



# Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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## November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent (A)

### Stay Awake!

**Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,5,6-7,8-9; Roman 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44**

"Stay awake!" These words are intended to awaken our minds and hearts to the Lord's coming, to be mindful of His presence in our daily lives, and to remind us that we never know when our time will be up.

The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year. We use this season to renew our understanding of the image of God in which we were created and the likeness of Christ into which we were baptized. At first glance, Advent might seem like just a time to prepare for a birthday celebration. However, it is not solely about waiting for Jesus' birthday; it recognizes that Christ's presence in our lives is an ongoing process. Each year, we reveal more of ourselves to Christ. Therefore, each Advent is about expecting new light, new life, and Christ's renewed birth in our lives. We reflect on the ancient scriptures from Israel that express their longing for God's coming.

"Stay awake," because we do not know on which day our Lord will come (cf. Matt. 24:42). These words from our Lord refer to His coming in glory, but they also relate to our present situation. Christ's ongoing presence is experienced through daily encounters with His love, mercy, and guidance. Recognizing these signs helps us stay spiritually alert and connected to His continual coming in our lives.

Every time we read the Sacred Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us. When the Eucharist is celebrated, Jesus is present with his forgiving and redeeming love for the Church and each of us. Each time we receive Holy Communion, Jesus promises eternal life to those who acknowledge its significance. We do not need to shout to the heavens for Jesus to come into power; he has already come. Now, we must open or reopen our minds and hearts to Jesus to learn how to recognize the signs of his special presence and will in our lives.

Therefore, let us "stay awake" for God's movement in our lives. Staying awake is not a passive "wait and see what happens" approach. Our Lord desires our hearts and minds to focus on Him and His word. He wants us to be prepared for His action and grace in our lives and the world. Those who "wait" for the Lord will not be disappointed; He will surely come with His grace and saving help.

Let us "stay awake," for Advent is an ideal time to set spiritual resolutions as we prepare for Christmas. We may need to build bridges in our lives to renew respect in meaningful relationships. Our prayer life requires consistency and structure, and we need to better prepare ourselves for participation in the Eucharist. Honest self-reflection is essential as we get ready for our Christmas confession. There may be attachments in our lives that we need to release, and certain areas might require more self-control.

As we light the candles on the Advent wreath each week, their glow becomes brighter throughout the season, symbolizing the increasing presence of Christ's light in our lives. Remember, we are not celebrating the rebirth of Christ—Jesus was born once in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago and will not be born there again. We enter this season to actively renew our faith and commitment to Jesus and His Church. Our Lord did indeed enter our time and space and remains with us. Now, rekindle His birth in our hearts and minds

by staying vigilant in prayer and charity. He is constantly drawing near, and life offers us surprising gifts to unwrap if we stay attentive and receptive.

"Stay awake

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor





December 5th



Happy

Birthday

Happy Birthday Fr. Manny! May you always feel the presence of God as we celebrate you on this day!

Continued blessings of peace, joy and love!

Rose Weldon-Catechist

Happy Birthday, Fr. Manny! Thank you for your joyful spirit, your faithful "yes" to God, and the countless ways you shepherd and serve our parish family. May the Lord continue to bless you with good health, strength, and overflowing grace in the years ahead! Love and prayers, The Afu Family!

Happy Birthday Fr. Manny! Wishing you the very Best on your special day! May God continue Protect, Guide and Keep you in Good Health.

Enjoy your special day! God Bless you always! 🙏🎂🍰

Lucy Quisano -Lector



**You are invited to join the OCIA as they continue their formation journey and become familiar with the Catholic faith as we will be learning about "Baptism: Becoming a Christian"**



**If you are interested in deepening your relationship with Christ, please join us.**

**Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm in Room 210 (school building)**



**Mahalo and may you have a blessed week!**

**Save THE DATE** **Parish Advent Retreat and Penance Service**

**Theme: Pilgrims of Hope**

**Waiting: An Act of Hope**

**Speaker: Fr. Manny Hewe**

**Wednesday December 17, 2025**

**6:00 PM - Parish Retreat**

**7:00 PM - Penance Service**

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

**Bring family and friends**



**PILGRIMS OF HOPE:**  
**"THE LORD BE WITH YOU."**

In our Catholic Sacred Liturgy, we frequently hear the greeting, "The Lord be with you" during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

This greeting has roots in ancient Jewish and Christian traditions, emphasizing God's presence among His people. We hear this greeting several times: at the introductory rite, before reading the Gospel, at the start of the solemn Preface prayer, before the sign of peace, and during the dismissal rite.

It is a solemn greeting that exceeds any ordinary human exchange, serving as a reminder of Christ's sacred presence among us. It would be unfortunate if it were mixed with the standard greeting of "good morning," which can happen during the introductory rite or at the beginning of the homily, thereby weakening its spiritual significance.

"The Lord be with you" is a greeting that expresses the Church's hope that the Lord becomes more present in her children—each of us—by deepening our awareness of His presence during prayer, listening to the proclamation of Sacred Scriptures, sharing the sign of peace, receiving the Holy Eucharist, and being sent out after the Holy Mass.

