

December 24, 2017

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Served by the Blessed Sacrament Congregation

Church Dedicated in 1919

Pastor:

Rev. Wilbert Laroga, SSS

935-1465

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Apolinario Ty, SSS

430-0481

Rev. Zaldy Norba, SSS

756-0838

Deacon:

Dcn. Jim Dougherty, SOLT



43 Kapiolani Street
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-1465

www.stjoe hilo.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays:

Mon.-Fri.

6:00 am & 12:15 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am

Legal Holidays: 7:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

Sunday

7:00 am, 9:00 am,

11:45 am & 6:00pm

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.

PRAYER TIMES

Adoration

M-F 4-5:00 pm

Sat 3-3:30 pm

Sun 4-4:30 pm

**Evening Prayer
& Benediction**

M-F 5:00 pm

Sat 3:30 pm

Sun 4:30 pm

ST. JOSEPH



PRAY FOR US!





Dear Parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Church and School,

A Blessed Merry Christmas to all of you! This is a time of joy filled with hope, love and peace. The birth of our savior is the greatest gift of God to all humanity.

This season, let us focus our attention about the significance of Light that brings delight to the world. We are filled with happiness when we see Christmas lights in the streets, in the shopping centers, in the neighborhood and in the church. "The people in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them." (Isaiah 9:2) The

baby Jesus in a manger is the fulfillment of God's promises to bring the marvelous light and joy to the world.

May we share the light of Christ to our sisters and brothers who are amid of the darkness of confusions, doubt, despair and loneliness. Our constant care and love for our sisters and brothers will make a whole lot difference in the spirit of Christmas.

On behalf of St. Joseph's Parish Community and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all our parish staff as well as the many parish volunteers and lay leaders for their immeasurable support for our parish activities and programs.

You have shone the great light that brings joy to our church.

May you be blessed with peace and joy this Christmas and grace-filled New Year!

Melekalikimaka!

Fr. Wilbert Laroga, SSS

Pastor of St. Joseph Church



Updates from the repair & maintenance ministry:

The pastor is seeking monetary assistance in the removal and replacement of the concrete area in the front of the church.

Scope of work:

- Demolish & stockpile concrete
- Remake bottom steps leading to parking lot
- Provide drainage to prevent water pooling
- Remake the ramp between the car-loading area & the front walk
- Repair cracks
- Provide handrails



Weekly Reflection: 4th Sunday of Advent – Cycle B
Hail, Favored One!

As it was with King David, who was but a mere shepherd boy when chosen by the Lord, we see the same pattern of action of God in Mary, when He chose her to be the mother of His son. God made this known through the angel Gabriel who appeared to Mary and said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.... Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Highest." And we can only surmise that a great silence ensued as the Angel Gabriel awaited Mary's response.

St. Pope John Paul II reflected on this moment and said: "Never in human history did so much depend, as it did then, upon the consent of one human creature." And her "Yes" or "*Fiat*" marked the beginning of a new moment in human history. It ushered in the time of the Lord.

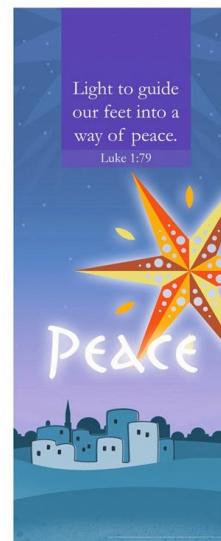
But probably many will ask: "What had this simple girl from Nazareth done to deserve to be the Mother of God?" And the only response is: Nothing. But in Mary what we see is God's extravagant love and generosity manifested. His choice of Mary to be the mother of His Son was sheer grace. But it is true that because God asked Mary to do something He had never asked a person to do in the past nor would do again in the future, His very choice of Mary had made her, in the words of Gabriel, "favored one" or as we say in the prayer Hail Mary, "full of grace."

God graced Mary for a mission that was not for herself; her mission in the plan of God was to give Jesus to every generation of the human family. But this is just paving the way for all of us, who like Mary is being invited by the Lord to take part in the unfolding of His plan of salvation. You and I are also "Graced" like Mary with God's unconditional love and mercy.

God has an urgent need for our help, just as He did for Mary's. God calls on us to announce His presence to a world that would rather not hear about Him! What better season than Christmas, when we commemorate the Lord's birth into this world, to show our need for the Messiah as well as our Messiah's need for us?

