

# 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

Email Address: [stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org](mailto:stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org)

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

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

December 8, 2019

## Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I – **Isaiah 11:1-10** | Psalm – **72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**

Reading II – **Romans 15:4-9** | Gospel – **Matthew 3:1-12**



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### The Long-Awaited One

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the Scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to His historical birth. Today's Scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by

divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (*Matthew 3:11*) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets.

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***"The Baptist's message about preparation for 'the one who is coming' makes clear that Jesus is...the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age."***

### Next Week's Readings

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**

## Life of Stewardship

On this Second Sunday of Advent, our Second Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This is the essence of Christian hospitality, a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist, in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." There is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality.

How can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives? We can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers, thanking God for the times we said "yes" to Him, and asking forgiveness for the times we chose our own will. We can, and should, go to Confession this Advent. We can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

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

Mahalo Nui Loa to *Ernie Torres, Robert Smith, Tony Ambut, Kathy Gedeon, Thomas Duarte, Kenneth Takaki & Lou Retia, Ben Cuaresma, Sharmayne Naone, Luku & Lehua & Family, Kyle & Ali'i Youderian, Nicole Lui, Ivan Toguchi, Stan Haanio & Fr. Lio* for helping build the Nativity Hale at St. Michael's.

## Catholic Social Teaching

We have referred to the issue of Sex Trafficking on the Big Island. Many hands and hearts look for positive ways to defeat what appears to be a growing problem. At this time, we regard prayer as the best first defense we can offer. At noon each Wednesday during Adoration, a group of variable size recite the Station of the Cross. The Stations are Scriptural in nature and were written by Bishop Silva. His goal is to pray for the safety of victims of both sex and agricultural trafficking. If only occasionally, please join. The ministry leader is Karen Unger.

## Nuclear Weapons Treaty

Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons has been clear since St. John XXIII wrote in *Pacem in Terris* that "nuclear weapons must be banned" (no.112). This teaching has been reaffirmed by each of his successors, most recently by Pope Francis on his visits to Nagasaki and Hiroshima, where he followed in the footsteps of St. John Paul II.

## Faith Formation

### Faith Formation—Grades K-5

The 4th Graders have learned more about God's promise to us! My students planted seeds to add to God's many creations of the world. We also learned more about the liturgical year: Ordinary Time, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. They learned of the different things we do during those specific seasons, such as giving something up for Lent. For Thanksgiving, my students, alongside the Kindergarten & 1st Grade, created a wreath that said what we were thankful for. After creating the wreath we gave it to Cynthia Taylor. In the coming weeks, we look forward to preparing ourselves for the Advent and Christmas season!

—Mina Agdeppa

## 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

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL'S  
3rd Annual  
**Christmas Classic Concert**  
**PO HEMOLELE**  
DECEMBER 26TH 4:30 COCKTAIL HOUR 5:30 CONCERT  
\$75/PERSON (INCLUDES WINE)  
FIRST THREE FRONT PEWS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP: \$2K & \$1K

FEATURED PERFORMERS

ANNU SHIONOYA SHIZUNO NASU URSULA VIETZE  
MICHAEL CRIPPS KAULU AMARAL WALTER NICOLAS BACKA

CALL 808-326-7771 FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFO  
PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO REDUCE ST. MICHAEL'S BUILDING DEBT

REV. KONELIO FALETOI  
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## 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

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.

## Congratulations to Andrew

On Sunday–December 1st, *Andrew*, our 7am Altar Server, came into full communion with the Catholic Church. Andrew is now a fully initiated Catholic. We celebrate this joyful occasion with him, his parents, his grandparents, and all those who helped him on this journey.

## Parish News

### Rite of Acceptance Into the Catechumenate

The following RCIA Candidates received the Rite of Acceptance: *Debra Gibert, Heidy Luwaler, Janely Cisneros Ruiz, and Alexis Regalado Gomez.*

### Retirement Fund for Religious

Today we take up a special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

Envelopes have been inserted in the bulletins. Please make checks out to “*St. Michael’s*” and write “*RFR*” on the memo line. Please be generous.

### Keep Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Keep Christ in Christmas magnets after Masses again this year. If you misplaced yours, or would like to pick some up as gifts, stop by their table outside. Suggested donation is \$5.00 and the proceeds will benefit *The Friendly Place Mission*.

