

# Dear Padre,

*I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?*

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren’t successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It’s because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Let us resolve to bring [God’s] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOLIC

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

### Monday

January 5  
St. John Neumann,  
Bishop  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6  
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

### Tuesday

January 6  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:7–10  
Mk 6:34–44

### Wednesday

January 7  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:11–18  
Mk 6:45–52

### Thursday

January 8  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4  
Lk 4:14–22a

### Friday

January 9  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:5–13  
Lk 5:12–16

### Saturday

January 10  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:14–21  
Jn 3:22–30

### Sunday

January 11  
The Baptism  
of the Lord  
Is 42:1–4, 6–7  
Acts 10:34–38  
Mt 3:13–17

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 4, 2026

*The Epiphany of the Lord (A)*

Isaiah 60:1–6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12



“We saw his star at its rising and  
have come to do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:2

# Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●

## Reflect

*How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?*



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



**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

## The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

**Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11**

*The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day.*

*In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose.*

*God wants you to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.*

~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 \$ 1,937  
Waimea 1,028

### Other Donations

Candles \$ 30  
Christmas 6,284  
Cross We Share 1,665  
Initial Offering 15  
Maintenance Fund 87  
Mass Intentions 165  
Misa de Gallo – Candles 665  
Misa de Gallo – Masses 766  
Share the Faith 5  
Veneration of Baby Jesus 193



## GET INVOLVED!

Our annual Kiawe Chicken Fundraiser will be held Sat, **Feb 7, 2026** (that's Superbowl weekend!)

It takes all of us to be successful. Sell and/or buy tickets, help set-up and/or tear-down tents & tables, prep and/or cook chicken, or assist at the drive thru.

Six weeks of Saints begins Mon, **Jan 5** from 5 to 7pm at the home of Dcn Ron & Betsy Jones. This week we will study *St. Kateri Tekakwitha*, the first Native American to be recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church.

## ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

Jan 6 Classes resume

Happy 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Father Edwin!  
We appreciate all that you do for our parish and wish God's blessings upon you for many years to come. Mahalo!



## Pope Leo's January Intentions

*For prayer with the Word of God*

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## PRAYER WARRIORS

Contact Chantal Duarte (808-634-0403 or [chantal\\_duarte@yahoo.com](mailto:chantal_duarte@yahoo.com)) and let our Prayer Warriors pray for your special needs.

## 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.