

Roman Catholic Church of the  
**Immaculate Conception**

91-1298 Renton Road, Ewa, Hawaii 96706

**Office Phone:** (808) 681-3701 **Fax :** (808) 681-3117 **CCD:** (808) 681-0963  
**Website:** [www.immaculateconceptionewa.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionewa.org) **Parish Email:** [iccewa@rcchawaii.org](mailto: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  
\*September - May

**Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri**

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass

**Wednesday**

RCIA (Adults) 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday**

No Daily Mass

**First Friday**

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

**Saturday**

RCIA (Children) 9:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m. Mass

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday**

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

**Pastor**

Father Nick Brown  
[nbrown@rcchawaii.org](mailto:nbrown@rcchawaii.org)

**Deacon**

Richard Abel  
[rabel@rcchawaii.org](mailto:rabel@rcchawaii.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

Alison Harney  
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**Director of Religious Education:**

Shirley Sunio  
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**Baptism Coordinator**

Lowena Nagamine  
[lnagamine@rcchawaii.org](mailto:lnagamine@rcchawaii.org)

**R.C.I.A. Coordinator**

Sean Murata  
[smurata@rcchawaii.org](mailto:smurata@rcchawaii.org)



**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. Nick



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**PARISH MINISTRIES**

- Parish Council of Ministries
- Finance Council
- Choirs
- CFC Youth Activities
- Couples & Singles for Christ
- Devotional Societies
- Food Pantry
- Knights of Columbus
- Parish Planning & Building Committee
- Emergency Response Team

**Contact us for the following:**

**Baptism:**

An interview is required at least 2 months before the desirable month of infant baptism.

**Faith Formation CCD & RCIA**

Religious instruction for adults and children.

**Marriage:**

Please call at least 6 months prior to proposed wedding date. An Engaged Encounter Weekend is recommended prior to Marriage Ceremony.

**Communion to the Homebound**

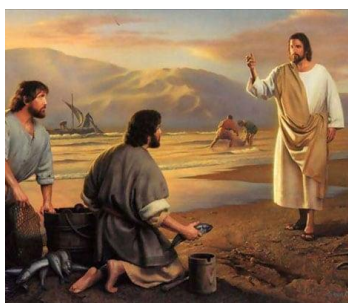
Please call parish office to arrange for someone to bring the Blessed Sacrament to your sick family member

**Funerals**

Please call the parish office prior to making arrangements with the mortuary.

**Food Pantry**

Every Friday except on holidays, between 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.



# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## January 22, 2023

*Readings for next week:*

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12a

**FOCUS:** Our salvation is at hand.

In today's Liturgy of the Word, we read about God's power to fulfill promises. Acknowledging the darkness of life prior to the Messiah, the prophets assure us that there has always been the promise of our salvation. The Gospel proclaims this direct fulfillment of the words in Isaiah, and we know that it is only the beginning of what Jesus sets out to do. Our salvation is at hand.



### NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

The National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative sponsored by the Bishops of the United States to inspire and prepare the People of God to be formed, healed, converted,

united, and sent out to a hurting and hungry world through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic faith. The Revival officially launched in June 2022, and its milestone event will be a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN, from July 17-21, 2024. The National Eucharistic Revival and National Eucharistic Congress are a direct response to the Holy Father's call for a "pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are" so that the Church in the United States might be "permanently in a state of mission" (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 25).

This eucharistic movement seeks to bring together clergy, religious, laity, apostolates, movements, and parish and diocesan leaders to spur momentum, collaboration, and lasting impact for the renewal of the Catholic Church in the U.S. over the next three years. Each year will have a strategic focus for formation and missionary discipleship.

The past couple of weeks, we have been inserting the "Teaching Mass" brochures. Please take the time to read them as recommended by the Eucharistic Revival Task Force of the Diocese of Honolulu. Inserted in this bulletin is 3<sup>rd</sup> Teaching Mass & Part 2 entitled "The Liturgy of the Word."

### Parish Schedule

#### Monday, January 23:

8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Tuesday, January 24:

8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Wednesday, January 25:

8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Thursday, January 26:

- No Mass -

#### Friday, January 27:

8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Saturday, January 28:

5:00 p.m. Mass

#### Sunday, January 29:

7:00 a.m. Mass

9:30 a.m. Mass

10:30 a.m. Centering Prayer

5:00 p.m. Mass

### Church Cleaning Schedule

Jan 28: Couples for Christ  
Feb 4: Sacred Heart Society  
Feb 11: Knights of Columbus  
Feb 18: Chamorro Group

### Haircuts by Rebecca

This is a reminder that Rebecca is cutting hair on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**. She will take appointments starting at 9 a.m. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

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The last day to sign up is on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Click on the QR Code which will give you more information. There are 2 pilgrimages to choose from.



