

Dear Padre,

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Francis Xavier, Priest	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Second Sunday of Advent
Is 4:2–6	Is 11:1–10	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	Is 30:19–21, 23–26	Is 11:1–10
Mt 8:5–11	Lk 10:21–24	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8	Rom 15:4–9
						Mt 3:1–12



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 2:1–5 / Romans 13:11–14 / Matthew 24:37–44



Waiting, but Quick!

MIGUEL DULICK

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” The psalmist announces we are already there: “And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of “revelation” yet to come “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: “Be watchful! Be alert!” The Lord “is coming,” but he’s not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not “sleep,” lest we miss him!

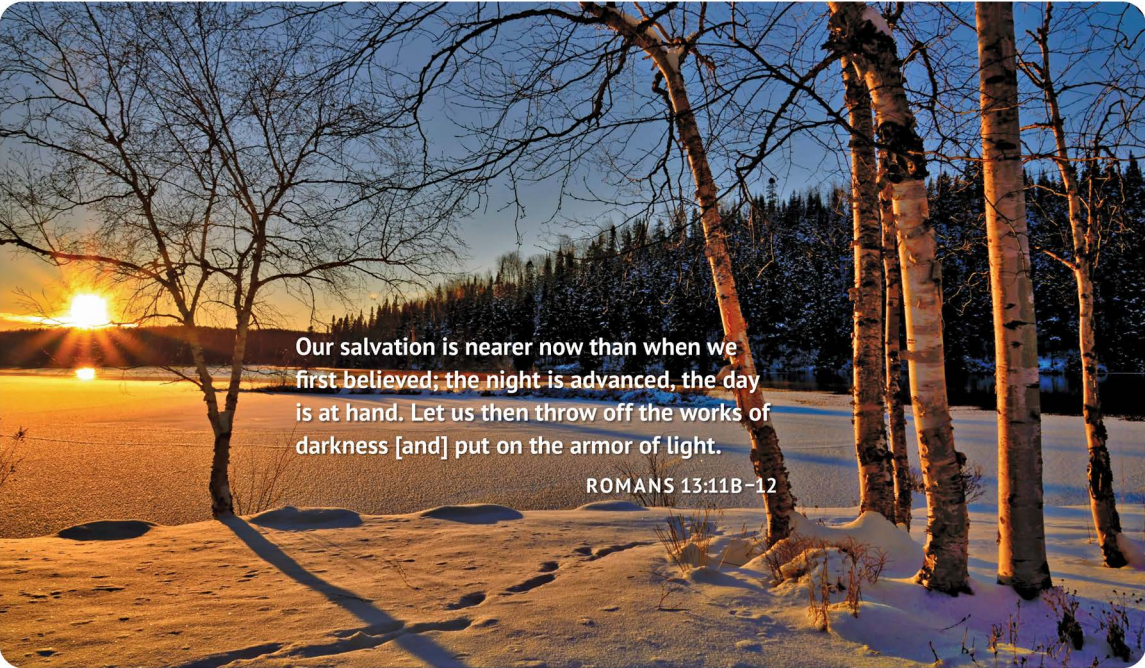
How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let’s keep waiting; let’s hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let’s not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately “anticipate” Christmas. Let’s cheer each other: Merry Advent! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

What can I do to prepare for Christmas mindfully, peacefully, and joyfully?



Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:11B–12



Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea



St. Theresa Parish

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



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



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

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 parish 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 Coordinators

Blu & 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

Wendy Souza, Principal
808-337-1351 sttheresakauai.com

Office hours M-F, 7:30am-3pm

HCH school articles

First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

Therefore, stay awake!
**For you do not know on
which day your Lord will
come. Matthew 24:42**

People who have had health
issues or near-death
experiences generally have a
greater appreciation for each
day being a gift from God.

The rest of us usually take
for granted that we will be
around tomorrow.

**But when you start to look
at each day as a gift, you
realize all the little miracles
that happen daily and you
begin to see God's active
presence in your life.**

You grow in gratitude,
each day, for all
that you've been given.

~Archdiocese of St. Louis



St. Theresa Church – Kekaha

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 7:45am Rosary

8:30am Mass

Mon-Thu 6:30am Mass

Fri 8:10am School Mass

Weekday Masses subject to change.

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

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm

with Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament &
Benediction

Confessions 4:30pm Saturday

(or call the parish office
for an appointment)



**Sacred Hearts of Jesus &
Mary Church – Waimea**

Sun 7am Mass

First Saturday Devotion to
the BVM 8-9am

View the bulletin online:
kekahacatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

✠ *Mahalo for being as generous as your
means allow. God bless you!* ✠

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$ 1,892

Waimea 1,217

Other Donations

Candles \$ 25

Cross We Share 210

Donation 9,000

Flowers 30

Mass Intentions 35

Thanksgiving 325

Youth – Luminaries 30

World Mission Sunday 5



Dec 5 1st Friday

Dec 6 1st Saturday

~ Spend an hour with Jesus & Mary ~



**Dec 8 The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary** is a Holy Day of
Obligation. Mass will be offered at 6:30am
and 6:00pm at St. Theresa Church.

ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

Dec 5 No School (Teacher Workday)

Dec 11 Spelling Bee (8:30am at STC)

Dec 19 Children's Christmas Program

MINISTRY NEWS

Religious Education classes are held every Thursday at 6:30pm at St. Theresa School.

Youth Ministry (grades 6-12) meets every 1st & 3rd Sunday after 8:30am Mass at the Parish Hall.

Choir practice is held Thursdays from 4:30 to 6pm at STC. Musicians and vocalists are welcome.



Kauai Vicariate Advent Reconciliation Services

All services begin at 6 p.m.



Mon., Dec. 1 St. Theresa Church
Tues., Dec. 2 Holy Cross Church
Wed., Dec. 3 St. Raphael Church
Thurs., Dec. 4 Immaculate Conception
Tues., Dec. 9 St. Catherine Church



*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the
Expected of nations and their Savior:
Come to save us, O Lord, our God!*

Ancient antiphon

Our Pope's intentions for December

"For Christians in areas of conflict"

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or
conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds
of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

**2025 Jubilee Year
Pilgrims of Hope**



PRAYER WARRIORS

Contact Chantal Duarte (808-634-0403 or
chantal_duarte@yahoo.com) and let our
Prayer Warriors pray for your special needs.