

# Dear Padre,

## Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Gn 3:9–15, 20	Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Is 41:13–20	Zec 2:14–17	Sir 48:1–4, 9–11	Is 35:1–6a, 10
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12	Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Mt 11:11–15	or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab	Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Jas 5:7–10
Lk 1:26–38	<b>Do you have a question for the Padre?</b>					
	Go to <b>DearPadre.org</b> to send your question and to learn more about <b>Dear Padre</b> .					



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



## Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

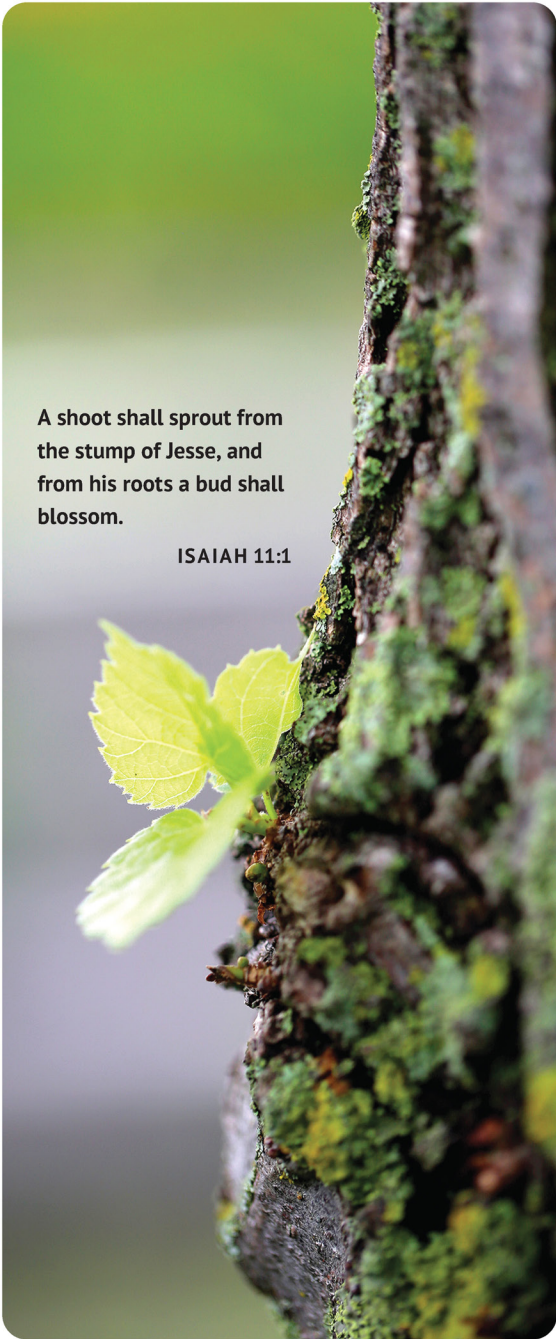
**T**oday’s first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: “The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low” (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the “mighty” who make great noise when they fall. “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees,” echoes John the Baptist in today’s gospel. If we are looking for where God’s Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

### Reflect

*Are my eyes open to the small signs of God’s work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?*







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

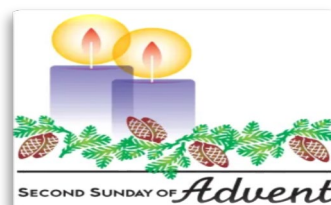


# St. Theresa Parish

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*

## Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

**Therefore, every tree that  
does not bear good fruit will  
be cut down and thrown  
into the fire. Matthew 3:10**

Do you bear good fruit  
for Jesus?

Do you spend **time** in prayer,  
or do you waste time with  
mindless activity?

Do you use your **talent**  
to help others,  
or are you too busy?

Do you use your **treasure**  
to support the Church,  
or do you buy more things  
that go unused?

**Our time, talent, and  
treasure are gifts from God.**  
What we do with these gifts  
is our gift back to Him.

*What gifts are you planning  
to give to the Lord during this  
upcoming Christmas season?*

~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](http://kekahacatholic.com)

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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

### Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$ 1,572.40  
Waimea 941.00

### Other Donations

Candles	\$ 53.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	10.00
Cross We Share	315.00
Donation	5,000.00
Flowers	242.00
Maintenance Fund	1,358.50
Mass Intentions	115.00
Missalette Donations	75.00
Thanksgiving	2,010.00

✠



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

The final **Kauai Vicariate Advent  
Reconciliation Service** will be  
at 6pm on Tue, Dec 9  
at St. Catherine Church in Kapa'a.

## **ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS**

**Dec 11** Spelling Bee (8:30am at STC)  
**\*Dec 18\*** 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 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> collection **NEXT** weekend  
to support.....



## 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.

## **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.

## **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