

# NEWMAN CENTER

## Holy Spirit Parish



1941 East-West Road, Honolulu HI 96822-2321 | PH: (808) 988-6222 | FX: (808) 988-1752 | Email: [info@newmanhawaii.org](mailto:info@newmanhawaii.org)  
Website: [www.newmanhawaii.org](http://www.newmanhawaii.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NewmanHawaii](https://www.facebook.com/NewmanHawaii) | Instagram & Twitter: [@newmanhawaii](https://www.instagram.com/newmanhawaii)



### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God.” - Lk 1:35



# Aloha! Welcome!

We are the Catholic Center and Campus Ministry at the University of Hawai'i, and under the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, serving parishioners, staff, faculty, and students alike that stimulates critical thinking and dialogue about issues that challenge Christian living and commits to a living faith that practices and promotes justice.

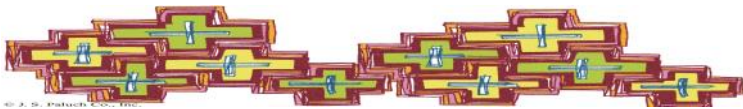
We are a spirit-filled and welcoming community that proclaims and celebrates the Good News through liturgy, the sacraments, faith sharing, outreach, and social action. As the Roman Catholic Community of the University of Hawai'i, we offer opportunities for life-long faith development to all who choose to join us. We invite the contribution of gifts in stewardship and evangelism, and challenge one another in the same manner that Jesus challenges us: 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.

Come journey with us!

## Pastoral Team

	<i>Phone Ext</i>
<b>Pastor   Director of Campus Ministry</b> Fr. Alfred Omar B. Guerrero pastor@newmanhawaii.org	214
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Alofa Leasiolagi manager@newmanhawaii.org	219
<b>Campus Minister</b> Fay Pabo campusministry@newmanhawaii.org	211
<b>Communications &amp; Pastoral Assistant</b> Brandon Akiona pastoralassistant@newmanhawaii.org	211

We welcome your call and are here to serve you! Contact the Parish Office to speak with us or make an appointment. We look forward to hearing from you!



## Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm  
(except Diocesan Holidays)  
*Newman Center may remain open till evening programs conclude*

Saturday and Sunday:  
Open during Mass times and for activities as needed.

## From the Desk of the Pastor

"For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Throughout this Advent Season both in the Sunday readings and the daily readings, we have been meeting different characters that have played a role in God's plan for salvation. On this final Sunday of Advent, we hear the story of Mary, the Blessed Virgin, who is chosen by God to be the mother of the savior.

An Angel of the Lord appears to Mary and says, "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Mary's reply is significant: "How is this possible, for I do not know man?" She wasn't doubting God's plan for her like Zechariah, who wanted to know will the plan happen and demanded for a sign. She was simply asking the question of "how will the plan happen?" Then the angel of the Lord explains to Mary: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." At that moment she responded with obedience, "Let it be done to me according to thy word." She might have had other plans and expectations for her life, but she was listening to the voice of God and she responded with faith, hope and love. Like Mary, we are called to discern God's will in our lives because we too have a role in the plan for salvation. We all have plans and expectations in this life, but are those plans and expectations according to God's will? Perhaps sometime this weekend, we can recommit ourselves in our relationship with God and deepen that communion that compels us to live it out in our lives.

My Pastoral Staff and I would like to wish you happy final days of Advent and a blessed Feast of Christmas!

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Alfred Omar  
(@fralfred808)



## Important Notices

- Christmas Eve Mass (December 24) @ 5PM and 10PM (with caroling before mass)
- Christmas Day Mass (December 25) @ 10AM (with caroling before mass)
- Newman Center Closed: 12/26—12/30 and 1/1-1/2

## Liturgical Schedule

Daily Mass (*Tuesday-Friday*) 12:10PM

Sunday Mass  
(*Saturday Evening Anticipated*) 5:00PM  
9:00AM  
11:00AM  
(*Student-led Mass*) 5:00PM

## Sacramental Information

**Reconciliation** By Appointment  
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

**Baptism** By Request  
Please contact Fr. Alfred Omar at least one month before the date desired for the Baptism.

**Funerals** At Need  
Funerals and the Rite of Christian Burial are made in conjunction with the Mortuary of your choosing. Please contact the Parish Office prior to finalizing a date with the mortuary.

