They will be delivered this week.

Christmas Cards were sent to 254 households who have been registered as parishioners of Malia. There was a return requested postcard in all the Christmas Cards. If you did not receive a Christmas card from the parish, you are more-than-likely not registered as a parishioner of Malia. Please register by filling out the form below and putting it in the offering bowl. We will contact you after the first of the year for further information:

(Please print)

NAME
ADDRESS:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
PHONE: _____

Food Pantry: Please remember our brothers and sisters who need our help by bringing food donations every week with you to Mass.	
Saint Joseph 12/01/08	Malia 12/03/08
60 persons served	24 persons served



**Mahalo
for all the
donations
of Advent
Wreaths!**

<u>Our Volunteers for Sunday, December 21, 2008</u>	
Church Cleaning	Lectors
<i>Youth Group</i>	<i>Shirley / Maybelle</i>
Flowers	Eucharistic Ministers
<i>Maybelle / Shirley</i>	<i>Kathy / Natalie</i>
Sacristan	Bell Ringers
<i>Hale</i>	<i>Pete / Melody</i>
Altar Servers	Money Counters
<i>Tiah / Kayla</i>	<i>Laverne / Pete / Natalie</i>

Mary, Gate of Heaven, pray for us.	
<i>Aunty Irene Kondo</i>	<i>Aunty Nita Kua</i>
<i>Kahele Ohana</i>	<i>Aunty Dulatre</i>
<i>Aunty Patty Grube</i>	<i>Eleanor Birney</i>
<i>Uncle Tony Moniz</i>	<i>Aunty Mabel Silva</i>
<i>Aunty Minnie Alidon</i>	<i>Dona Watson</i>
<i>Aunty Dora Costa</i>	<i>Rita Cusick</i>
<i>Aunty Mamo Otineru</i>	<i>Helen Arsigia</i>

Christmas Poinsettia Needed

We are looking for donations of poinsettias for Christmas Eve. / day. Aunty Freida would like them no later than Tuesday, Dec. 23. Any questions please call Freida Lee at 960-3116.



Joe Farias leads parishioners in song.



Fr. Tom gives the homily.



Fr. Emmanuel reads the Gospel.



Malia parishioners pray together.



Fr. John celebrates Immaculate Conception.



Financial Notes:

December 7, 2008 Koa Bowl \$1,668.70
 December 8, 2008 Koa Bowl \$ 651.96

*The estimated average Koa Bowl
 Collection needed each week to
 support ourselves is: \$1,500.00
 - Fr. Joe*

ATTENDANCE

12/7/08 Adults 56 Children 14
 12/8/08 Adults 38 Children 4

Directory

Emergency after-hours number: 899-9453

Pastor:

Rev. Thomas Purayidathil, Ph.D.

Associate Priests:

Rev. John M. Mbinda

Rev. Joseph Hennen

Hispanic Ministry:

Rev. John Fredy Quintero

Deacons:

Rev. Don Aanavi

Rev. Jerry Nunogawa

St. Joseph School Principal:

Sr. Marion Kikukawa, OSF

935-4936

Office Staff & Ministries

Business Manager: David Watson

Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Marykutty

Social Outreach: Sr. Ruth Zonunthari

Receptionist: Robyn Whittington

Housekeeping: "Cres" Castillo

Maintenance: Robert Balga

Religious Education Coordinator:

Joyce C. Saenz 935-1202

Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

Chrislyn Villena 935-1465

Security & Maintenance:

Mario Miguel 990-9137

Liturgy Coordinator: Cecil Farin

Music Ministry:

Gloria Mendoza-Watson

Alabare Choir: Godfrey Nachor

Aloha Choir: Sylvia Young

Engaged Encounter: 961-2442

Fred & Patti Basilio

Marriage Encounter: 935-8464

Deacon Jerry & Rose Nunogawa

Rite of Christian Initiation

of Adults: Carol Denis

Adult Scripture Study:

Deacon Don Aanavi

Prison Ministry: John Aguiar

935-8392

Parish Pastoral Advisory

Council: Anna Texeira

Finance Council: Don Kouchi

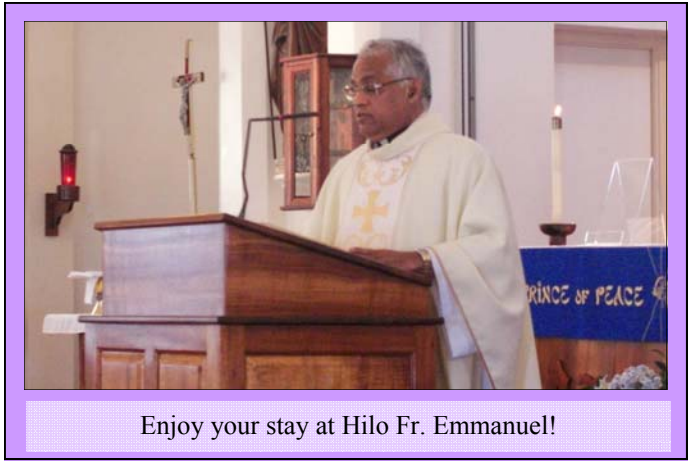
Bulletin Coordinator:

Karen Hotniansky

Prayer Network: Kathy Choi

Call rectory: 935-1465

with your prayer request



Enjoy your stay at Hilo Fr. Emmanuel!