Yes Christmas is about the coming of Jesus into our world, but it is also a witness to the "being graced of man" to take part in God's plan.

With Mary, Our Blessed Mother, "A Grace-filled Christmas to all of You."



*"Ignorance of Scripture is
ignorance of Christ."
St Jerome*

Sunday, Dec. 17

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

Monday, Dec. 18

Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday, Dec. 19

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20

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

Thursday, Dec. 21

Sg 2:8-14
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Friday, Dec. 22

1 Sm 1:24-28
(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday, Dec. 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14
Lk 1:57-66

Sunday, Dec. 24

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

Sunday Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Vigil:

Is 62:1-5
Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt 1:1-25

Living Catholic in the 808:

By: Rafael Mendoza, Business Manager Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa

Luke 2:10-11 (NAB) "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, a savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord."

How do we evangelize: BRING JESUS TO OTHERS, DO NOT BRING OTHERS TO JESUS CHRIST.

We live in a world with values that are contrary to Gospel values. We are faced with such challenges as secularism, individualism, and materialism.

Our calling today is to bring Jesus' presence in our family, community, workplace and civil society. We need to follow the life, works and words of Jesus Christ. This is discipleship. A disciple is a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Disciples continue the mission of Jesus Christ today in our own sphere of influence. Disciples proclaim the Kingdom of God, Jesus' presence, through acts of reconciliation and healing, love and service, prayer and worship. Discipleship is the vocation of every Christian and is rooted in Baptism.

We bring Jesus to others by the way one lives his/her life, conducts his/her affairs and the manner by which he/she relates to others, or the way he/she goes outside of oneself in order to serve the less fortunate.

**Proclaim the Good News through our lives –
what we say, do and what people see in us**

**We are a welcoming
parish. Be a family mem-
ber, today! Parish regis-
tration forms are located
in the rear of the church
or at the rectory office.
Visit our parish website at
www.stjoehilo.com.**



December 23-24, 2017

Merry Christmas from Worldwide Marriage Encounter Hawaii! One of the greatest gifts you can give your spouse is time at the next Hawaii weekend. Apply for one of the following dates:



**February 16-18, 2018, or August 31-September 2,
at St. Anthony Retreat Center, Kalihi Valley, Oahu
November 16-18, 2018, Maui (nonresidential)**

For more information, contact Jose & Mary Elizabeth Alvior, [\(808\) 391-2045](tel:8083912045) on Oahu; or visit our website at www.hawaiiwwme.org

*Take care & safe guard your marriages.
Be one with God and make time for your spouse.
Holy Family, Pray for us!*

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?



MAHALO!

The Environment Committee 1 (Interior) would like to thank all those who donated to the decorating of the church for Christmas. Many gave of their time and talent to construct and create the various décor as well as place them around the church. Merry Christmas!
-Pina Andres



Highlights from 2017



**Our Lady of
Fatima**

Confirmation Teen Retreat



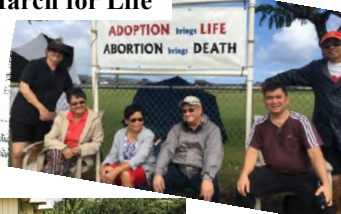
**SJS students visit
Hot Meals Ministry**



Hot Meals



March for Life



Annual Memorial Mass

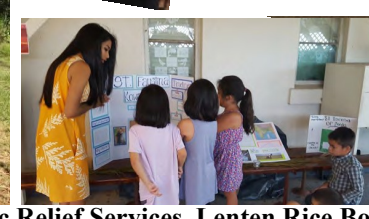
**Parish at
Diocesan Stewardship
Day**



Hospitality Ministers



Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl Campaign



Highlights from 2017



Lenten Recollection



CHRISM MASS



Getting Ready for Palm Sunday



RCIA Retreat



First Communion



Young Adult Walk-a-thon



Island Treasures 2017



St. Joseph Feast Day



Catechist Retreat



Living Rosary in the church



Confirmation 2017



Rosary in the Park



Living Rosary with SJS Students



Thanksgiving Hot Meal



RE Family Advent Book Sale



YTH/YA Fundraiser

Children's Liturgy St. Nicholas Project



Young Adult Seminarian



How Do I Become Catholic?

“Be doers of the word and not merely hearers.”
—James 1:22

Contact Chrislyn Villena,
at cvillena@stjoe.hilo.com
or 808-935-1465

God is calling. Now what?