**Holy Matrimony** By Request  
Couples need to contact Fr. Alfred Omar at least eight months prior to your desired wedding date to begin the marriage preparation required by the Diocese of Honolulu.

**Holy Orders—Religious Life** By Call  
Is God calling you to the Priesthood, Diaconate, or Religious Life? God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called. Call us today to setup a discussion with our Pastor where you can continue discerning God's call.

**Holy Communion** Ongoing  
Programs are available for those who have not yet received their First Eucharist. Please contact our Parish Office for more information.

**Confirmation** Ongoing  
Programs are available for those who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please contact our Parish Office for more information.

**Anointing of the Sick** By Request  
If you or someone you know are in need of receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call our parish office to schedule

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** Ongoing  
If you or someone you know are have not yet been baptized and are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith, please call our parish office to learn more about the RCIA,



## The Word of the Lord Weekly

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

“Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.” (2 Sm 28:16)

#### Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

#### Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

#### Gospel:

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” (Lk 1:31)

#### Monday:

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/  
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

#### Tuesday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

#### Wednesday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

#### Thursday:

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/  
Mt 2:13-18

#### Friday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/  
Lk 2:22-35

#### Saturday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

## Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

**Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

**Monday:** The Nativity of the Lord

**Tuesday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr

**Wednesday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

**Thursday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

**Friday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr



## Nourishing Our Faith

### Prayer On the Go

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>  
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

### Daily Scripture and Reflections:

<https://www.dailyscripture.net/daily-meditation/>

### Weekly Essays on Ignatian Spirituality by Fr. Randy Roche, SJ:

<https://mission.lmu.edu/cis/spiritualessays>

### Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom)

The Monday night contemplative Prayer group continues to meet each Monday night via zoom. The schedule is 30 minutes of silence, Lectio Divina using as our scripture reading the Gospel from Sunday, petitions, concluding with the Our Father. Usually there are about 6-9 who join each week with some people joining us from Canada and the Big Island. All are welcome to join us.

We are also affiliated with Contemplative Outreach Hawaii that uses Centering Prayer as their meditative practice. Sometimes, a few members of St. Clements Church have joined us waiting for the establishment of a centering prayer group at their own church. For information contact: June Naughton at [jnaughton808@gmail.com](mailto:jnaughton808@gmail.com). Or 808 383-8954.

## Family Connection

One of the challenges of faith is to recognize God's plan for us and to remain open to God's will and God's actions in our world. Filled with God's grace, Mary models for us the kind of faith that is needed to cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Like Mary, we are given the awesome opportunity to cooperate in God's saving plan. On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working in our lives.

Gather together your family and talk about what you have been doing as a family to prepare for Christmas. How have these preparations helped you to better celebrate the central mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation? Our Gospel today talks about how Mary was prepared for her role in Christ's birth. Read today's Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Consider the question: What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life? Conclude in prayer together that God's grace will enable your family to be more faithful and obedient to God. Pray together the Magnificat.

## 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?



## Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

### Tithes and Offerings:

12/16/2023-12/17/2023: \$2,911.00

Friends of Newman: \$55,000.00

Misc Donation: \$300.00

Retired Fund for Religious: \$ 245.00

### Online:

12/15/2023-12/21/2023: \$2,820.00

May we continue to receive God's gifts gratefully, manage them responsibly, and share them joyfully. Mahalo for your generosity!

### Upcoming Second Collections:

Ohana In Christ Diocesan Appeal: ongoing

### Giving Made Easy

Giving online is safe and easy using our secured online platform, by visiting WeShare at:

[newmanhawaii.weshareonline.org](http://newmanhawaii.weshareonline.org)

Thank you, for your continued support of our parish as we strive to meet the needs of our faith community!



## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Generous and Loving Creator, you have called us to  
Malama i ka Makana (Cherish the Gift).

As disciples of your Son, we ask that your Spirit open our minds and hearts to more deeply appreciate your countless blessings. Increase your transforming spirit within us, so as to nurture our call to stewardship as a way of life marked always by faith-filled prayer, service to others and generous giving.

