



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  
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**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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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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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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



# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 3, 2023

*Readings for next week:*

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

**FOCUS:** We must be active in our hope for Christ's return.

Hope is a theological virtue: "We desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817). Hope is an active state of being, not passive. During this Advent season we must be fully alive and fully engaged. We must be committed in our pursuit of the Lord; we must be people of hope!

### First Sunday of Advent



Today marks the First Sunday of Advent and also the beginning of the new liturgical year, when we transition into a new liturgical cycle from A to B. This First Sunday symbolizes **Hope** with the "Prophets' Candle," that reminds us of the promises delivered through the prophets from God. It is a time to read, pray, and reflect on the hope that God's plan gives us. This was to be fulfilled by the life and death of Christ and gives us the promise of His glory-filled return. One purple candle in the Advent wreath will be lit to start this season of preparation and repentance.

### Immaculate Conception Novena and Masses



December 8<sup>th</sup> is our Feast Day, Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. +A novena to honor our Blessed Mother began last week Wed. and will continue till December 7<sup>th</sup>. Our mass times are at **8 a.m.** and **7 p.m.** on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Below is the schedule for the celebration of the evening Mass:

- 5:30 p.m. – Procession
- 6:00 p.m. – Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Hermana Mayor, Mrs. Sherlie Cafirma  
Flower offering and dance presentation
- 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Presider Rev. Lane Akiona, CC.SS.
- 8:00 p.m. – Dinner and Fellowship in the Parish Hall

### Weekly Schedule

#### Monday, December 4:

- 7:15 a.m. Rosary (ICC Novena)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Tuesday, December 5:

- 7:15 a.m. Rosary (ICC Novena)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass

#### Wednesday, December 6:

- 7:15 a.m. Rosary (ICC Novena)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 5:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

#### Thursday, December 7:

- 7:15 a.m. Rosary (ICC Novena, No Mass)

#### Friday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

- 8:00 a.m. Mass (*Connie Lubera -BD*)
- 7:00 p.m. Mass (*+Jocelyn Bandalan Vernon – RS*)

- 8:00 p.m. Celebration of the Feast of Immaculate Conception (*Parish Hall*)

#### Saturday, December 9:

- (*+Dennis and +John Craig Villanueva*)
- 4 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions
- 5:00 p.m. Mass

#### Sunday, December 10:

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

**Church Cleaning:** Dec. 9 - KoC

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## Ewa Elementary's Thanks For Giving



For the past few years, Ewa Elementary School has been conducting a **Thanks for Giving Fundraiser** held by and within the teachers and staff at their school. Their fundraisers consisted of a bake sale and a Bucket-Full-of-Thanks, where there were designated amounts to place in the buckets. This year, thru their generosity, the total amount of their donation was **\$ 1,500** for our Food Pantry. Many thanks to Mr. Stanley Tamashiro, Principal, and the teachers and staff of Ewa Elementary for their generosity. Pictured at left is teacher, Mrs. Cecilia Camarillo, who presented the check to our parish last week. Mahalo, Ewa Elementary!!

## Light A Star



Every year, we offer the Masses throughout the Advent Season to remember our loved ones either living or deceased. We remember them by placing a special angel ornament on our **Light A Star** tree. Each ornament will display the names of your loved ones and will hang on our trees throughout the season. If you would like to remember your loved ones, please pick up an envelope which can be found at the back of the church. We ask that you please write legibly their names, so that we can prevent any misspellings.

## Thanksgiving Celebration



Thanksgiving Day was indeed a day to express our gratefulness for all of God's blessings! Our 8 a.m. Mass was well attended by so many parishioners, who gave praise and glory to God for all that He has done and continues to do. After Mass, there was a festive celebration of good food provided by the Sacred Heart Society, fellowship, and karaoke by Fr. Sieg, Rudy Flores, and Iven Cunanan! Many thanks to all who joined us!

## Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Our second collection next weekend, **Dec. 9-10**, will be for **the Retirement Fund for Religious**. 'Religious are blessed to serve,' says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service will be held on Dec. 13, Wed., 7 p.m. The Leeward Vicariate's full schedule will be posted next week.

## Stewardship of Treasure

**Nov 25 - 26, 2023**

Weekly Offering	\$ 3,478.50
Repair/Maint. Fund	355.00
Building Fund	463.00
Book of Intentions	170.00
Flowers	250.00
Candles	130.00
Food Pantry	1,500.00
Funeral	350.00
Thanksgiving	2,120.89
Light A Star	240.00
Sound System Project	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,557.39</b>

## Second Collection:

CCHD	\$ 150.00
'Ohana in Christ	1,313.50

## Christmas Photoshoots

The Christmas Photoshoots, sponsored by our Young Adult Ministry, continue this weekend, **Dec. 2-3**, from **6 pm till 7:30 pm**. You will receive 2-3 touched up photos before Dec. 10 via email.

Photo sessions are open to solos, couples, or groups up to 6-8 people. The last session will be held on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations accepted to support the active ministries at our church!



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# Dear Padre

December 3, 2023

**Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?**

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



*[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.*

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29,



## Saints and Feasts of the Week

**Saint Nicholas** – Feast Day is Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. He was an early Christian Bishop of Greek descent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Many miracles have been attributed to his intercession and he is known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. He's also known for his generosity and kindness. He told the story of Christ with peace and good will to all. The Dutch took the tradition of celebrating his feast day to America and referred to him as Sinter Klaas, which became Santa Claus to the United States English speaking people.

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** – Feast Day is Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Immaculate Conception refers to the dogma that the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without any stain of Original Sin in preparation for becoming the Mother of God, the Son Jesus Christ. In 1846, the bishops of the United States proclaimed her as the principal patroness of the US under the title of Her Immaculate Conception.



**St. Juan Diego** – Feast Day is Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a Catholic convert and the first indigenous saint from the Americas. He was born in Mexico in 1474 and received 4 apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1531, including the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her image was imprinted on his cloak, when the Spanish bishop required proof of the 4<sup>th</sup> apparition. This had a significant impact on the spread of the Catholic faith within Mexico by helping to bring the Good News to the people. He is the patron saint of indigenous people. His name means: "He who speaks like an eagle."



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