### Save Your KTA Receipts

If you have any receipts from KTA

## Parish Calendar

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

- 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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

#### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 6:30—11:30am
- New Parishioner Orientation & Lunch, SM: 1:30—3pm

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

- The Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Masses, SM: 7am, 12pm & 6pm (Spanish), Immaculate Conception Church: 5pm
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 9:30am—1:30pm
- No Seniors Young @ Heart
- Rosary & Mary's Tea, SM: 12:30—3pm
- Church cleaning, SM: **daytime only**
- Knights of Columbus mtg, SM 2nd Floor: 6pm
- Franciscans' Gathering, SM: 6—9pm
- Spanish Mass, & Novena & Rosary, SM: 6pm

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

- Talk Story, SM Lanai: 7:30am
- Penance Service, Annunciation: 6pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

- Adoration, SM: 7:30am—5:45pm
- Food Pantry, IC parking lot: 9—9:45am
- Gift Shop open, SM Lanai: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Boy Scouts meeting, IC Hall: 5:30—8pm
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Advent Retreat, SM: 6—9:30pm
- Advent Penance Service, Sacred Heart: 6pm
- Benediction, St. Michael's: 5:45pm

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

- 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
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass, SM w/ Bishop Silva: 6pm
- Liturgical Scripture Study, IC Hall: 6:15—7:45pm

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

- Gift Shop open, SM: 9:30am—1:30pm
- Funeral Mass, “*Lucille Presiados Arboleda*,” SM: 9:30am; Viewing: 8—9:30am
- Youth Group mtg, SM: 6pm

### 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/Johnson*, St. Ptr's: 3:30pm
- Mass, SM: **4pm due to Christmas Parade**

from October 30th—November 28th, please put in the box on the kiosks. The receipts will be used to purchase Turkeys and Hams for 3 needy organizations for

Christmas: *Ulu Wini, Family Support Services, and the Women's Domestic Abuse Shelter*. If you'd like to donate a Turkey or Ham, bring it to St. Michael's Church the Sunday **before** Christmas (Dec. 22nd). See Thelma before or after Mass. *Mahalo* for your generosity!

## Mass Time Change

The *Kona Christmas Parade* will be held on **Saturday, December 14th at 5pm on Ali'i Drive. The Saturday evening Mass time has been changed to 4pm.**

## 3rd Annual Christmas Concert—Po Hemolele

St. Michael the Archangel will hold our *3rd Annual Christmas Classic Concert "Po Hemolele" on Thursday—Dec. 26th*. Please join us for this fantastic fundraiser, in which 100% of all proceeds go to reduce our building fund debt. Check-in **begins at 4:30pm** with wonderful wines and cheeses before the performance. 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*. First row pews are \$2,000 each side and row 3 is \$1,000 on the right side. Each side of a row can accommodate 13 adults.

Tickets will be sold after today's Masses at St. Michael's or can be purchased by calling the Office at **326-7771**.

## Simbang Gabi Masses

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

## Marriage Encounter

Married Couples. It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your chil-

dren is two parents very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. The next weekend in West Hawaii is set for: **January 24-26, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church in Holualoa**. For more info or to apply, go to [hawaiiwwme.org](http://hawaiiwwme.org) or call 808-268-1578.

## E Komo Mai!

We extend a warm Aloha to all visitors and hope you will enjoy being a part of our liturgical celebration. If you are new to our parish, we encourage you to register as a member today. You can register in the office, complete the form in the kiosks and put in the metal boxes on the kiosks, or register on our website at [stmichaelparishkona.org](http://stmichaelparishkona.org).

## 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, birthdays, 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>

## End of the Year Donations

*The story of Mary ... live, love, learn and leave a legacy. —By Mark Clark, Special to the Catholic Herald.*

As a young girl, Mary was baptized in her neighborhood Catholic Church and went on to attend the parish school, sing in the choir, and marry her sweetheart at the altar in the presence of her beloved church family. Mary also raised her children faithfully in this parish community, and for over 60 years contributed every week to the church offertory and its special causes. As a widow, she continued to be a very grateful and giving person. Earlier this year, Mary died and left \$1 million in her will to a worthy nonprofit organization down the street.

