

ST. RAPHAEL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



*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



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The Epiphany of the Lord
January 7, 2024

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

Kim Melchor 08
Nygel Melchor 08
Juvy Batuyong 09
Kiowa Albao 10
Andy Honl 12
Lorine Paden 13



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

Lighting of Wreath Advent Candle on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Doc. Owen Muana lighted the candle with his family.



Advent Wreath Volunteer Decorators



A Stewardship Moment

The Gospel reading reveals the journey, the visit and the gifts of the Magi. They read the stars and inspired by their own wisdom and vision they truly want to find and pay homage to Christ Jesus who they understood would bring about a kingdom of justice and peace. Although they are not astrologers like the Magi, good stewards go about the task of reading the signs of the time as well. Moreover, they help others discover the loving presence of Christ through their own actions, bringing mercy, compassion and hope for a better world. How do you live each day to bring about a better world, a better life, unity with those who gather around the Eucharistic table and a deeper communion with God?



Stewards of Treasure Weekly Collections December 31, 2023

Collection	\$ 4,518.00
New Year's Day	\$ 687.00
Votive Candles	\$ 275.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 90.00
Gift Shop	\$ 285.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 100.00
Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 20.00
Second Collection for Ohana in Christ	\$ 1,721.00
Online Church Offering	\$ 893.30
Online Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 15.38
Online Other Donations	\$ 250.00

MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



*Thank you for your generous donations toward our Second Collection for Ohana in Christ last weekend.

*Please join the Kauai Filipino Catholic Council in celebrating the Feast of Santo Niño on January 21 at Holy Cross Church in Kalaheo. A rosary prayer/novena and blessing of all Santo Niño statues at 1:30 PM followed by Eucharistic Mass at 2:00 PM then Sinulog procession around the Church. Dinner to follow in the Parish Hall. Please call our Parish Office if you will be attending by January 14, 2024. Presider of the mass will be Fr. Rizal and we encourage our Parish Community to please join this event.

*A 9-day Novena to Santo Niño will start on January 13 – 20 at 5:30 PM in the Old Historical Church.

*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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.



*All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.*

— Psalm 72:11

Prayer for Epiphany

Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.