



Roman Catholic Church of the
Immaculate Conception

91-1298 Renton Road, Ewa, Hawaii 96706

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Website: www.immaculateconceptionewa.org **Parish Email:** iccewa@rcchawaii.org
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

7 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Mass
8:15 a.m. CCD (K--12 grade) *

Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri

8:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. OCIA (Adults)

Thursday

No Mass

First Friday

7:00 a.m. First Friday Benediction
and Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass

Saturday

9:00 a.m. OCIA (Children) *
3:00 p.m. 1st Sat. Marian Devotion
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday

4:00p.m. - 4:30p.m. (or by appt.)

*September – May (School year)

Pastor

Rev. Siegfred B. Dosdos, JCL
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Deacon

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Baptism Coordinator

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O.C.I.A. Coordinator

Sean Murata
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Mission Statement: “We, the people of Immaculate Conception Parish in Ewa, declare our firm loyalty to our Lord Jesus Christ, our Roman Catholic Church, and to the Diocesan Bishop of Honolulu. Our strength is in our unity as a Christian Family of Faith, and we inspire to reach out to everyone with the embrace of Christ.”



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Thank you for your continued support for our parish. Your generosity is truly appreciated. It is through your contributions that we are able to be of service to the parish community.

As we continue to serve our brothers and sisters in our parish, please consider our eGiving program, *Faith Direct*. Online-giving takes away the hassle of writing checks and using envelopes. Once your account is set up, nothing else is required and you’ll have the satisfaction that your donation is taken care of. I encourage all of you to consider eGiving.

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God bless you,
Fr. Sieg



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PARISH MINISTRIES

- Parish Council of Ministries
- Finance Council
- Parish Planning & Building
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- Music Ministry
- Bereavement
- Religious Education
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Altar Servers
- Flowers and Environmental
- Event Planners
- Food Pantry
- Sacred Heart Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Couples & Singles for Christ

Contact us for the following:

Baptism:

Contact the parish to enroll in the baptism preparation for your children.

Faith Formation: CCD & OCIA

Religious education for adults and children

Marriage:

Contact office at least 6 months prior to proposed wedding date. An Engaged Encounter Weekend is required prior to Marriage Ceremony.

Communion to the Homebound

Contact parish office to arrange for someone to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the Sick.

Funerals

Call the parish office *prior* to making arrangements with the mortuary.

Food Pantry

First Friday hours: 3 – 5pm
All other Fridays: 4 – 6pm
Please bring an ID



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Readings for next week:

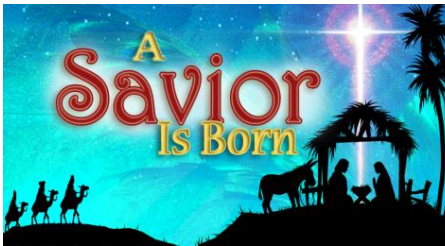
Genesis 15: 1-6; 21:1-3

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2: 22-40

FOCUS: God is the font of all blessings and salvation.

Today's readings make evident the goodness of the Lord, and that he is the source of all blessings. The Lord promises to build a house for David – one that will last forever. And from the lineage of David comes Jesus, God himself, to dwell among us. He is our shelter, our bodies are his temple, and his kingdom endures forever. We will soon celebrate the feast of his Incarnation and Nativity, while awaiting still, with joyful hope, the time when he will come again.



"For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son...Jn. 3:16"

Christmas is the season of **GIVING**. This **GIVING:** Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love is what Christmas is all about a sign reads: "The very best thing about Christmas is the first six letters." Christmas is here. -Fr. Sieg

Fourth Sunday of Advent



During this final week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This candle represents "Love" and it is known as the "Angel's Candle." In this week before the birth of our Lord, let us rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of His Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel, "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Christmas Masses

December 24, 2023, Sunday:

7:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass
11:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling

December 25, Monday:

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass
7:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

Fr. Sieg on Vacation

December 26 – 29, 2023

Fr. Sieg will be off-island after Christmas from December 26th – 29th, 2023. In his absence, Fr. Victor Lanuevo will be here to preside over the morning Masses (except Thursday) starting at 8 a.m.

Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 25 – Office closed:

(+Cayetano & +Magdalena Agtang - RS)
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass
7:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

Tuesday, December 26 – Office closed:

(+Felipe Madamba, Jr.)
7:15 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 27:

7:15 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday, December 28:

- No Mass -

Friday, December 29:

(+Frank Diego – Death Anniversary)
7:15 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass

Saturday, December 30:

(+Maria T. Rodriguez – 2nd Death Annu.)
4 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 31:

6:15 a.m. Rosary
7:00 a.m. Mass
8:45 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Mass (*Mass for the People*)
4:15 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Cleaning Schedule

Dec. 31: Volunteers Needed
Jan. 6: Sacred Heart Society
Jan. 13: Knights of Columbus
Jan. 20: Couples for Christ

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Mahalo, Food Pantry Volunteers!



Mahalo to our hardworking volunteers who helped at the Hawaii Food Bank last Saturday!

"If you build it, he (they) will come."

This famous line from the movie, *Field of Dreams*, describes perfectly how we have built a family of dedicated parishioners over the years, who are always so willing to come and help our community when it is needed. This past Saturday, December 16th, some of our parishioners gave up a part of their day to come to the Hawaii Foodbank to prepare boxes for food distribution. In total, they made 2,000 boxes. It was truly a day of family fun and camaraderie and doing something good.

Over the years, the Foodbank has donated food to help the families that visit our pantry. All they ask is for about 50 volunteers to come once a year to help them. This year, we had a great turn out of over 60 parishioners! Many thanks to our Food Pantry Coordinator, Dami Espiritu, who rallied up the volunteers. She and her regular volunteers at our pantry work tirelessly every week to distribute food to more than 250 families. Mahalo to our volunteers for all that you do. Your hardwork and dedication do not go unnoticed. Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo!!!

Solemnity of Mary

January 1st is the **Solemnity of Mary**. We will honor our Blessed Mother on this first day of the year with the holy sacrifice of the Mass starting at 8:00 a.m. All are welcomed.

Office Closures

The parish office will be closed on December 25 - 26, 2023 and January 1 -2, 2024 for Christmas and New Years.

Note: Alison will be taking some time off intermittently during the week after Christmas. Signs will be posted on the office doors.

Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 16 - 17, 2023

Weekly Offering	\$	5,088.00
5 pm, Sat.	- \$	1,114.00
7 am, Sun.	- \$	1,463.00
9:30 am, Sun	- \$	875.00
5 pm, Sun.	- \$	1,636.00
Repair/Maint. Fund		2,290.50
Building Fund		325.50
Book of Intentions		100.00
Mass Intentions		270.00
Flowers		210.00
Candles		55.00
Funeral		300.00
Wedding		300.00
Food Pantry		5.00
Light A Star		235.00
Christmas		500.00
Simbang Gabi		245.00
Miscellaneous		20.00
Total	\$	9,944.00

Second Collections:

Retirement Fund for Religious
\$20.00

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DEAR PADRE

December 24, 2023

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19-21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (circa 340-420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26).

● Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8,



Saints and Feasts of the Week

Saint Stephen - Feast Day is December 26th. He was the first deacon and first martyr of Christianity. He was known for having great faith, caring for the poor, and being full of the Holy Spirit which enabled him to perform miracles in synagogues. He was stoned to death as a result of his teachings and accused of blasphemy, but he forgave his attackers as Christ had done on the cross. He's the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist - Feast Day is December 27th. He was the youngest of Jesus' 12 Apostles, the Beloved Disciple, and an Evangelist, having authored the Gospel of John, 2 New Testament letters, and Book of Revelation. He was the model of true friendship and devotion to Jesus, true humility, and holy confidence. His gospel is very personal and conveys both the divine and human natures of Jesus and records his 7 miracles. He's the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors.



Feast of the Holy Innocents - Feast Day is December 28th. This feast refers to the killing of male children 2 years old and under in the Bethlehem area by orders from Herod the Great, king of Judea, after Jesus was born. They were innocent of any crime and considered "holy" by the church, because of the holy circumstances of their death. The story of this massacre is told in the Gospel of Matthew. They are venerated as martyrs not only for Christ, but instead of Christ. This feast shows how much God loves babies, even sending His own Son to be born into the human family.

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