

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13	Gn 49:2, 8–10	Jer 23:5–8	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a	Is 7:10–14	Is 7:10–14
Mt 21:23–27	Mt 21:28–32	Mt 1:1–17	Mt 1:18–25	Lk 1:5–25	Lk 1:26–38	Rom 1:1–7
						Mt 1:18–24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025


Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts. Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



Sacred Hearts 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 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

Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025

**You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the
Lord is at hand. James 5:8**

Patience is another one of
those things many of us
struggle with.

We want things to go
according to our plan and
our schedule; we like things
to be convenient.

Any change brings
anxiety and fear.

**Through daily prayer
God reveals to us what
He wants us to do with
the gifts He has given us.**

We can better align
ourselves with God's will
and His plan, which is far
better than anything we can
come up with on our own.

~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 \$ 2,138.80

Waimea 1,304.00

Other Donations

Candles \$ 30

Cross We Share 505

Donations 1,000

Flowers 118

Immaculate Conception 562

Maintenance Fund 33

Mass Intentions 85

Missalette Donations 35

Thanksgiving 20



Eternal Rest wrap-up evening at STC on
Monday, Dec 15 from 6 to 7:30pm.

All are welcome to attend!

ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

Dec 18 Children's Christmas Program
(6pm at St. Theresa Church)

Dec 22 - Jan 5 Winter Break

JOIN US!

There will be a meeting for all
volunteers for our

Kiawe Chicken Fundraiser on
Monday, December 22 at 6pm
in the parish hall.

No task is too big when shared by all.

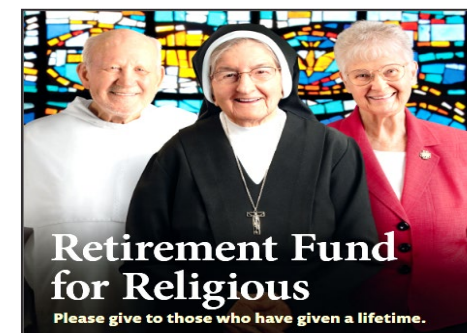
MINISTRY NEWS

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.

2nd collection THIS weekend



The Misa de Gallo novena at St. Theresa Church begins Dec 16 and ends Dec 24.

Mass will be celebrated each morning at 5am,
followed by a daily potluck gathering.



The weekend Mass schedule remains the same;
however, there will be no 6:30am daily Mass
during the novena.



Christmas Masses in Kekaha

Wed, Dec 24 at 6pm Family Mass

Thu, Dec 25 at 12:00am Midnight Mass

Thu, Dec 25 at 9:00am

Christmas Mass in Waimea

Wed, Dec 24 at 8:30pm

*** No Mass in Waimea on Christmas Day ***