



# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## A Stewardship Parish

Established July 5, 1840

Missions: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u

Parish Office/St. Michael's Church Address: 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

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Office Hours: Monday 10am—5pm ~ Tue/Thurs 8:30am—2:30pm ~ Wed/Fri 8:30am—5pm

Website: [stmichaelparishkona.org](http://stmichaelparishkona.org)

December 15, 2019

## Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I – **Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10** | Psalm – **146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

Reading II – **James 5:7-10** | Gospel – **Matthew 11:2-11**



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### Reason to Rejoice

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and “the coming of the Lord.” But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical

environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today's first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God's saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah's prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus' presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: “The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Matthew 11:5).

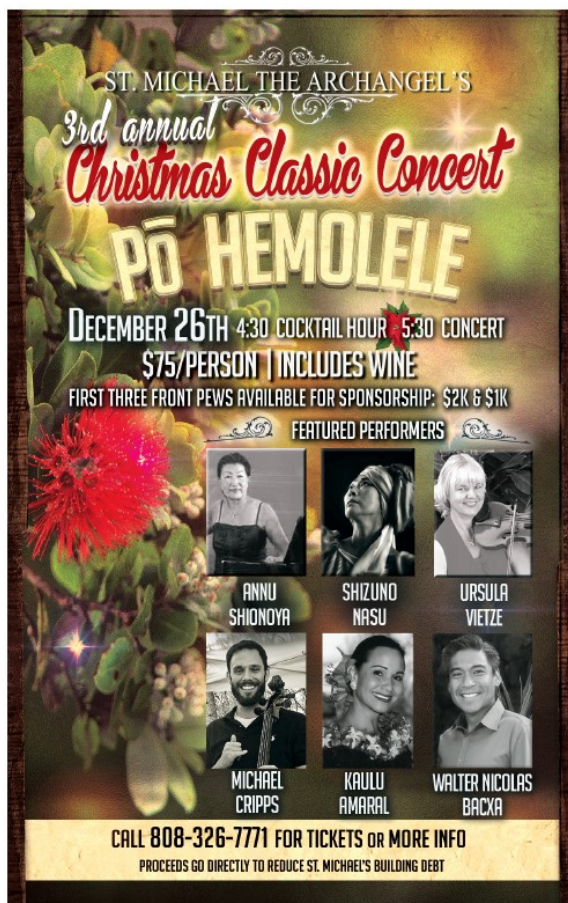
—Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

**“...[T]he dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them’ (Matthew 11:5).”**

### Next Week's Readings

Reading I – **Isaiah 7:10-14** | Psalm – **24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6**

Reading II – **Romans 1:1-7** | Gospel – **Matthew 18-24**



## Life of Stewardship

Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

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## Mahalo, Faafetai, Dziekuje, Choukrane, Grazie, Danke

Mahalo Nui Loa to Suzanne Bearth and her fabulous team of volunteers for hosting a wonderful tea for Mary. To all the people who helped make this tea extra special including TJ Moses, Maria, her son, Cheryl and Zola for their help in setting up and clean up.

## Faith Formation

### Faith Formation—Grades K-5

Congratulations to the following children in Margaret Essex's second grade class who made their first Reconciliation at the recent Communal Penance Service: Isabella Almonte-Ibarra, Eizaiah Rafol, Saige Kahihikolo, Nicole Olsen, Raynen Obedoza and Gabriel Gomes. These children will now spend the spring semester preparing to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Today, all classes did a lesson on Christmas. The third grade class made Nativity scenes after visiting the Nativity outside our church. All families are encouraged to do the same!

Today is the last class for 2019. No class on December 22nd and December 29th. Classes will resume January 5th.

### Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism will be offered for infants and children under the age of 7 on **Sunday, January 26th**. The preparation class will take place on Sunday, January 19th at 1:30pm at St. Michael's Church. Please pick up the registration form and submit it. It can be obtained on the website, in the Parish Office, or on the kiosk. We also need a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.

Please prepare to submit as soon as possible. There are always questions about godparents that are a challenge to resolve. We will do everything possible to help you make this a blessed day for your family. Feel free to call **Cheryl Appleby** on **Tuesday** at the parish office: 326-7771 with questions; however, if we fail to receive the information prior to January 22nd, we will delay your Baptism until later in the year.