### Pray to Protect Human Life!

The USCCB requests that this novena for human life, **9 Days for Life**, is prayed by each parish from Thursday, January 19 to Friday, January 27, 2023

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life>. **9 Days for Life** is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Click here for the daily prayers and intentions:



## Funeral Services for +Rudy Avera

Funeral Services for the late +**Rudy Avera** will be held at Ballard Mortuary Chapel on Friday, **January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** presided by Dcn. Richard Abel. **Burial** will take place at **1:00 p.m.**, at **Hawaii State Veteran's Cemetery.**

## Congratulations and Welcome to our Newly Baptized

We would like to take this time to welcome our newest parishioners who were baptized this past weekend:

**Gwen M. J. Austria, Gladness J. Anois, and Hope L. Anois**



Congratulations to their parents and sponsors who have helped them begin their journey with their Catholic faith. Please keep them in your prayers.

## St. Marianne Cope's Feast Day Mass



All are invited to the celebration of St. Marianne's feast day Mass on: **Monday, January 23, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa.**

A special presentation on Mother Marianne by the youth and young people of the Diocese of Honolulu will take place as a prelude to the Mass. A new meditation booklet of Mother Marianne will be given to those who come to the Mass.

## Catechist Retreat



This is a call for our catechists or those who would like to become a catechist to participate in the **Catechist Retreat in 2023**. For Oahu, the retreat will take place on Saturday, **February 4, 2023**, at **St. Stephen's Diocesan Center**

between the hours of **9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.** The cost is **\$10 per person**. Please bring your own lunch. To register, log on to [www.catholicohawaii.org/catechistretreat](http://www.catholicohawaii.org/catechistretreat) or click on the QR Code on the flyer. You may also contact Chad Chun at [cchun@rechawaii.org](mailto:cchun@rechawaii.org). Phone# (808) 203-6747 for any inquiries.



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## Collection for Latin America and Black & Indian Missions



This weekend, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, we will take up the Collection for the **Church in Latin America**. Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rugged rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity enables our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org-latin-america](http://www.usccb.org-latin-america)

Also, this weekend, we will take up the collection for the **Black and Indian Missions**. Your support will enable them to help form children in the faith, educate young people, and build hope – a hope often so hard to find in the areas our missionaries serve to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous in the special collection! For more information, log onto their website: [www.blackandindianmissions.org](http://www.blackandindianmissions.org).



### Conversion of St. Paul



This Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> is the **Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul**. Saul, his given name before he was converted, was a great persecutor of Christians. He was one of the conspirators in the martyrdom of St. Stephen. In his fury for Christians, he appealed to the high priest and Sanhedrin to take up all the Jews at Damascus so that they might serve as public examples to incite terror into others. But God had other plans for him. On his way back from Damascus, a great light from heaven appeared and he immediately fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying, “*Saul, Saul, why dost thou persecute me? Why dost thou persecute my disciples, but me: for it is he, their head, who is chiefly persecuted in his servants.*” Saul answered, “*Who are thou, Lord?*” Christ said, “*Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecute. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad: - to contend with one so much mightier than thyself.*” From that moment on, Saul was converted and made an apostle. Now Paul, he was chosen to be the principal instrument of conversion of the world. The Church, in thanksgiving to God for such a miracle of his grace, commemorate and proposes a perfect model of true conversion. It was Pope Innocent III who instituted his feast and commanded we observe it with great solemnity. ([Conversion of St. Paul](http://catholicnewsagency.com))

([catholicnewsagency.com](http://catholicnewsagency.com))

## Stewardship of Treasure

January 14 - 15, 2023

Weekly Offering	\$ 3,174.26
Repair/Maintenance	1,436.00
Book of Intentions	119.00
Mass Intentions	30.00
Building Fund	285.00
Flowers	20.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Baptisms	250.00
Funerals	900.00
Candles	100.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	<u>15.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,379.26</b>

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### Faith Direct

December 16 – 31, 2022

Weekly Offering	\$ 2,410.00
Monthly Offering	645.00
Building Fund	700.00
Candles	2.00
Flowers	48.00
Food Pantry	510.00
Repair and Maintenance	670.00
Solemnity of Mary	<u>95.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,080.00</b>
Less Credit Card Fees	(94.88)
Less Faith Direct Fee	<u>(292.00)</u>
<b>Total Disbursement</b>	<b>\$ 4,693.12</b>



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TEACHING MASS - BULLETIN INSERT  
LITURGY OF THE WORD: GOD SPEAKING TO US  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023



## CHRIST PRESENT IN HIS WORD



At the beginning of Mass on Sunday, as the priest processes in, someone, either a Deacon or a lector, is carrying in a large book. This book, often bound in red leather or even in silver and gold is the book of the gospels. We carry this book in, and place it prominently in the center of the altar, drawing our eyes towards it as the focal point during the first half of the Mass. This first half is called the Liturgy of the Word, and it centers around the contents within that book.