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

- 5pm—39 People who died on the way to England, all deceased

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7am—Mary LaBarre, birthday remembrance blessings
- 8am (IC)—Fanny Gouveia, successful surgery
- 9am—Venancio & Esperanza Malicdem, Domingo & Corazon Dalmacio, Federico & Remedios Orallo, Anselmo, Alfonso & Geradio Malicdem, all deceased
- 10am (HR)—John Cowles, for healing
- 12noon (Spanish)—Mike Reynolds, dec
- 4pm—Domingo Lorico, Jr., 80th birthday blessings!
- 6pm (Spanish)—

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

- 7am—David Lim, deceased
- 12noon—Daniel Joseph Minan, deceased
- 6pm (Spanish)—

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

- 7am—Virginia Isbell, deceased, may she rest in peace
- 12noon—Daniel Joseph Minan, deceased

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

- 7am—Uncle Barry Pugh, deceased, birthday anniversary remembrance

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

- 7am—Michael Thang Vo, deceased
- 12noon—Maria G. Jaramillo, deceased, birthday anniversary remembrance & Linda Garciduenas, birthday blessings!

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

- 7am—Maria Lang Nguyen, deceased
- 12noon—Daniel Joseph Minan, deceased

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

- 7am—Catherine Miller, deceased, birthday remembrance

## 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.**

## 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

Why them, one might ask? The explanation is simple. She was asked somewhere, sometime, somehow, by somebody to consider including them in her estate plan. In turn, she came to understand the need and responded in kind to the request. This Mary's story is fictional, but at the same time, all too familiar. Here's a word of advice to our pastoral leaders, this is not complicated. In fact, it's Scriptural: "Ask and you shall receive." (*Luke 9:11*)

This story is also about doing something when we are asked. So, consider yourself asked — that is, to think about including your Catholic parish, school or service organization the next time you update your will or living trust. If your estate plan is still on the drawing board, here are some important steps to help you plan wisely:

- Understand your assets, tax liabilities and opportunities
- Discuss your financial priorities and goals with loved ones
- Seek out valued professional and spiritual advisors
- Prepare your Catholic advance healthcare directive
- And, don't put off what you can do now

Speaking of which, you may want to check out the IRA charitable rollover provision that allows donors age 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 per year as a qualified charitable deduction. This type of donation is a real win-win because it counts toward the required minimum distribution from your IRA. And since it is a direct transfer to the designated charity there is no taxable income to report.

When it comes to charitable giving, a simple bequest in one's will is often the largest donation a church, or nonprofit, will ever receive. Just remember Mary.

On behalf of all Catholic entities, mahalo nui loa for your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure. For more information on these and other charitable giving opportunities, please contact the **Parish Office at 808-326-7771**.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Annunciation Penance Service:** Tuesday, Dec 10th at 6pm.
- ◆ **Sacred Heart-Hawi Penance Service:** Wednesday, December 11th at 6pm.
- ◆ **New Parishioner Orientation and Lunch:** Sunday, December 8th from 1:30—3pm at St. Michael's.
- ◆ **A Tea to Honor Mary:** Monday, December 9th after the noon Mass and Rosary at St. Michael's.
- ◆ **3rd Annual Christmas Concert—Po Hemolele:** Thursday, December 26th at 4:30pm at St. Michael's.

## Youth Corner

So Grateful...thank you to all those who attended the Advent Retreat on November 30th and most especially thank you to those who volunteered to help lead our students to a deeper understanding of what Advent is all about. Mahalo *Judy Glickstein, David Aragon, Shane Fujimoto, Gwen DeGuair, Marjorie Fujimoto, Wynn Hanato-Smith, Georgia Goetas, Marites Bravo*

## Stewardship of Treasure

November 30th —December 1st, 2019

TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$18,934.03
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR OPERATIONS	\$17,991.30
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	+\$942.73
2ND COLLECTION: DEBT REDUCTION	\$14,531.44
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS NEEDED FOR LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,396.20
AMOUNT OVER OR SHORT	+\$9,135.24
MORTGAGE BALANCE AS OF 10/31/19	\$696,315.91
MONTHLY PAYMENT	
PRINCIPAL ONLY PAYMENT	\$25,000.00
INTEREST ACCRUED	
MORTGAGE BALANCE 11/19/2019	\$671,315.91

## 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.

Bala, Allan Bala, Angie Tabieros you all are so much appreciated and such a blessing. Happy Advent!

Reminder - December 14th we are serving a meal at the Affordable Housing Project at Ulu Wini from 5:30pm.

Next class is on **Friday, December 13th at 6pm.**

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

“Outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace” is the often-memorized definition of sacrament, but through more than five decades of reform we have rediscovered the power of sacrament to bestow grace by reshaping our lives as individuals and communities. Not so long ago, most people were not attentive to the nature of sacrament as an act of the Church, a power that flows from the Body of Christ. Fifty years ago, we were inclined to see a sacrament as an encounter between Christ and an individual.