Learning to Respond

God works in many different ways. Most of the time, God works through ordinary people and events—a parent, a friend, a beautiful sunset, a song, an inspiring story. Other times, we hear God’s call during crisis moments or major life-changes—a birth, an engagement, a sickness, a death. Sometimes, we just have a feeling that something is missing. No matter what your reason for thinking about becoming Catholic, the Church’s hope and prayer is that when God calls, you will respond. If you’re reading this, you’ve already begun to respond!

One part of the Catholic Church’s mission is to help people respond to God’s call as best they can by helping them become more and more like Jesus. For Christians, initiation means falling in love with Jesus and living as Jesus’s disciples. This is how we respond best to God’s call. Through the process of becoming Catholic, we try to help people learn how to respond to God’s call not just for the moment of baptism but for everyday of their lives. The way we learn to do that is by hanging out with Catholics and actually doing what Catholics do. So the process of becoming Catholic is not so much about learning things as in a classroom but entering a way of life, as an apprentice learns from a master and that master’s community.

*The love of God is not generic.
God looks with love upon every man
and woman, calling them by name.*

—Pope Francis

Becoming an Apprentice

At a university art department, a “master potter” was the teacher for all the pottery students. But his students didn’t really have classes in a classroom. What they did have was a lifestyle, or a discipline, and they all agreed to live by that lifestyle. In their discipline, the master potter agreed to teach them everything he knew, and the students agreed to watch the potter and follow his example. In a way, they became his disciples.

Every so often, the potter showed them a new skill, like making a tiny tea cup. Then he told them, “Now you try it. Practice making 100 tea cups like this every day for the next month. When you can do that, then you’re ready to go on to the next step.”

Yet the potter wasn’t only teaching skills; he was also introducing them to the life of a potter. So he had them eat together using

the plates and cups they made, talk about their struggles and joys with one another, take walks in nature together for inspiration, and chop wood together for the kiln to fire their pottery. Little by little, day by day, the students were *becoming* potters, learning by watching, doing, and living as the master did.

Our master potter is Jesus, and becoming Catholic is a lot like being his apprentices. We follow stages, watch for benchmarks, help each other, and learn and practice disciplines before moving on to the next step. The process for this apprenticeship into the Christian way of life is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (often called RCIA).

If you’re ready to respond to God’s call, contact your local Catholic parish and ask them to help you learn to follow Jesus.

Words to know

baptism: the ritual that makes a person a full member of a Christian religion; in the Catholic Church, the ritual involves immersing the person in water and calling upon God using the traditional names of “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

Catholic: a person who lives out the Christian faith that follows the disciplines established by the Catholic Church

Christ: the Greek title given to Jesus meaning “anointed one”; in Hebrew, the title is translated as “messiah”; title that acknowledges that the person is specially chosen by God to lead and protect God’s people

Christian: a person who believes that Jesus was the Son of God, the Christ, who follows the teachings of Christ, and is baptized into the Christian faith through the ritual of baptism

discipline: habits of a group that make up a way of life based on the teachings of a person considered the group’s leader

RCIA: stands for “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults;” process for adults for becoming Catholic

What made you read this flyer? Has something happened in your life that has made you wonder about becoming Catholic? What questions would you ask a Catholic person?

By Diana Macalintal
Diana@TeamRCIA.com

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar

Monday, Dec. 25 "The Nativity of the Lord"—
Christmas Day Holiday
Rectory office closed

7:00 am Mass/Church

9:00 am Mass/Church

11:45 am Mass/Church

Tuesday, Dec. 26

7:00 pm Mother of Perpetual Help Novena
(Rosary 6:30)/Church

Wednesday, Dec. 27

6:30 pm Alabare Choir Rehearsal/Church

Thursday, Dec. 28

6:30 pm St. Joseph Choir Rehearsal/Church

Friday, Dec. 29 "New Year's Eve" observed—
Rectory office closed

7:00 am Mass/Church—NO 12:15 pm Mass

6:00 pm San Lorenzo Choir Rehearsal/Church

Saturday, Dec. 30

8:15 am Church Cleaner's #1 (F. Veriato)/Church

10:00 am Reconciliation/Church

11:00 am Sto. Niño Planning/Mtg. Room

5:00 pm Mass/Church

5:00 pm NO High School Youth Ministry
(Christmas break)

Sunday, Dec. 31 "The Holy Family"

7:00 am Mass/Church

9:00 am Mass/Church

10:15 am NO Religious Education Classes
(Christmas break)

11:45 am Mass/Church

6:00 pm Mass/Church

Monday, Jan. 01, 2018 "New Year" Holiday—
Rectory office closed

7:00 am Mass/Church—No 12:15 pm Mass



The parish 2018 calendar is now available for parishioners. Please see a hospitality minister for a complimentary calendar or visit the rectory office.