## Parish News

### Social Justice: Global Solidarity

Letter of Thanks:

*"Dear Fr. Lio: Once again, many thanks for your continued support to the charitable projects here in the Philippines. People here are so grateful for the donations coming from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Kona. On behalf of all the indigent recipients, a warm mahalo to all of the parishioners who shared their treasure. [The total amount donated to the Global Solidarity collection was \$6,500.45.] May the Lord shower you all with abundant blessings!*

*God bless – Lito & Sol Ilagan"*

REV. KONELIO FALETOI  
Pastor

REV. NOÉ ACOSTA PÉREZ  
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SHIRLEY DAVID  
Pastoral Council Chair

DAVE BATEMAN  
Finance Council Chair

SHARMAYNE NAONE  
Stewardship Council Chair

ROBERT LEOPOLDINO  
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

TJ MOSES  
Liturgy Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH  
Funeral Ministry

PAULETTE ADAMS  
Wedding Coordinator

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SUSAN BENDER  
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BRENDA NELSON  
Parish Receptionist/Bulletin  
bnelson@rcchawaii.org

## WEEKDAY MASSES

### ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Monday thru Saturday – 7am  
Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri – 12noon

CONFESSIONS—Saturday – 9—9:30am  
(or by appointment: 326-7771)

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

### ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saturday – 5pm; Sunday – 7am / 9am / 4pm  
12noon -Spanish / 6:00pm -Spanish

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday – 8am

### HOLY ROSARY

Sunday – 10am

## St. Michael's Bazaar a Success!

Mahalo to all the people who generously donated to our Bazaar. A special Mahalo to all the folks who gave their kokua with setting up, taking down, cleaning, and sales.

**Bob & Doris Sanborn, Stanley & Carol Macatiag, Jo Ann Dunn, Joretta Young, Reba-Mae Silva, Rayleen Ota, Russel Ciriako, Mary Lynn Garner, Kathy Punsalan, Pocho Youderian, Brandon Rogalski, Tommy Duarte, Sharmayne Naone, Merry Lopez, Ellie Lomax, Joshua Sasaki, Paul Abaire, Crystal Peters, Anthony Mo, Eric Mo, and TJ Moses.**

**\$4,817.44** was raised for our Building Debt Reduction. Thank You All for supporting this event!

—Renee-Mae Ota, Bazaar Chair

## Sharing Garden

The Sharing Garden volunteer team and Father Lio were happy to continue our Thanksgiving tradition by sharing fruits and vegetables from the garden with the parishioners who provide our financial support. Over 500 pounds were made available and all was taken. Also, we like to thank those parishioners who contributed additional items from their own gardens.

## Malama Na Keiki

The Malama Na Keiki (Backpack Program) was surprised this month when the staff at Holualoa School informed us that they have received a donor grant of various food items already sorted and bagged to be distributed by our program. Enough food was provided to meet our needs for one weekend delivery. Holualoa School staff continue to look for ways to support our program, for which we are grateful.

## Food Pantry

Thanks to Jeff Takiue, principal of Holualoa Elementary, who agreed to change the school's assembly schedule so that it does not conflict with our Wednesday distributions. November was a busy month for us as we were able to help 508 people from 98 households.

However, since we are getting to the end of the year the Food Pantry is in dire need of monetary donations.

## Parish Calendar

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

- Church cleaning, SM: 7:30—9am
- Grounds maintenance, SM: 7:30am
- Confessions, St. Michael's: 9—9:30am
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 3:30—6:30pm
- Wdg ceremony—Smidt, Jr., & Johnson, St. Peter's: 3:30pm
- Mass, SM: 4pm due to Christmas Parade

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

#### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 6:30—11:30am
- Simbang Gabi Mass, SM: 9am

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Seniors Young @ Heart—Gospel study/reflection; Bingo; light refreshments, IC Hall: 10am—12pm
- Church cleaning, SM: 6pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass, SM: 6pm

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

- Talk Story, SM Lanai: 7:30am
- Finance Council mtg., SM office: 5:30pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass, SM: 6pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

- Adoration, SM: 7:30am—5pm
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Boy Scouts meeting, IC Hall: 5:30—8pm
- Benediction, St. Michael's: 5pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass, SM: 6pm

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

- Communion Service, Life Care Center: 9:30am
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Hin & Sally Bible Study, IC Hall: 10—11:30am
- Simbang Gabi Mass, SM: 6pm
- Liturgical Scripture Study, IC Hall: 6:15—7:45pm

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

- Food Pantry Open, IC parking lot: 9—9:45am
- Gift Shop open, SM: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass followed by dinner, SM: 5pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

- Church cleaning, SM: 7:30—9am
- Grounds maintenance, SM: 7:30am
- Confessions, St. Michael's: 9—9:30am
- Wdg Mass, Morales & Enriques, SM: 2pm
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 3:30—6:30pm

The Food Pantry will be *open on Friday, December 20th from 9—9:45am*. It will not be open on Christmas Day.