Today, we see that definition does not go far enough. God’s grace is not a trickle, but a gushing torrent washing over the whole Church. Like a photographer pulling back the camera for a broader picture, today we are not only interested in the person who is being baptized, reconciled, or anointed. We think about how celebrating a sacrament transforms a community. We think about the grace given by Christ to the community that baptizes or marries or ordains or confirms. Sacraments are for the good of the community. Even when it appears to be a private, hidden moment, as in individual confession, a sacrament is always for the sake of the whole body, always more than “meets the eye.”

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

### Pope Saint Damasus

All lovers of Scripture have reason to celebrate this day. Damasus was the pope who commissioned Saint Jerome to translate the Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate version of the Bible.

Damasus was a sixty-year-old deacon when he was elected bishop of Rome in 366. His reign was marked by violence from the start when another group decided to elect a different pope. Both sides tried to enforce their selections through violence. Though the physical fighting stopped, Damasus had to struggle with these opponents throughout his years as pope.

Damasus may not have won this battle directly, but he won the war by initiating works that outlasted all his opponents. Not only did he commission the Vulgate translation, but he also changed the liturgical language of the Church from Greek to Latin. He worked hard to preserve and restore the catacombs, the graves of the martyrs, and relics.

Damasus was a writer -- but he didn't author many-volumed treatises as other Christian writers did. Damasus liked to write epigrams in verse: short sayings that capture the essence of what needed to be said. He wrote many epigrams on martyrs and saints. And he wrote one about himself that shows his humility and the respect he had for the martyrs. In a Roman cemetery is the papal crypt he built. All that is left of him there, however, is

this: “I, Damasus, wished to be buried here, but I feared to offend the ashes of these holy ones.” Instead, when he died in 384, he was buried with his mother and sister.

From the Decree of Damasus (attributed to Damasus):

The arrangement of the names of Christ, however, is manifold: Lord, because He is Spirit; Word, because He is God; Son, because He is the only-begotten Son of the Father; Man, because He was born of the Virgin; Priest, because He offered Himself as a sacrifice; Shepherd, because He is a guardian; Worm, because He rose again; Mountain, because He is strong; Way, because there is a straight path through Him to life; Lamb, because He suffered; Corner-Stone, because instruction is His; Teacher, because He demonstrates how to live; Sun, because He is the illuminator; Truth, because He is from the Father; Life, because He is the creator; Bread because He is flesh; Samaritan, because He is the merciful protector; Christ, because He is anointed; Jesus, because He is a mediator; Vine, because we are redeemed by His blood; Lion, because He is king; Rock, because He is firm; Flower, because He is the chosen one; Prophet, because He has revealed what is to come.

—From *The Faith of the Early Fathers*, by William A. Jurgens, Copyright 1970, the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota

In His Footsteps: Damasus’ love and respect for Scripture is shown in his authorization of the Vulgate translation. Spend 30 minutes today reading and meditating on Scripture. Try to make this a daily habit. One way to do this is keep a Bible open by your bedside and read it first thing in the morning and last thing before you turn out the light at night.

—[catholic.org](http://catholic.org)

### What is the Immaculate Conception of Mary?

When the archangel Gabriel greeted Mary at the Annunciation, he called her “full of grace.” This fullness of grace indicates an absence of sin in Mary. To be “full of grace” means there is no room for anything else in Mary’s soul. A glass that’s full can contain no more water, but if you kept pouring it would overflow.

For Mary to be the Mother of God she needed an overabundance of His free and gratuitous divine assistance to accept her calling. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states in No. 490: “in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God’s grace.”

Pope Bl. Pius IX proclaimed the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith in 1854: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”

The Church’s Magisterium proclaims dogmas “in a form obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith, truths contained in divine Revelation or also when it proposes, in a definitive way, truths having a necessary connection with these” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 88). As such, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception is a binding truth of the faith for Catholics.

—by Michael R. Heinlein; [simplycatholic.com](http://simplycatholic.com)



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at 326-7771 for more  
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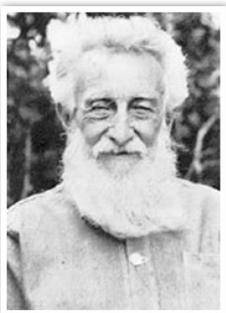


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