Limit one calendar per household so that all households may have one.

2018 Hawaii Island Feast of Santo Niño celebration

will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the St. Joseph School Gym. The mass will be concelebrated with all priests on the Big Island at 10:30 A.M. followed by entertainment. As part of the celebration, there will be a fundraising to benefit St. Joseph School scholarships. Fiesta plate (pansit, adobo, pinakbet and rice) will be served for \$20.00 after the mass. Tickets are sold outside the church after the mass. Everybody is invited.



Stewardship Report of Treasury for:

Week (12/12-12/18)		YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Collections	7,028.25	216,789.58	245,450.25
All Other Income	20,561.28	155,080.53	163,578.84
Deposited to Bank	27,589.53	371,870.11	409,029.09
Parish Hall		161.25	
		Parish Savings	
		Loan to school	146,051.33
		Designated Funds	336,330.58
		Restricted Funds	426,148.57
			908,530.48

PRAISE & WORSHIP HOUR

**Wednesday,
January 10, 2018
7-8pm
St. Joseph Church**

Join us as we gather together as the Body of Christ, to worship and thank the Lord for all He does for us. As we sing songs of praise, God is with us in a very special way.

"Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!
Hallelujah!" (Psalm 150:6)

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

**MASS & HEALING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY,
JAN. 31 7:00pm St. Joseph Church**

COME & be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let the Lord touch & heal you in all the ways you need to be healed, whether it be physical, spiritual, emotional, mental or healing of relationships

2018 Hawaii Island Feast of Sto. Niño

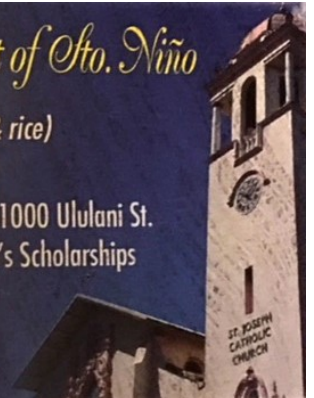
Fiesta Plate (pansit, adobo, pinakbet & rice)

Saturday, January 20, 2018

12:00 - 3:00pm • St. Joseph School Gym - 1000 Ululani St.

\$20.00/plate -to benefit St. Joseph School's Scholarships

No. 1101



Family Table Prayer for Christmas Day:

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbors and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead.

We ask this prayer through Christ, Our Lord, Amen



**PARKING
AREA**



During this Christmas season (Dec. 16-25), we will expect an increase in attendance at the church masses.

- Park in designated marked stalls or use the overflow parking in the St. Joseph Church grassy field AND in the Hilo Union School Parking lot.
- Obey all traffic patterns & parking signs.
- Avoid double parking along the gray canopy and keep the emergency zone (*in the front of the church*) for ACTIVE loading/unloading only.

We appreciate Hilo Union's "Good Neighbor" arrangement with us that allows us to use each other's parking facilities.

-Parish Pastoral Advisory Council



**Marriage & Family
Ministry is seeking**
volunteers to participate in the planning for the Valentines Family Dance to happen in



February of 2018. Please contact Fred & Patti Basilio by leaving a message for them at the rectory office. Mahalo!

Save the Date for the Dance!

February 10, 2018 6:30-9:00 pm at St. Joseph
School Gym
More details to follow!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

• **Dec. 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)**—
7:00 am, 9:00 am & 11:45 am

Christmas Mass Schedule:
• **Dec. 24 (Vigil of Christmas)**
6:00 pm, 9:00 pm & Midnight

• **Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)**—
7:00 am, 9:00 am & 11:45 am

• **Dec. 31**
(The Holy Family)—
7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:45 am & 6:00 pm

• **Jan. 1**
(Mary, the Holy Mother of God)—
7:00 am

Christmas Nativity Play

Presented By

San Lorenzo Family Choir

December 24 Sunday

5:40pm & 8:40pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church

43 Kapiolani St.

Hilo, HI 96720