## Keep Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus will be selling *Keep Christ in Christmas* magnets after Masses. Suggested donation is \$5.00 and the proceeds go to The Friendly Place.

## Save your KTA receipts

Thelma Bacxa is collecting KTA



receipts to purchase Turkey's and Ham's for 3 needy organizations for Christmas: ***Ulu Wini, Family Support, and the Women's Domestic Abuse Shelter.*** Please put your KTA receipts (from Nov 29th—Dec 24th) in an envelope and put in the box on the kiosks. If you would like to donate a Turkey or Ham, please bring to St. Michael's Church the Sunday **before** Christmas (**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**). See Thelma before or after Mass.

## Simbang Gabi Masses

Our Filipino Community will again host the Simbang Gabi Mass celebrations, including hanging of the Parols. The Mass schedule: ***Sunday, December 15th, 9am; Monday, December 16th through Friday, December 20th, 6pm; Saturday, December 21st, 5pm [followed by a Potluck Dinner on the lanai—all are invited!]; Sunday, December 22nd, 9am; and concludes Monday, December 23rd, 7am.***

## Office Christmas Schedule

The Office will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday, December 24th, and on Wednesday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 31st and on January 1st** in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses and Christmas Day Masses at St. Michael's:

**Christmas Eve (Tue-Dec 24th)**  
**6pm / 8pm / 10pm**

**Christmas Day (Wed-Dec 25th)**  
**7am / 9am / 12pm (Spanish)**

There will also be Masses at our Mission Churches on **Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th:**

**Immaculate Conception: 8am**  
**Holy Rosary: 10am**

## 3rd Annual Christmas Concert—Po Hemolele

St. Michael the Archangel will hold our ***3rd Annual Christmas Classic Concert "Po Hemolele" on Thursday, December 26th.***

Please join us for this fantastic fundraiser, in which 100% of all proceeds go to reduce our building fund debt. Check in will **begin at 4:30pm** with wonderful wines and cheeses before the perfor-

mance. The concert will be from 5:30—6:30pm. Highly acclaimed musicians will perform Christmas Classics including *Pianist Annu Shionoya, Violinist Ursula Vietze, Cellist Michael Cripps, Dancer Shizuno Nasu and our own Walter Nicolas Bacxa and the hula ministry.* Coffee and sweets will be served following the concert.

Seating is limited. General tickets are \$75 per person and will *sell out to the first 300 registrants. The first three pews have sold out.* Don't wait to purchase your tickets. Tickets will be sold after today's Masses at St. Michael's or can be purchased by calling the Parish Office at **808-326-7771**. If purchasing tickets in the Parish Office ***we only take exact cash or checks.*** Make your check out to St. Michael's.

## A Tax Reminder

Think of your Church when you are making your end of year tax free contributions. **Important Notice:** To ensure the deductibility of your Church contributions, *please do not file your 2019 Tax Return until you've received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the Church.* You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment from us.

## Email & Text Scams

Parishioners have received emails and texts from someone pretending to be Fr. Lio that include a solicitation for money, gift cards, etc. Please know that the Fr. Lio **NEVER** sends out messages of this nature and that any such request should be ignored and deleted. Fr. Lio does not have email. This is a problem facing pastors nationwide. Also, these solicitations do not feature our priests true contact information. We are blessed with many generous and devout parishioners and do not want anyone to be taken advantage of. Mahalo!

## Marriage Encounter

When you care enough to give the very best...give yourself and your spouse a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekend in West Hawaii is set for: ***January 24—26, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church in***

## Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

- 5pm—John C. Schroettner, deceased, birthday remembrance

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**  
**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 7am—Alice Merenda, deceased
- 8am (IC)—Jessica Berry, for healing & strength
- 9am—Pham Van Nam Juse & Diong Hien Tuan, deceased
- 10am (HR)—Steve Cheney, for healing
- 12noon (Spanish)—
- 4pm—Danny & Agnes Montesa, 43rd wedding anniversary blessings!
- 6pm (Spanish)—

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

- 7am—Fred & Dominica Claravall, 58th wedding anniversary blessings!
- 12noon—Raymond Gouveia, for healing

