

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. “We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives” (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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



AMY STOUT / CATHOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

December 29
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

Tuesday

December 30
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12–17
Lk 2:36–40

Wednesday

December 31
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

Thursday

January 1
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21

Friday

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

Saturday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29–3:6
Jn 1:29–34

Sunday

January 4
The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 / Colossians 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 / Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

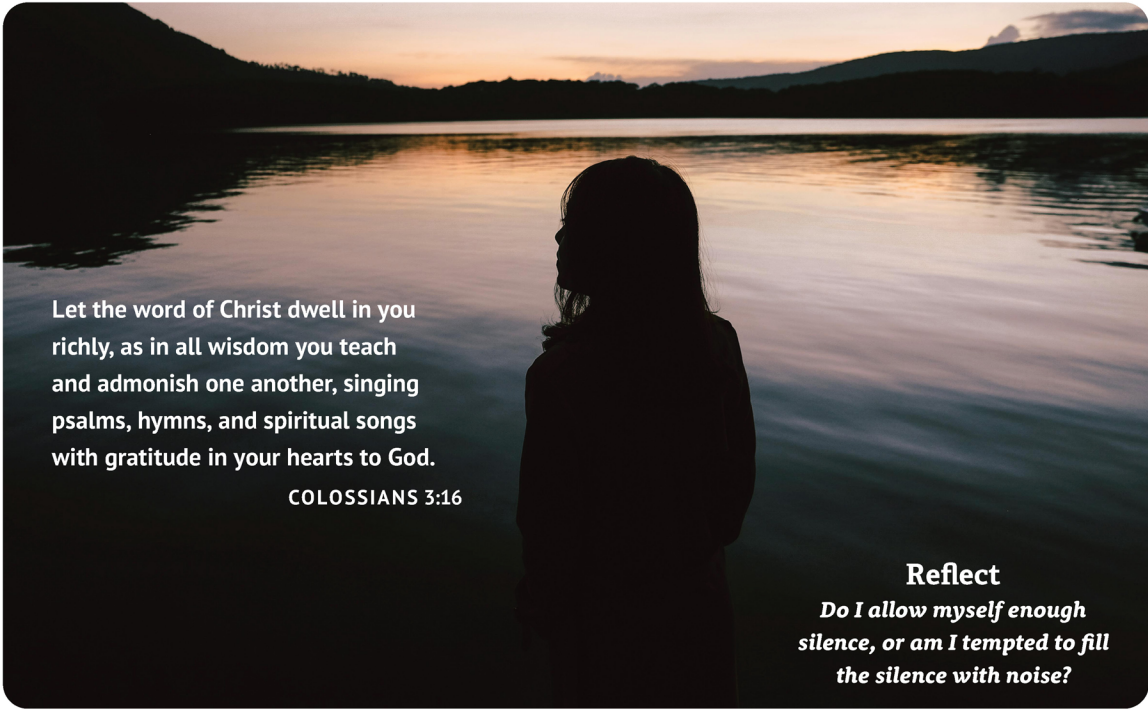
ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: “Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One.” Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR ANN M. GARRIDO



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect
Do I allow myself enough silence, or am I tempted to fill the silence with noise?



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

*Blessed are those
who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.*

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 28, 2025

*And whatever you do, in
word or in deed, do
everything in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through
him. Colossians 3:17*

Giving thanks to God and
using our words and actions
to give all glory to God is the
foundation of living a
stewardship lifestyle.

We were made in God's
image and likeness.

Gratitude and generosity is
in our DNA. As beloved sons
and daughters of God, we
are all part of God's family.

Using our gifts to help others
is our gift back to God, helps
grow the Body of Christ here
on earth, and establishes a
pathway to Heaven for each
of us.

~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 \$ 1,928
Waimea 762

Other Donations

Candles \$ 135
Christmas 230
Cross We Share 135
Donation 50
Flowers 25
Immaculate Conception 65
Maintenance Fund 1,258
Marriages 500
Mass Intentions 90
Misa de Gallo – Candles 1,737
Misa de Gallo – Masses 1,445
Retirement Fund for Religious 82



NEW YEAR'S DAY – JAN 1, 2026 9am Mass at St. Theresa Church

The start of a new year is a great time to
reflect on the past year and set goals for
the new one. And that practice has Biblical
roots – in Scripture, we see Jesus
retreating from His disciples to spend time
with God (Luke 5:16), and we also see the
importance of having vision for the future
(Proverbs 29:18).

ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS Dec 22 - Jan 5 Winter Break

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.



PARISH OFFICE will be
closed Dec 31 & Jan 1

Six weeks of Saints begins Mon, Jan 5 from
5 to 7pm at the home of Dcn Ron & Betsy Jones.
Our first saint is Kateri Tekakwitha.

GET INVOLVED!

Planning in is progress for our annual
Kiawe Chicken Fundraiser
(to be held Sat, Feb 7, 2026)

Have you been involved in the past?...always
wanted to be involved but never could?

Won't you join us in 2026?

We need all hands to make this a
successful parish fundraiser.
Sell tickets, buy tickets, set-up, tear-down, prep,
cook, assist at the drive-thru...
All your donated time is precious to us! Mahalo.

Jan 2 - First Friday at St Theresa Church 6pm
Jan 3 - First Saturday at SHJMC 8am