



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

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## *December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)* *St. Joseph, Teach Us How to Prepare for Christmas*

**Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24**

We now enter the fourth Sunday of Advent! As this final week of Christmas preparation begins, let us look beyond the busyness of Christmas traditions and reflect on the genuine longing of our hearts: finding hope, love, and renewed faith. Let's focus on St. Joseph, whose quiet strength embodies the spirit of Advent.

Although the gospels do not record his words, his role in the great mystery of our Savior's birth remains essential. Besides being a perfect example of fatherhood, he stands as a remarkable symbol of greatness in anonymity. In today's world, where the culture of recognition often outweighs true virtue, Joseph's quiet dedication can inspire us to embrace our own subtle acts of courage and faithfulness.

In the Gospel, we learn how Joseph prepares for the mystery of our Savior's birth. He did not yet know that Mary conceived the Son of God by the Holy Spirit after the angel Gabriel's announcement. Still, he could not believe Mary had done anything wrong. We can assume he struggled to understand Mary's mysterious pregnancy. His response to this unexpected event is worth our reflection. Being upright, he only thought of what was best for Mary. He decided to divorce her quietly, knowing the scandal would fall on him for abandoning Mary during the betrothal period (cf. Mat 1:19). While this may have seemed like the most reasonable and loving choice, he changed his mind after a dream. He could have dismissed it, but instead, he listened to God's voice through an angel in a dream. His response shows his attention to spiritual matters and his discernment of God's will.

Often, it is the gift of faith in God that motivates a person to wake up and do what is right. St. Joseph showed us the way. He woke up and followed the angel of the Lord's guidance.

Waking up means being attentive to divine guidance, whether by listening to our conscience or seeking advice from others. It also involves recognizing that many opportunities exist instead of dwelling on failures, and that when we encounter a dead end, there are other paths to explore, and you will find them! Waking up means acknowledging that there are good people who can help lift the burdens that weigh us down—be humble and ask for help! Waking up is to prevent darkness from spoiling your dreams, and failures from robbing your future—have faith! Waking up means avoiding others' criticisms and discouragement from the joy of giving and serving — to wake up is to focus on Jesus! Isn't this what Christmas is really about? Jesus is central, our hope, joy, and salvation.

On the other hand, we often wonder: "What will we receive this Christmas, and who will give us the best Christmas present? Where will we celebrate? What will we eat?" Instead, consider asking: "What do I need to wake up from? Where do I need direction?"

During this final week of Christmas preparations, as we make this celebration memorable for our families—by preparing gifts, food, decorations, and sending greeting cards—let us also keep in mind the spiritual side. Advent is meant to awaken us and call us to change our hearts. If we get our houses ready but neglect our hearts, if we decorate but do not turn back to God, we may celebrate Christmas but miss Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus came to save us from sin and open the way to new life. We are already living that new life. But, we also live in a world full of sin; some may have entered our lives unnoticed. An important part of our Christmas preparations should





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include the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Christ came to bring healing and salvation, and we experience both through this Sacrament.

Let's turn to St. Joseph and ask for his intercession to prepare our hearts with faith, so we are worthy to receive Jesus. Let us make this Christmas a holy celebration and experience the gifts of healing and salvation that only Christ can give, making it a grace-filled moment of peace, reconciliation, and love.

May our hearts awaken with hope and our spirits rise in joy. Let every step we take reflect the light of faith as we embrace this sacred season with love and grace. St. Joseph, pray for us! Amen. Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor



## PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

### On Keeping the Christmas Blessing Alive: Being a Blessing and Blessing Others

The word benediction comes from 'bene' for good and 'dictio' for words. When we speak good words, we become vessels of blessing, echoing the generosity God shows us. We bless others because we share in the cup of blessing and the bread of life, reflecting the heart of our Lord. Kind words flow from hearts nourished by the Word and the Sacraments. I

hold to the truth that our mouths reveal what fills our hearts. So, what dwells within us? To make blessing a habit, begin each day with a quiet moment of gratitude and offer a simple blessing for those around you. Before you speak, pause for a brief prayer, inviting love and compassion to shape your words.

Looking back, I remember comforting a grieving friend with heartfelt words and a scripture that gave him peace. That moment showed the quiet strength our words can have. I also recall a time when frustration caused me to speak harshly, leaving me with regret. These experiences motivate me to tend my heart, filling it with love and understanding.

Gossip and rumors are shadows that dim our ability to bless. When we spread them, we wound others and ourselves. Cursing, the opposite of blessing, harms both our community and our relationship with God. Sometimes, evil slips quietly into our words. We must look inward. To resist gossip, steer conversations toward hope, or seek wisdom in prayer. By choosing uplifting words and asking God for guidance, we become beacons of blessing instead of harm.