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**

- 7am—Robert Vogel, deceased
- 12noon—Raymond Gouveia, for healing

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**

- 7am—Steve Cheney, for healing

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**

- 7am—
- 12noon—Epi Guillen, deceased, may she rest in peace

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

- 7am—Jack Browne, deceased
- 12noon—Tom Hering, deceased

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**

- 7am—Christopher Pesta, deceased

## Requesting a Mass

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**. If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, **call well in advance of the date to secure it. Mass cards are available.**

## Important Phone Numbers

**Catholic Charities-Hawaii:**  
Kona - 331-4673 / Hilo - 961-7050  
Care Hawaii: 800-753-6879  
**Domestic Abuse Shelter:** 322-SAFE (7233)  
**The Friendly Place:** 464-0032  
**Habitat for Humanity ReStore:** 331-8010  
**HeleOn Bus:** 961-8744  
**HOPE Services:** 933-6013  
**Human Trafficking:** Suzanna Tiapula,  
**Big Island Prosecuting Atty:** 961-0466  
**The Salvation Army:** (808) 326-2330  
**Office of Veterans' Services:** (808) 933-0315  
**Neighborhood Place of Kona:** 808-331-8777

**Holualoa.** For more info or to apply, go to [hawaiiwwme.org](http://hawaiiwwme.org) or call 808-268-1578.

## Denny's Restaurant

The co-owner of Denny's Restaurant, Ali Sahito, has graciously offered to donate **20% of your total bill** from Denny's to St. Michael's Church. Bring your receipts to St. Michael's and place in the metal box attached to each kiosk.

## Smile.Amazon

When shopping for Christmas gifts, birthday's, anniversaries, etc., please use the link below to register your Amazon account with *Amazon Smile* to help benefit St. Michael's every time you shop! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/364686125>

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ **3rd Annual Christmas Concert—Po Hemolele:** Thursday, December 26th at 4:30pm at St. Michael's.
- ♦ **Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** Friday, January 24th—Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church in Holualoa.

## Youth Corner

Thank you to all who donated and helped with our Holiday celebration at the Affordable Housing Project at Ulu Wini on Saturday December 14th. The meal of pork n peas, kalua pork n cabbage and rice was loved by all and the families took home any leftovers. The children enjoyed teaming up with our Youth to decorate stockings to hang for Santa and creating their own personal Christmas cookie and treats to devour. The hoodies donated were given to the most in need and they thank you all very much.

A big thank you to our Knights of Columbus for their generous donation for our outreach ministry.

Our next **class is on Friday January 10th.** Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and blessed New Year celebration!

For more information contact **Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Ministry Coordinator**, [efujimoto@rcchawaii.org](mailto:efujimoto@rcchawaii.org) or 808-895-7105.

## Catholic Update

### Treasures From Our Tradition

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide-eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in-between moments of forgiveness and affirmation.

Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven.

## Stewardship of Treasure

December 7th —December 8th, 2019

TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$25,511.42
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR OPERATIONS	\$17,991.30
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	+7,520.12
2ND COLLECTION: DEBT REDUCTION	\$98,836.71
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,396.20
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	+\$93,440.51
MORTGAGE BALANCE AS OF 11/19/19	\$671,315.91
MONTHLY PAYMENT	
PRINCIPAL ONLY PAYMENT	\$134,627.44
INTEREST ACCRUED	\$3,081.24
MORTGAGE BALANCE 12/10/2019	\$539,769.71

## Sacraments

**ANointing OF THE SICK AND HOSPITAL & HOME COMMUNION** - Call the parish office at 326-7771 to make arrangements.

**INFANT BAPTISM DATES AT ST. MICHAEL'S—Sunday**—Next Baptisms will be on **Sunday, January 26th at 7am and/or 9am; Class on Sunday, January 19th at 1:30pm.** Register online.

Both parents and both godparents **must** attend.

**MARRIAGE** - Preparation begins six months before the wedding date. Call the parish office for an information packet and to make arrangements for an initial interview with the priest. Please do not lock in a wedding date until you have spoken to the priest first.

**FUNERALS** - Call the parish office before consulting with a funeral director/mortuary.

**HOME, CAR OR BUILDING BLESSINGS** - Please contact the office to schedule a blessing of your *Home, Car or Building.*

## Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving**—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy—visit [stmichaelparishkona.org](http://stmichaelparishkona.org) and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish bank account.