This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY, Dec. 14

10:15 am •Religious Ed Classes/SJHS

6:00 pm •Jubilee Mass (Fr. John) & Reception/St. Joseph Church & Rectory Meeting Room

MONDAY, Dec. 15

10:00 am •Aloha Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Church

12:00 pm •Food Pantry/St. Joseph Rectory Meeting Room

1:00 pm •Spiritual Support Group/St. Joseph Church Breezeway

6:00 pm •RCIA Classes/St. Joseph Rectory Library

6:00 pm •Youth Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Church

7:00 pm •Liturgy Committee Meeting/St. Joseph Rectory Meeting Rm

TUESDAY, Dec. 16

7:00 am •St. Joseph School Mass/St. Joseph Elem. Chapel

10:00 am •Confirmation Retreat Planning/R E Office

6:30 pm •Small Christian Community/St. Joseph Rectory Library

7:00 pm •Basic Christian Community/YMI

7:00 pm •Novena (Rosary 6:30 pm)/St. Joseph Church

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 17

4:30 am •Missa de Gallo/St. Joseph Church

12:00 pm •Food Pantry/Malia Puka O Kalani Church

6:30 pm •Alabare Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Church

7:00pm •Finance Council Meeting /Rectory Library

THURSDAY, Dec. 18

5:00 pm •Cursillo Group/St. Joseph Rectory Library

7:00 pm •St. Joseph Choir Rehearsal/St. Joseph Church

FRIDAY, Dec. 19

7:00 am •St. Joseph School Mass/St. Joseph Elem. Chapel

5:00 pm •Holy Hour/St. Joseph Church

6:00 pm •Benediction/St. Joseph Church

SATURDAY, Dec. 20

7:45 am •Church Cleaners #7/St. Joseph Church

10:00 am •Adult Scripture Study/St. Joseph Rectory Library

5:00 pm •High School Youth Group/St. Joseph Rectory Library

7:00 pm •Spanish Mass & Fellowship/St. Joseph Church & Rectory Meeting Rm

SUNDAY, Dec. 21

10:15 am •Religious Ed Classes/SJHS

2:00 pm •Baptism/St. Joseph Church

6:00 pm •Mass w/Installation of Fr. Thomas as Pastor (Bishop Larry Silva)/St. Joseph Church

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick:

Contact the rectory office for arrangements.

Baptisms: Infant (under 7)

Preparation sessions for parents available 9 times a year. Call the rectory office to register at 935-1465.

Baptisms: (over 7-adult) / First

Communion / Confirmation:

Joyce C. Saenz 935-1202

Hospital Communion:

Donna Saiki 935-7801

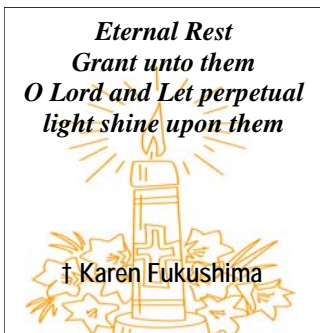
Home Communion:

Joanne Kahaloa 961-2726

Marriages: Contact rectory office at least 6 months in advance.

Funerals: Contact rectory office before meeting with funeral director.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH WEEKLY COLLECTION	
Spanish Mass	\$ 39.00
5:00 pm	\$ 1,433.00
7:00 am	\$ 2,091.00
9:00 am	\$ 2,293.00
11:30 am	\$ 1,563.00
6:00 pm	\$ 1,527.00
Sunday Total Collection	\$ 8,946.00
Candles	\$ 293.00
Donations/Others	\$ 5,345.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 5,638.00
RESTRICTED DONATIONS	
Bldg. Maint. Fund	\$ 746.00
Parish Hall Fund	\$ 1,921.00
School Fund	\$ 541.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 5.00
Convent Rent	\$ 12,499.92
Apartment Rent	\$ 3,500.00
Misc.	\$ 20.00
Total Restricted Donations	\$ 19,232.92
Total Weekly Deposit	\$ 33,816.92
Parish Hall Fund to Date	\$112,894.50





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

- Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008
Classes at St. Joseph Jr/Sr High
- Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008
Classes at St. Joseph Jr/Sr High
- Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008
No Classes (Christmas break)
- Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009
No Classes



R.E. Coordinator Joyce Saenz prepares the youth with great care to light the Advent candles.

Altar Server Update:

All St. Joseph altar servers who have signed up to serve at one of the Christmas masses must attend a training session to be held on Sunday, December 21, 2008 at 1:00 pm at St. Joseph church. Please call Joyce Saenz at 935-1202 with any questions.



Christ is counting on you
to find out more about Cursillo.
Contact Joyce Berrios
966-6763



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West Hawai'i: 331-4763 (HOPE)

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Provides information, help with applications for emergency assistance and referrals to CCH programs or other local resources.
933-4357 (HELP)
331-4357 (HELP)

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Cars Donation Program: 961-7122
www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org

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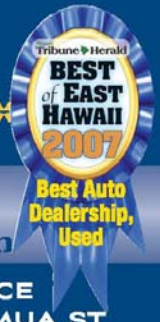
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