



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent (A) *Renewing Hope in God's Redeeming Works*

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

We all have stories of how our Lord has saved us. Can you remember a time when God saved you? Maybe you were protected from an accident, faced overwhelming debt, or struggled with addiction. Many people say, "I can't believe I survived that painful moment! I don't know how I got through such a tough time. Our flight was turbulent, but we landed safely. I thought I would fail the exam, yet I passed. If I hadn't listened to my parents, I wouldn't be where I am today." If we succeed in life, reach our goals, and find peace, it's often because of God's grace, for He is Immanuel—always with us. He has the power to turn the impossible into the possible and to bring peace into our lives.

The stories we heard on this Second Sunday of Advent depict challenging circumstances, but something hopeful, beautiful, and unbelievable happened. They reveal God's mysterious ways, encouraging us to remember, reflect, and pray!

In our first reading, the Prophet Isaiah speaks during a time of turmoil in the Davidic dynasty, when the kings had become corrupt and notoriously weak-willed. He prophesies, "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and his roots, a bud shall blossom" (Isaiah 11:1). This is a powerful image! Against the backdrop of the northern kingdom's decadence, where only two kings—Hezekiah and Josiah—emerged as nobles since the time of David, and both died young, Isaiah foretells that new life will arise from the dead stump, bringing salvation to all.

He tells the people that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him and that he will be filled with the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord—qualities that the previous kings lacked (cf. Isaiah 11:2-3). The hope for peace was born amid this turmoil, driven by this promise. Who would not dream of what Isaiah proclaims?

It would have been unimaginable for Jews and Gentiles to be reconciled, as one group considered themselves favored by God while the other was viewed as outsiders. St. Paul believed that both groups needed God's mercy (cf. Rom 15:7-9). He argued that all people are saved through faith in Jesus, not merely because they are Jews by birth or due to their good works and obedience to the Torah. Unfortunately, this belief led to him being ostracized by his Jewish friends, who saw him as a traitor.

One of the great ironies of faith is that the Gentiles welcomed the Gospel message with joy and accepted it, while the Jews, who should have been the first to believe, rejected Jesus. This irony is shown in our Lord's words: "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first." These profound truths about God's saving work remind us that God can and will save us in His timing. He bestows upon us the gifts of reconciliation and unity through our Lord Jesus.

St. John the Baptist, in our Gospel reading, challenges us to remember, reflect on, and pray for God's saving actions. His message is clear: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). He criticizes the Pharisees and Sadducees, stating, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (Matthew 3:7-8). While this is not the message typically seen on holiday cards or in TV commercials this season, John the Baptist's call to repentance remains essential. Like St. Paul, he warns



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that merely belonging to the right group does not ensure salvation. Without repentance and the fruits of righteousness, a person may face serious consequences. John the Baptist expected the Messiah to judge sinners with fire. Instead, Jesus overcame sin and saved sinners through His death. What Isaiah prophesied is now true—Jesus is our peace!

During the "Fraction Rite," the brief yet meaningful act of breaking the Holy Eucharist while singing the Agnus Dei serves as a reminder that Christ's body was broken for us. When the priest elevates His Body and Blood and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world," it emphasizes that Jesus, who died for us, has risen to grant us new life. These words and actions highlight God's cleansing power and remind us that we cannot truly experience the joy and peace of Christmas without recognizing our need for a Savior.

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor



PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

**Sacrament of Penance:
Necessary Spiritual Preparation
for Christmas**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an encounter with God's boundless mercy. It frees us from our sins and encourages us to show the same compassion and forgiveness to those who wrong us. Through this sacrament, we are empowered to forgive others. It helps us better understand the Prayer of St. Francis, which says, "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church (cf. Mat 18:18). This sacrament is a gift from God that allows the forgiveness of any sins committed after Baptism. In confession, we have the opportunity to repent and restore our friendship with God. It is a sacred moment when we enter His presence and honestly admit our sins, especially mortal sins. Through absolution, we are reconciled with God and the Church. This sacrament reminds us that we cannot live without God: "In Him, we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer and reflect on your life since your last confession. Consider how you may have, in your thoughts, words, and actions, neglected to live by Christ's commands to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Fr. MAH.



**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 "Confirmation, Consecrated for Mission"**



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

Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30pm in Room 210 (school building)



Mahalo and may you have a blessed week!

2nd Offering next weekend

(Dec. 13th & 14th)

Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

**Retirement Fund
for Religious**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

retiredreligious.org

Mahalo for your generosity!

**Note: Parish Advent Retreat and Penance Service –
December 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM**

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



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



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808

Sttheresaschool808

Website: www.stshi.org

Weekly Offering Report

For November 24, 2025 - November 30, 2025

Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 8,884.50	\$ 3,107.10
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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 13-14 for the Retirement Fund for Religious

Mahalo for your generosity.



CCST Fence Project



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 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

Angel Tree

Angels are still available for adoption at the Church Lanai after mass.

Please consider adopting an angel this Advent to make the season brighter for underprivileged and at-risk children and seniors in our community through the Catholic Charities program.

You may drop off your unwrapped gift(s) at the Parish Office by December 14th.



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



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

Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

December 8, 2025

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

December 9, 2025

Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

December 10, 2025

Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

December 11, 2025

Thursday of the Second Week of Advent

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

December 12, 2025

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

December 13, 2025

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11