

Dear Padre,

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.

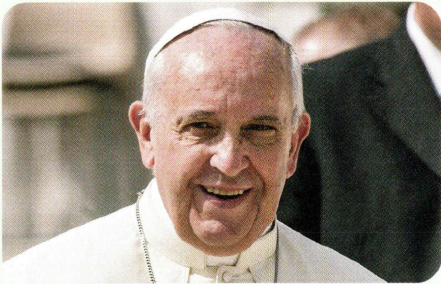
Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke 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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a Lk 1:39–45	Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45



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



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Zephaniah 3:14–18a / Philippians 4:4–7 / Luke 3:10–18



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?



The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7



Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary at Waimea



St. Theresa Parish

Established January 21, 1941
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



Vision / Mission Statement
To make St. Theresa Parish
a dynamic Christian community of
worship & service



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



Parish Directory



Clergy

Reverend Edwin D. Conselva, MS,
Pastor 808-337-1784
Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018
Deacon Jim Bostick, retired 808-337-1124

Parish Office

Mass Intentions / Hospital or Homebound
Communion / Weddings / Marriage
Convalidations / Baptisms / Funerals
Dee Young, Parish Secretary 808-337-1548
M-F, 8am-noon sttheresac@yahoo.com

PPC Raynette Newall

Worship / HI Catholic Herald articles
Chantal Duarte 808-634-0403

Bulletin / Website Betsy Jones 907-347-6618

Evangelization Commission

Director of Religious Education
Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P. 808-337-1548

OCIA Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018

Youth Coordinator
Rena Ulanday 808-635-2701

Social Services Commission

Respect Life call parish office 808-337-1548
Agency on Elderly Affairs 808-241-4470

St. Theresa School

Principal David Verdugo 808-337-1351
M-F, 7:30am-3:00pm sttheresakauai.com

Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Philippians 4:6

St. Paul reminds us that
God is an abundant God –
He is the ultimate giver of
gifts. He promises to give
us all that we need.

Remember, we are created
in God's image and
likeness. We, too, are
made to be generous with
all our gifts.

Placing our trust in God
frees us from being a slave
to possessions. It allows us
to gratefully and
generously share ourselves
and our goods with others.

~ Archdiocese of St. Louis



St. Theresa Church – Kekaha

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 7:45am Rosary, 8:30am Mass
Weekdays 6:30am Mon-Thu,
8:10am Fri (all are
welcome to the School
Mass each Friday)

Wed 6pm Rosary to Our Lady of
Fatima & Novena to OLPH

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm
with Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament & Benediction



Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary Church – Waimea

Sun 7am Mass
First Saturday Devotion to the
BVM 8-9am

Confessions

Saturdays at 4:30pm or call the
parish office to schedule an appt.

View the bulletin in color at
kekahacatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

† Mahalo for being as generous
as your means allow. †

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$2,263
Waimea \$1,247

Other Donations

Candles \$ 97.00
Catholic Campaign
for Human Dev. 30.00
Christmas 20.00
Cross We Share* 50.00
Filipino Catholic Club 264.00
Flowers 57.00
Immaculate Conception 923.00
Initial Offering 20.00
Kalua Pork 366.03
Maintenance Fund 50.00
Mass Intentions 10.00
Missalettes 92.00
Religious Art 8.00
Religious Education 40.00
Retirement Fund 1,778.00
Thanksgiving 100.00

God bless you!

*The Cross We Share goal of
\$30,000 has been met! Mahalo!
Campaign will end on Dec 31, 2024.

Gaudete means "rejoice"
in Latin.
Gaudete Sunday calls us to
rejoice in hope!

SCHOOL NEWS

Dec 20 Noon Dismissal
Dec 23 - Jan 6 Winter Break
Jan 20 No School
Jan 26 8:30am Family Mass
Jan 26 - Feb 1 Catholic Schools Week
Jan 31 No School

Take time to reflect, pray, and prepare for
the coming of the Savior by participating in
Misa de Gallo or "Rooster's Mass."
Join us at 5am Mass at St. Theresa Church
Mon, Dec 16 through Tue, Dec 24.

(There will be no 6:30am Mass on these days.)

"You know well enough that Our Lord does not look
so much at the greatness of our actions,
nor even at their difficulty,
but at the love with which we do them."

~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patron saint of St. Theresa Parish

Christmas 2024

Christmas Eve - Tue, Dec 24
6pm Family Mass at St. Theresa Church
8:30pm Mass at SHMC
11:15pm Christmas carols, followed by
Midnight Mass at St. Theresa Church
Christmas - Wed, Dec 25
9am Mass at St. Theresa Church



SAVE THE DATE

Adult Religious Education will be held on six Monday
evenings (no holidays) beginning at 6pm during
January & February 2025. Watch for details.

MINISTRY NEWS

K-12 Religious Education Classes meet Thursdays at 6:30pm.
No classes on Dec 26th.

Youth Ministry Grades 6-12 meet in the parish hall following
8:30am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Classes are held
in the parish hall at 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.
Revised schedule in January: classes on 8th & 22nd only.

Choir practice Thursdays at 4:30pm at STC. All are welcome.

* * **Lectors next weekend at STC** * *

Sat, Dec 21 at 5pm Judy B & Betsy J
Sun, Dec 22 at 8:30am Adele M & Sonia A