

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1–11 Mt 18:12–14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25–31 Mt 11:28–30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17–19 Mt 11:16–19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 Mt 17:9a, 10–13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zec 3:14–18a Phil 4:4–7 Lk 3:10–18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go “beyond” where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us.... Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds.... Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Baruch 5:1–9 / Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11 / Luke 3:1–6



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?



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

Our Lady
of
Guadalupe

Dec 12



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
Convalidation / 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

Evanglization 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

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

**And this is my prayer: that
your love may increase ever
more and more in knowledge
and every kind of perception,
to discern what is of value...**
Philippians 1:9-10

During the Christmas
shopping season, it is easy to
get caught up in the frenzy of
buying gifts.
Is that "gift" truly an
expression of your love for
the other person? Or are you
just fulfilling your
"obligation" to give them
something?

To grow in friendship with
someone, you need to spend
time with them and
learn what is of value to
them. Maybe this year, buy
less "stuff" and spend more
time with those you love.

~ 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 \$2,133
Waimea \$ 885

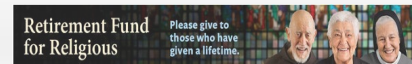
Other Donations

Candles \$ 42
Catholic Campaign
for Human Dev. \$ 52
Christmas \$ 155
Cross We Share* \$3,960
Flowers \$ 308
Immaculate Conception \$ 60
Kalua Pork \$ 260
Maintenance Fund \$ 30
Mass Intentions \$ 20
Missalettes \$ 88
Ohana In Christ \$3,000
Retirement Fund \$ 30
Thanksgiving \$1,687

God bless you!

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

Our second collection this weekend
will benefit . . .



Happy 9th
Ordination
Anniversary,
Deacon Ron!

God's blessings on
you and mahalo for
all you do in the
service of God.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Bishop Larry Silva has decreed the Solemnity
be celebrated this year as a
HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION in the Diocese of Honolulu.
Mass will be offered at St. Theresa Church on
Monday, December 9 at 6:30am and at 6:00pm.

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 for 5am Mass at St. Theresa's
Mon, Dec 16 through Tue, Dec 24.

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

Christmas schedule

Christmas Eve - Tue, Dec 24
6pm Family Mass at St. Theresa Church
8:30pm Mass at SHJC

Christmas - Wed, Dec 25
Midnight Mass at St. Theresa Church
9am Mass at St. Theresa Church



SAVE THE DATE

Adult Religious Education to 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 14 at 5pm Evelyn T & Charlene L
Sun, Dec 15 at 8:30am FCC members