



*Greeting You All
A Merry and Blessed Christmas!*

*May the peace and joy
that Christmas
brings be with you
and your family
always.*

From St. Raphael's Pastoral Staff



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Rizal Pedro Acosta, MS – Pastor
Office Secretary – Rose Dela Cruz

Parish Accounting Manager:
Michele Lum

Volunteer Accountant:
Mercedes Casticimo (as needed)

Volunteer Bookkeeper:
Marina Pascua

Volunteer - PDS
Laure Dietterle

Religious Education Director:
Allison Carveiro

Food Pantry:
Benymar Tapucol

Filipino Catholic Club:
Lydia Rebugio

Pastoral Council:
Paul Roberts - Chairperson

Finance Council:
Jacquelyn Contrades

Baptism: Submit application form and required papers to the Parish Office. Baptism class will be scheduled upon receipt of completed applications. Baptism are usually held on Sunday after the 9:30AM Mass.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Contact the Office for more information.

Marriage: Contact the Parish Office for more information at least six months before wedding.

RCIA: Contact the Parish Office for more information.

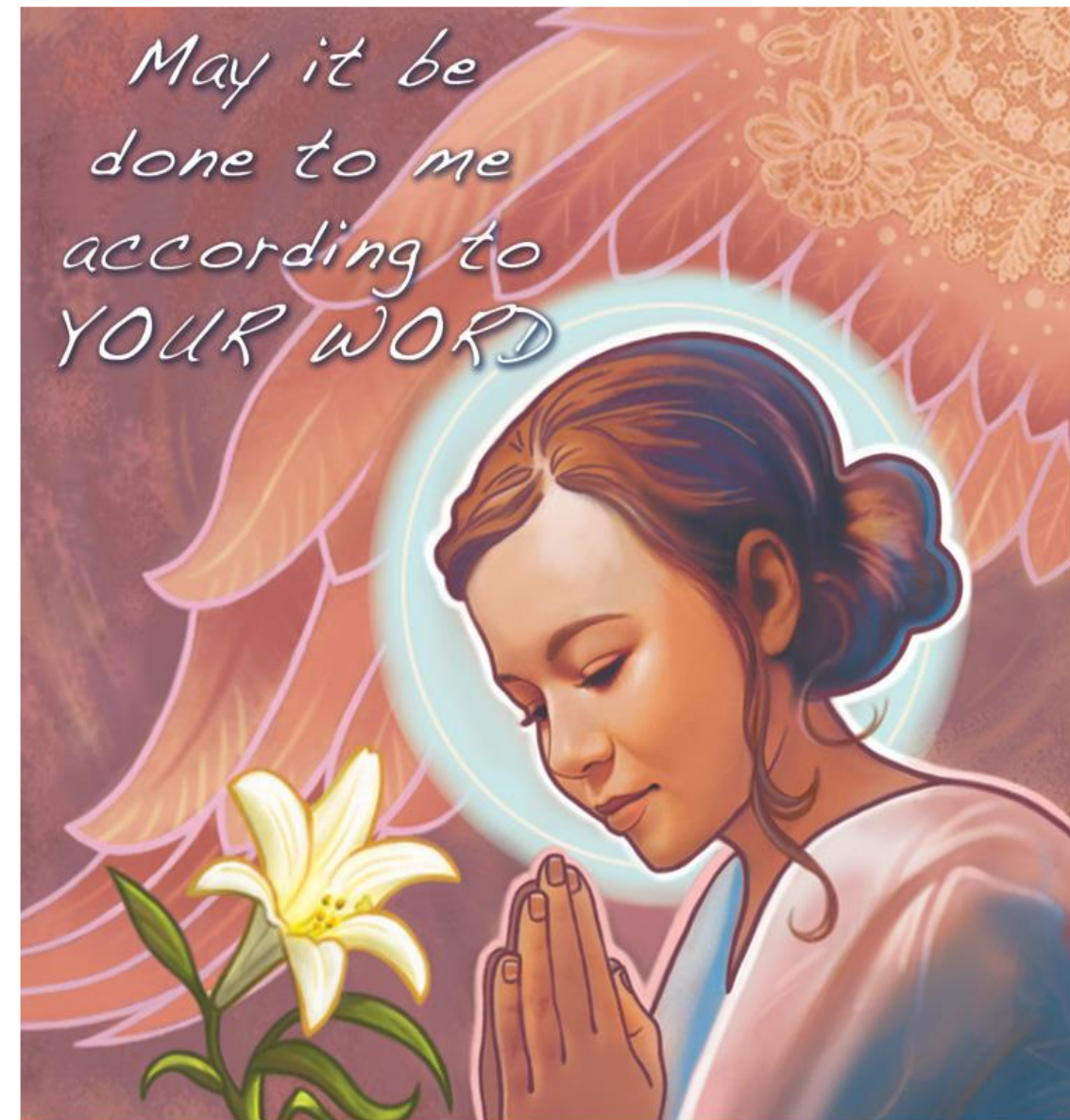
Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office for scheduling the visit.