We should ask ourselves: why do we treat a book with such reverence? Why is this book placed on the altar and made the center of attention of our worship? The answer is that within that book are the words of Jesus Christ.

In the beginning of the gospel of John, the apostle begins by telling us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” God's presence is there in the words of scripture. This is made all the more real when later on in that first chapter of John's gospel, he tells us that that Word, “was made flesh,” referring to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. And so, our faith tells us that Jesus Christ is present to us in the proclaiming of scripture, and most especially the four gospels, which are the recorded words of Jesus Christ himself: his teachings, his parables, his miracles, and ultimately the historical events of his life, passion, death, and resurrection. We enshrine the Gospels because within those words are Jesus Christ.

But it is not only the gospels in which God's word is made known to us. Yes, the gospels have pride of place because they are the words of God spoken by the very mouth of God, Jesus Christ. However, all of scripture, Old Testament and New Testament, are inspired by the Holy Spirit. There is no word in all of scripture that is not from God himself. When the Church compiled the Bible over 1700 years ago, it did so under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that the whole world had the same inspired word of God to help shape their lives. These words of holy scripture are what we proclaim at Mass. Jesus Christ speaks to us at every Mass through His Word.

## A GIFT OFFERED AND RECEIVED

It is no accident that even as God speaks to us through his Word, it is through the voices of people that his Word is proclaimed. Like many other gifts, God first gives us something, and then we use what He gave us to make something for Him in return. Even the bread we offer at Mass first came from grain that God gave us. So too God gives us His word in scripture, but he desires to hear us proclaim it aloud. Those who read the word of God are in a sense making an offering of their own voice to God, while those listening are offering up their hearing to God. In this sense, both proclaiming the Word of God and listening to it are themselves acts of worship.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### HOW READINGS ARE CHOSEN

Unlike other venues, the readings used for Mass are not chosen at random. In fact, as a general rule, they are not chosen by any one person, but rather are chosen for the whole Church. By this, we mean that the readings you hear each Sunday are being read in the church in the next town, the next state, and even Catholic churches on the other side of the world.

The word “Catholic,” comes from the Greek word meaning, “universal,” and one of our greatest expressions of that universal aspect of our Church is how no matter where you go, the liturgy will still be the same. Whether here in Hawaii, Washington DC, London, Rome, or even Antarctica, the prayers, the structure, and even the readings will be the same. The only difference would be the language that they use. Our readings, and indeed all the prayers at Mass, are chosen for the entire Church, and follow a perfect and inspired formula.

## **THE FIRST READING**

The first reading is taken either from the Old Testament or, during the Easter Season, the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. The first reading lays the foundation for the whole Liturgy of the Word, often connecting to the Gospel to be proclaimed at that Mass by means of foreshadowing either the event of that day’s Gospel or the message behind it. It is often either the telling of a historical event or a prophecy.

## **THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Taken from the book of Psalms, this acts as a kind of praise in which the people take part. It is a reading from scripture, but it is also a dialogue between psalmist and congregation which focuses on praising God. The psalms would have been something Jesus and the Apostles prayed, and so taking part in the response, either sung or recited, connects us to them and to 2000 years of worshippers praising God in the same way.



## **THE SECOND READING**

Sometimes called the Epistle, the second reading is taken from one of the letters the New Testament written by the Apostles. This reading, addressed by the Apostles, often St. Paul, speaks to us as it did the early Church to whom those letters were first addressed. Our reading from them relates to the fact that the early Church and our Catholic Church today are the same Church, and that the message of these letters is as relevant to us today as it was to those early Christians.

## **THE GOSPEL**

Once we have announced the Gospel with the Alleluia, the deacon, or in his absence, the priest, proclaims the Gospel, the very words and actions of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ. We revere the Gospel so much that we stand during its proclamation, like a soldier at attention in the presence of their Commander-in-Chief. As these are the very words of God spoken by His own lips, we bring all our focus to these words, for they are the peak and height of the Liturgy of the Word. It is the climax of our proclamation.



## **THE HOMILY**

If the Gospel is the peak of the Liturgy of the Word, then the homily is the descending from the mountain. The homily is the priest taking the established word of God and expressing to us how it continues to speak to us today, even with the cultural differences and lifetimes of history that have taken place.

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Creed, which the lay faithful recite with the priest, is our symbolic response to having heard the Word of God. In response to the teaching of God found in scripture, we acclaim: “I believe!”

## **THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER OR PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

The Word of God always focusses us on our mission, and so we conclude the Liturgy of the Word by offering prayers and petitions for the Church, the world, and all the needs of our community.