Or visit <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1837>

## Food Pantry

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at Immaculate Conception parking lot from 9—9:45am. Bring your bag.

en: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Saint John Of The Cross

(c. 1542-1591) December 14

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such “seasons of the soul,” an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Ávila for her Discalced (“barefoot,” evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from *The Dark Night of the Soul* through *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* to his *Spiritual Canticle* and *The Living Flame of Love*. John summarized his spirituality simply: “Put love where there is no love, and you will find love.”

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Advent is a perfect time to ponder St. Joseph

Since the events surrounding Jesus' birth manifest the crux of our knowledge about St. Joseph in Scripture, the Advent/Christmas cycle is a perfect time to ponder his witness.

Though we do not know many details about him directly from Scripture, much can be inferred about him from what we do know. The litany of St. Joseph is a great place to get to know his characteristics. Among other things, it identifies St. Joseph as “most just.”

The justice on display in a figure like St. Joseph is often missing from today's world. He offers a witness upon which we should meditate to learn the ways of God, who was fully alive in him.

To live as a man of justice, St. Joseph needed to be a man of faith, hope and charity. Take for instance the situation in which he found himself — betrothed to a young woman pregnant with a child not his own.

The justice of his day would have expected St. Joseph to abandon the young woman. More than that, it would have demanded the young woman be killed. While it's clear he wrestled about what to do, St. Joseph's action was definitive. He moved forward with his plans to welcome Mary into his home.

In God's justice, St. Joseph's heart was open to the truth. But this required great faith from him. The reality that Mary was expecting God's own son was something that defied human

knowledge and reason. To embrace Mary in this vulnerable state opened up St. Joseph to vulnerability as well.

St. Joseph's faith informed his hope that God would provide for him because he was doing what was right, what was just. He knew it could cost him greatly, and for all we know it might have. That would only make sense according to the Christian logic of obedience and sacrifice. Consider what ramifications could flow from this small-town carpenter's acceptance and protection of a woman most believed was an adulterer.

It was primarily a heart full of love that enabled St. Joseph to endure whatever difficulty might come his way. He loved God above all and wanted to accept his role in God's plan for the salvation of mankind. In love, he laid down his life for his beloved Mary and the divine Son she bore.

I often find myself imagining I was in St. Joseph's shoes. So many situations of life present similar circumstances like he faced. The qualities of his life should be those appropriated by anyone who wants to follow Jesus more closely. When life's darkest moments hover around us — akin to the dark days of December's Advent season — we can ask St. Joseph to help us. We can turn to his example for strength to persevere. We should desire and seek to emulate his faith, hope and love. In meditating on the life and witness of St. Joseph we can learn a fundamental truth described by St. Paul: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8: 28).

—by Michael R. Heinlein; *simplycatholic.com*

## Waiting And Hoping

The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close and divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred.

We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of god's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ. —© 2019, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc. 12/15/2019





**808-327-1474**  
Auto Body, Inc.

This could be your bulletin ad.  
Call Brenda in the Parish Office  
at 326-7771 for more  
information.

## Real Estate Sales



**Lovette Liantos**  
Managing Broker  
RB-21663  
(808) 938-3910  
Lovette@GonnaLove-It.com

I donate a portion of my commission  
to St. Michael's Church on behalf of  
my clients.

Venture | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Please pray for our son Arrion as he studies at  
St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA  
pursuing his calling to become a Catholic Priest.

## AD SPACE AVAILABLE

Contact Brenda Nelson in the Parish  
Office at 808-326-7771.

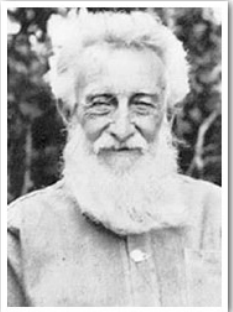


### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Private Property Patrol
- Business Property Patrol
- Concerts & Shows
- On-Call Services
- Heavy Equipment Escort
- Body Guard Services

**Brian Tavares, OWNER**

Cell: 895-5029  
OFFICE: 808-895-8343  
FAX: 808-217-9560  
vikingservices@hawaii.rr.com



Please help  
promote the  
cause of Brother  
Joseph Dutton  
for Veneration.

75-5822 Neke Place  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
ddresie@hawaii.rr.com

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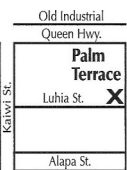
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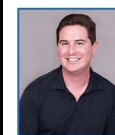
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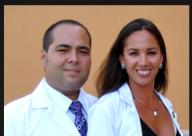
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