

# Dear Padre,

*I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?*

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



INMBS

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



*I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen*

*to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

### Monday

December 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24–28  
Lk 14:6–56

### Tuesday

December 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Wednesday

December 24  
Advent Weekday  
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67–79

### Thursday

December 25  
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

### Friday

December 26  
St. Stephen, the First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Saturday

December 27  
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1–4  
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

### Sunday

December 28  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17  
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24



## Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

**I**t is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR MIGUEL DULICK

## Reflect

*How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?*



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21





**Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea**



# St. Theresa Parish

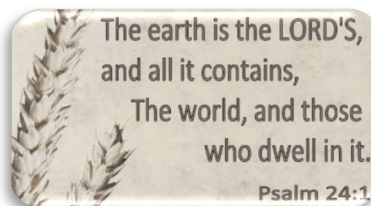
Established January 21, 1941  
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



**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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

**When Joseph awoke, he did  
as the angel of the Lord had  
commanded him and took  
his wife into his home.**

*Matthew 1:24*

Putting our complete trust in  
the Lord without expecting  
anything in return.

Striving to put God first in all  
things and follow Him  
wherever He may lead us.

Joseph was a model of these  
pillars of our faith.

**As we prepare for the  
birth of our Lord, pray for  
strength and courage  
to be a model of  
discipleship,  
just as Joseph was.**

*~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 \$ 2,039.15

Waimea 1,491.00

### Other Donations

Candles \$ 5

Christmas 200

Cross We Share 1,082

Flowers 105

Immaculate Conception 904

Maintenance Fund 110

Mass Intentions 125

Retirement Fund for Religious 2,062

Thanksgiving 30



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PARISH OFFICE is closed

Dec 24 & 25 for Christmas,  
and Dec 31 & Jan 1 for New Year's.

## ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

**Dec 22 - Jan 5 Winter Break**

## JOIN US TOMORROW!

There will be a meeting for all  
volunteers for our

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

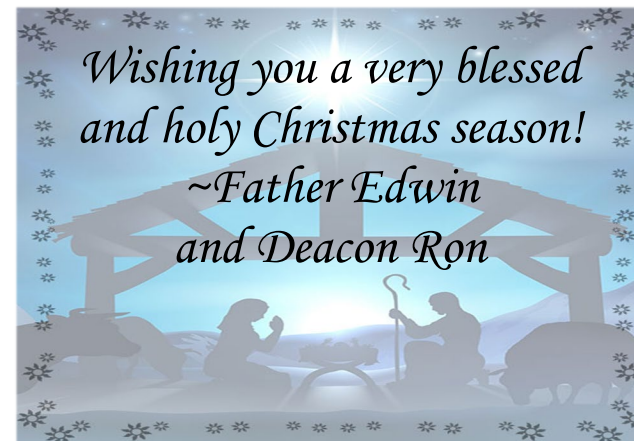
*No task is too big when shared by all.*

## MINISTRY NEWS

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

**Youth Ministry** (grades 6-12) meets every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**The Misa de Gallo novena continues at  
St. Theresa Church with 5am Mass  
each morning, ending on Dec 24.**



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 \***