Funerals: Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.



ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH

Oldest Catholic Church on Kauai – est. 1841
3011 Hapa Road, Koloa, Hawaii 96756
Phone: (808) 742-1955
Fax: (808) 742-1845
Rectory: (808) 320-8758
Website: St-Raphael-kauai.org
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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM (Old Church) Wednesday: 7:00 AM (Old Church) followed by Novena

Saturday: 5:00 PM (New Church) Sunday: 7:00 AM (New Church) 9:30 AM (New Church)

Reconciliation: 30 Minutes before Mass on the weekends in the Parish Office

Sacrament of the Sick: Call the Parish Office at (808) 742-1955 to schedule an appointment

December Birthdays

Inocencia Asuncion 28
Destiny Magallanes 28
Wallace Tavares 28
Tomiko (Bobbie) Almeida 29
Reyn Nakaahiki 30



May God richly bless you and grant the wishes of your heart!

DECEMBER 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 16 – 24 – Misa de Gallo at 5AM – New Church
Except on **December 17 & 24**. Misa de Gallo Mass will be at 7AM.
No 7AM Daily Mass in the Old Historical Church.

December 24 - 7AM Mass & 9:30AM Mass – New Church
5PM Children Mass - New Church
12 AM Midnight Mass – New Church

December 25 – Holy Day of Obligation
9:30AM Mass – Christmas Day. No 7AM Mass.

December 25/26 – Parish Office is closed for Christmas Day Holiday

December 30/31 – Second Collection – Ohana in Christ

December 31 – Filipino Catholic Club meeting in the Parish Hall

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?



Stewards of Treasure Weekly Collections December 17, 2023

Collection	\$ 4,097.00
Votive Candles	\$ 273.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 35.00
Gift Shop	\$ 895.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 290.00
Funeral	\$ 300.00
Food Pantry	\$ 140.00
Bereavement Donation Fund	\$ 200.00
Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 15.00
Misa de Gallo	\$ 1,089.00
Online Church Offering	\$ 506.30

MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



*We will have a Second Collection on December 30 & 31 for the Ohana in Christ. Please support the Annual Appeal for the Catholic Church in Hawaii. Thank you for your donation.

*Christmas Day mass will be on Monday, December 25 at 9:30AM. There will be no 7AM mass in the Old Historical Church. A Holy Day of Obligation.

*The Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26 in observance of a Diocesan Holiday for Christmas.

*Lectors 1st Quarter Schedule for 2024 and Old Historical Church cleaning schedule are available for pickup on the bulletin board outside the New Church.

*On Monday, New Year's Day, January 1, 2024, mass at 9:30AM in the New Church; there will be no 7:00AM Mass

*Our Gift Shop is open after mass on weekends. Weekday schedule is 8 am to 2 pm. Thank you.



MAHALO for celebrating with us this weekend. You may be visiting, new to our community, or live on this beautiful Island. We hope you enjoyed your time at St. Raphael Church and considered St. Raphael Church your "home" away from home.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendents a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

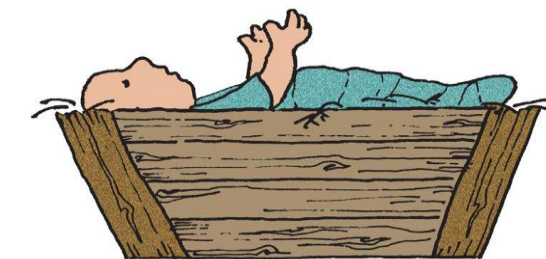
The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.



The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

Our Advent Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. O God, you are great indeed. Look upon us and reveal your glory, promised to Abraham and sent to us through David and his lineage.

Send us the warmth of your love, the light of your Word, the vision of your wisdom, and the comfort of your people. Open our hearts in welcome and grant us your salvation. Fill our minds with watchful hope and let us see your kindness.

Give us new life, the promise and joy of salvation. May the glory of your Son dwell in our land forever.

We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.