Mary, our Blessed Mother, received the Word and gave it to the world. Let us pray that we, too, may receive God's Word and let it come alive in our gentle, loving words. May we become living blessings and witnesses of Jesus, building bridges of care for those who need it most. In prayer, let us welcome a deep silence that reflects Mary's openness to the Word.

Consider making this prayer yours:

Gracious Lord, fill my heart with Your Word and guide my tongue to speak with love and compassion. Help me to pause and reflect, embracing silence to hear Your voice as Mary did. Grant me wisdom to be a blessing to others, that my words may reflect Your kindness and grace. Amen.

We do all of this in the name of Jesus. Only then will Jesus truly come and find a home with us.

Fr. MAH



The OCIA will be taking a break during this Advent & Christmas season.

**We will resume our faith formation sessions on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

Thank you for all your support, and we ask that you keep our catechumen in your prayers as they continue their journey to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith.

For more information, please contact the parish office @ (808) 521-1700.

## 2025 Christmas Schedule

**Dec. 24 – Vigil – 4:30 PM**

**Caroling – 10:45 PM**

**Dec. 24 – Night Mass – 11:30 PM**

**Dec. 25 – Day Mass**

**8:30 AM**

**10:30 AM (Bishop Larry)**

*Please note: 6:30 AM mass is cancelled; \*Novena to OMPH, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration are also cancelled.*

# Weekly Offering Report

## For December 8, 2025 - December 14, 2025



**SAINT THERESA SCHOOL**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Office Phone: 808-536-4703



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808

Sttheresaschool808

Website: [www.stshi.org](http://www.stshi.org)

### Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 9,945.50	\$ 923.93
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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. \*\*\*

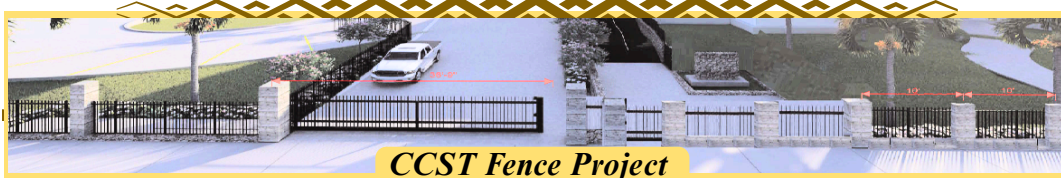
We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction 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**

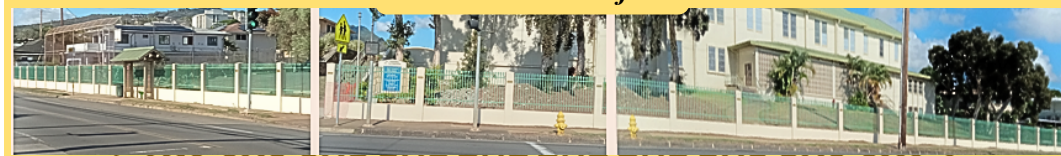
### Second Collections:

December 20-21 for the Church Facilities Improvement

*Mahalo for your generosity.*



**CCST Fence Project**



### 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 Ondayog
- 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 on December 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

is for the  
**Church Facilities Improvement**

**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

#### Bernie Gora

Director of Music

#### Ray Lamb

Deacon

#### Roy Matsuo

Retired Deacon

#### Marlowe Sabater

Deacon

#### Fr. Anthony Tran

VHM Chaplain

#### Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

#### Grace Young

Communications Coordinator

#### Earl Morita

Church Grounds Maintenance

#### 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 22, 2025**

**Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent**

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

**December 23, 2025**

**Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66

**December 24, 2025**

**Wednesday of the Fourth Week of  
Advent**

**Mass in the Morning**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke  
1:67-79

**December 25, 2025**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Vigil Mass**

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;  
Matthew 1:1-25 or Matthew 1:18-25

**Mass during the Night**

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**Mass at Dawn**

Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7;  
Luke 2:15-20

**Mass during the Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John  
1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14

**December 26, 2025**

**Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr**  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

**December 27, 2025**

**Feast of Saint John, Apostle and  
Evangelist**

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a and 2-8

**December 28, 2025**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21  
or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



# CHRISTMAS 2025

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Heaven has announced the good news of our salvation! The archangel Gabriel declared, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you, who is Christ and Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Imagine hearing Archangel Gabriel's voice echo through your home, filling your heart with hope and joy as you work in the kitchen or gather with family. Let his message of love and salvation resonate with you today, as fresh and powerful as it was on that holy night.

This good news is not just something that happened long ago, but a lasting reminder of the love and hope that came with the birth of our Lord Jesus, Immanuel, God with us (cf. Matt 1:22-23).