It's a greeting that carries a prayer that the fruits of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will effectively reach each of us — to inspire conversion and deepen our relationship with the Lord, so that we will always be ready, "whether He comes in the evening, or at midnight, or dawn, or in the morning," confident regardless of dark or difficult situations we face.

Fr. MAH.

**PRAYER:**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

God of goodness, bless our Advent wreath. Let its circle remind us of your boundless love and inspire us to live as one human family. May its evergreen branches awaken our hope to share with those in need. May its candles illuminate peace in our hearts and touch the world with compassion. May we embrace the joy of your word and bring it to life in every corner of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





# Weekly Offering Report

## For November 17, 2025 - November 23, 2025

### Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 9,496.00	\$ 577.21
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\*\*\* Looking for convenient, safe and secure way of giving to our church? We have online giving feature in our website, just click on the link and go through the easy-to-follow steps to go about it. We also have a Giving Kiosk beside the statue of St. Damien. Please have a look at these methods for your church contributions. We thank you for your continued support in fulfilling the mission of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. \*\*\*

We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction of which is in progress. Please continue to pray with us for the completion of this important project for the safety and security of our church and school.

*Parish Savings with the Diocese as of October 31, 2025* **\$ 28,626.86**  
*Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of October 31, 2025* **FULLY PAID**  
*Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of October 31, 2025* **\$ 286,799.02**

### Second Collections:

November 29-30 for the St. Theresa School Assistance  
December 13-14 for the Retirement Fund for Religious

*Mahalo for your generosity.*



**West Honolulu Vicariate Presents**  
**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 SPIRITUAL CONFERENCES**  
@ Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa (with Holy Hour and Confession)

**December 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM - Speaker: Fr. Manny Hewe**

Theme: **WAITING: AN ACT OF HOPE**

“Christian waiting is filled with meaningful presence because the gifts of Jesus Christ are not only meant for the future; they also have an impact on our present. Although Jesus is present in a hidden way, He communicates with us through various means. Learning to wait patiently is a way of growing in hope.”

### SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

- Principal/Music 1-8 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/Math 8 & Discovery - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/LA 6 - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Odayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health/Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- PK-8 PE & MS Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide & Resource Teacher - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - Leilani Tanaka
- PK, Kindergarten Religion & Liturgy Coordinator - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade/Sacramental Prep - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Teacher - Taiena Finau
- Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Math 7 - Christian Raquepo
- Middle School Japanese/7 & 8 Arts/ Marketing - Tiani Quon
- MS Science - Peter Park
- Permanent Sub - Bernadette Lopez
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias



**2<sup>nd</sup> Offering this weekend  
November 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> is for the**

## **St. Theresa School Assistance**



**Mahalo for your generosity!**

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday  
from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
(Closed during Lunch break from 12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Saturdays  
from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Sundays  
from 7:30 am - 11:30 am

### **MASS SCHEDULES**

#### **Sunday Mass**

6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 pm

#### **Daily Mass**

Mon – Thurs: 6:30 am

Fri – Sat: 8:00 am

#### **Vietnamese Mass (VHM)**

Daily Mass:

Mon. Tues. & Thur. at 5:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sundays at 3:30 pm

#### **Holy Hour/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession**

Wednesdays

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction & Confessions at 6:15 pm

(First Wednesdays of the month with Bishop)

### **PASTORAL TEAM & PARISH STAFF**

#### **Fr. Manuel Hewe**

Pastor

#### **Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC**

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

#### **Tyra Lamb**

Safe Environment Liaison

#### **Pinky Mendoza**

Office Coordinator

#### **Jennifer Asuncion**

Office Secretary

#### **Francis Leasiolagi**

Deacon

#### **Jonathan Lam**

VHM Deacon

#### **Ray Lamb**

Deacon

#### **Roy Matsuo**

Retired Deacon

#### **Marlowe Sabater**

Deacon

#### **Fr. Anthony Tran**

VHM Chaplain

#### **Bernie Gora**

Director of Music

#### **Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili**

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

#### **Grace Young**

Communications Coordinator

#### **Samy Ratum**

Facilities Custodian

#### **Noraliza Tapeç**

On-Call Church Custodian

#### **Felipe Tan**

Accountant

#### **Joan Mabag**

Custodian

*"How lovely is Your  
dwelling place, O  
Lord God of Hosts."  
Psalm 84:1*



## **Daily Mass Readings**

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**December 1, 2025**

***Monday of the First Week of Advent***

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11

**December 2, 2025**

***Tuesday of the First Week of Advent***

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

**December 3, 2025**

***Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier,  
Priest***

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37

**December 4, 2025**

***Thursday of the First Week of Advent***

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**December 5, 2025**

***Friday of the First Week of Advent***

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

**December 6, 2025**

***Saturday of the First Week of Advent***

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew  
9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**December 7, 2025**

***Second Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;  
Matthew 3:1-12