



CHILDREN CHRISTMAS MASS



LIGHTING OF WREATH ADVENT CANDLES

*Wishing you abundant blessings in the
2024 New Year*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Fellow Parishioners of St. Raphael Church, Altar Servers, Church Decorators, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Families who lighted the Advent Wreath Candles, Lectors, Music Ministry of all ages, All the people that prepared food for various potlucks, Volunteers in the Church Office, Volunteers that clean the Churches and the Restrooms, Our yard maintenance crew, Volunteers in the Gift Shop, Those that help in the Food Pantry and with food distribution, our Religious Education Staff, Donation of our beautiful Christmas Trees, Donation of Christmas flowers, and to those that decorated the Churches for Christmas!

*Mahalo nui loa and
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!
to all of you.*

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.

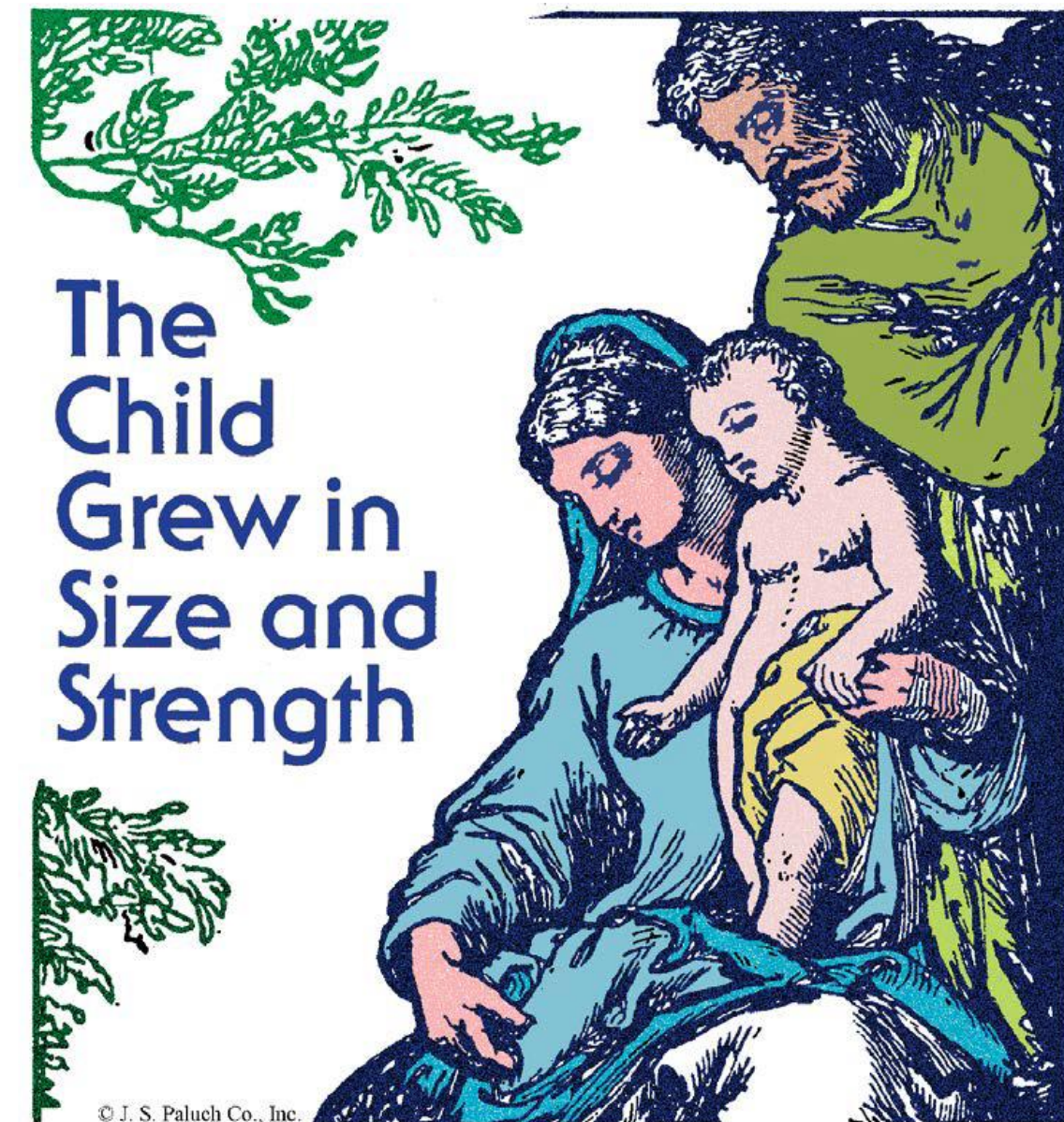
Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office for scheduling the visit.

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
Email: straphael@rcchawaii.org



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 31, 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



January Birthdays

Herbert Miyazaki 02
Cynthia Corona 04
Niko Laborte 04
Florentino Caoagas 06
James Hadwin 06



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

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope
alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits
to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time,
many will see the
wonders of God
And live forever to praise
Your glorious name.

Amen

A Stewardship Moment

When Jesus is presented in the Temple, our Blessed Mother formally offers him to God's service without reservation. It is a service that Simeon prophetically foretells: a service to God that will turn the old laws and cultural norms upside down. Are we destined to hold on to old habits and customs tightly, or like Jesus, are we willing to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel in new and creative ways?

	Stewards of Treasure Weekly Collections December 24, 2023
Collection	\$ 6,649.00
Christmas Day	\$ 8,663.00
Misa de Gallo	\$ 1,250.00
Votive Candles	\$ 562.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 65.00
Gift Shop	\$ 895.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,100.00
Baptismal	\$ 250.00
Food Pantry	\$ 300.00
Online Church Offering	\$ 1,683.30
Online Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 200.00
MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT	



- *We have a Second Collection this weekend for the Ohana in Christ. Please make your check payable to Ohana in Christ. Thank you for your donation.**
- *January schedule for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and First Quarter Lector's schedules are available for pickup on the bulletin board outside the New Church.**
- *On Monday, January 1, 2024, New Year's Day, mass will be at 9:30AM in the New Church; there will be no 7:00AM Mass in the Old Historical Church.**
- *St. Raphael Filipino Catholic Club will meet this Sunday, December 31 at 10:45AM in the Parish Hall.**
- *As a Diocesan Holiday for New Year, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, January 1 & 2.**
- *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
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
(or the first reading from Cycle A: Sirach 3:2-7,12-14)
God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 105:1-6,8-9 (or the psalm from Cycle A: Psalm 128:1-5)
A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading
Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19 (or the second reading from Cycle A: Colossians 3:12-21)
Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.

Gospel Reading
Luke 2:22-40 (or shorter form: Luke 2:22,39-40)
Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

Background on the Gospel Reading
Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimittis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.



*My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
—Luke 2:30-31*

PRAYER TO ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

O Glorious Archangel St. Raphael, great prince of the heavenly court, you are illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace. You are a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners. I beg you, assist me in all my needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels. Because you are the "medicine of God" I humbly pray you to heal the many infirmities of my soul and the ills that afflict my body. I especially ask of you the favor (here mention your special intention), and the great grace of purity to prepare me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.