During busy Christmas preparations, it's easy to become overwhelmed by all the activities and tasks. The true meaning of Christmas can be lost amid the demands of gift-giving, meals, and gatherings. It's important to take a moment to reflect on what it truly represents.

Christmas is a time to remember and reflect on when God quietly entered our world as a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger (cf. Lk 2:12). It marks the beginning of God's enduring presence, offering hope to a world burdened by trouble, fighting, war, corruption, abuse, and pain. Starting the day with this attitude is meaningful. When we humble ourselves and welcome Him, He brings healing, new life, and peace. Our joy at Christmas isn't just a fleeting feeling tied to our possessions, but a gift of God's presence through Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 3:16; 1 Tim 1:1). As this joy grows within us, it inspires us to care for others and to demonstrate His unselfish love by giving gladly. This generosity will come back to us many times over (cf. Lk 6:38).

At the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa Church, we are committed to embodying the spirit of giving by being grateful for what we have and sharing it with others. Our ministry and outreach efforts, such as the food pantry, senior food bank, Ohana produce distribution, the Angel Tree, and support for our longline fishermen, seafarers, and local shelters, demonstrate the joy of helping others. The dedication and generosity of our parishioners in sharing the love of Jesus Christ through charity and service are truly inspiring. I am thankful to all our volunteers and encourage more parishioners to participate in this joyful way of life as we anticipate celebrating the 95th parish anniversary on July 19, 2026.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us keep Jesus at the center, open our hearts to Him, and believe in His real presence, which we proclaim and celebrate in the Holy Eucharist. By receiving His Body and Blood in faith, we share in His joy and are empowered to be His lights, dispelling darkness in our world through our actions and truth. The good news of salvation continues among us and through us. Thank you, Jesus.

I invite you to join me in a collective moment of prayer: "Dear Lord, guide us with your light and fill us with your everlasting joy and peace. May we walk together in your grace and share these blessings with the world around us. Amen." May the peace, hope, love, and joy of Christmas fill our hearts, and may the coming year bring grace and abundance to everyone.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

Fr. Manny Hewe  
Pastor



## THE BREAKDOWN

**95  
YEARS**

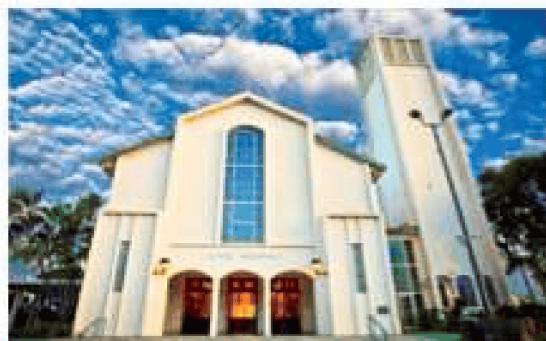
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa



### EXPLANATION OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. THERESA'S 95TH PARISH ANNIVERSARY LOGO

The Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa Church (CCST) was founded on July 19, 1931, and was later elevated to the status of a Co-Cathedral on July 28, 1985. This elevation was a significant recognition of our church's pivotal role in the diocese, allowing us to share in the spiritual leadership of the larger community.

This year, 2025, marks the 94th anniversary of our beloved Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa Church since her foundation, a testament to the dedication and faith of our community. In 2026, it will be her 95th, as highlighted in the anniversary logo, a milestone of our shared journey and a celebration of our unity as culturally diverse people of God. Our shared history and faith bind us together, making us part of something bigger than ourselves.



The logo's expanding circular orange image, transitioning to yellow, symbolizes our parish's remarkable growth in liturgical, sacramental, and social ministries. This growth is a tangible sign of the fruits of the nourishment we receive through the Most Holy Eucharist and the enduring presence of the Holy Spirit. It is also a testament to our unwavering commitment and dedication to our faith.



The church figure within the circle symbolizes our humble dependence on God. It represents the church as a body, with Christ as its head, in whom we live, move, and have our being (cf. Acts 17:28). This figure serves as a visual reminder of our collective reliance on God's grace and guidance in all aspects of our church life and mission.

The shade of blue lines of the church building emphasizes trust in divine providence and the love for Jesus exemplified by St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Her life and teachings, particularly her 'Little Way' – a path of spiritual growth that emphasizes doing the small things with great love, even in the face of difficulties and challenges – serve as a model for living our faith and our love for Jesus. This 'Little Way' is our way in responding to the church's perpetual invitation to come and adore the Lord, 'venite adoremus,' which finds its completion in our active participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is a spiritual heritage of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, which we are grateful to be part of, and one that will continue to shape our growth as children of God, Pilgrims of Hope, yearning for the treasures of heaven. (Fr. MAH).

***"Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing."***

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