With the kokua of St. Marianne and St. Damien, teach us to be good stewards so we may return a hundred-fold the makana entrusted to us.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





## Around the Parish

### New to Newman Center - Holy Spirit Parish?

Aloha! E Komo Mai!

We welcome you to your new spiritual home and are delighted to have you join our parish community!

At Newman Center - Holy Spirit Parish, we know that we are all individual parts of the mystical Body of Christ. Working together, we find great joy in doing God's work here on earth. We invite and encourage you to join us as we pray, work and fellowship together.

Please contact the Parish Office to register. Welcome!

NEWMAN CENTER HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CAMPUS MINISTRY

# Christmas Schedule

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Sunday, December 24  
Vigil Mass | 5pm  
Mass during the Night | 10pm

Monday, December 25  
Mass during the Day | 10am

**\*\*THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED  
AFTER THE CHRISTMAS DAY MASS,  
DECEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 29  
AND ON JANUARY 1 & 2**



FOR  
*a child is born*  
TO US  
ISAIAH 9:5

NOT - SO - ORDINARY

# CHRISTMAS Party



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 | 6:00PM**

**\*BRING A DISH TO SHARE**

RSVP: [INFO@NEWMANHAWAII.ORG](mailto:INFO@NEWMANHAWAII.ORG) OR  
CALL PARISH OFFICE 808.988.6222

## Around the Diocese

From the Office of the Bishop:

"In order to safeguard the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist, Bishop Silva has forbidden that the Eucharist be given to anyone presenting a pyx in the Communion line. Only those who are authorized by the parish priest to take Holy Communion to the sick may receive the Eucharist from the priest after the Communion of the faithful, and never during the Communion procession."



**EPIC MINISTRY**

# Christmas LŪ'AU

*Celebrate the season with EPIC Ministry!*

**Friday, January 5, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Hawaii Okinawa Center**

*Honoring*  
**Dcn. Wally & Gwen Mitsui**  
for their lifetime of dedication to the youth and young adults of Hawaii



*Reserve your ticket today at*  
**[www.epicministry.net](http://www.epicministry.net)**



# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

*Let it be done.*

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

### Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.





## Pray

**"Prayer to follow Mary's footsteps to Bethlehem"**  
*Philip Kosloski - published on 12/21/23*

As the celebration of Christmas swiftly approaches, follow Mary in those final days before Jesus' birth.

Advent is a joyous time of expectation, waiting patiently for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

One way to heighten our anticipation is to visualize Mary's final journey into Bethlehem, following her closely, watching her every move.

Dom Prosper Guéranger in his Liturgical Year provides for us the following prayer that looks to Mary in these last few days of Advent, eagerly awaiting the birth of Jesus:

Dearest Jesus, who thus traversest the world, thou hast created and who does not force the homage of thy creatures, we wish to keep near thee during the rest of this thy journey, we kiss the footsteps of Her that carries thee in her womb, we will not leave thee until we arrive together with thee at Bethlehem, that House of Bread, where at last our eyes will see thee: O splendor of eternal light, our Lord and our God.

Resource: <https://aleteia.org/2023/12/21/prayer-to-follow-marys-footsteps-to-bethlehem/>

## Grow

**5 Good reasons to give simple gifts for Christmas**  
Daniel Esparza - published on 12/03/23

In a world mostly driven by thoughtless, flashy consumerism, embracing the simplicity of Christmas gift-giving holds profound significance.

For many, Christmas is stressful. The hustle and bustle of shopping often translate to a gift-giving extravaganza. And whereas impressive, elaborate presents can indeed bring joy to those receiving them, it's also important not to water down the true meaning of Christmas — not to mention the common-sense importance (and responsibility) of not shedding the family budget away. This season, consider the beauty of simple gifts.

Here, we explore five compelling reasons why giving simple gifts aligns with the core principles of the Catholic faith.

### Rediscovering humility

Simple gifts mirror the humble lifestyle of the Holy Family in Bethlehem. By choosing modest presents, we rediscover the value of humility. Even though Christmas' celebrations often imply a certain degree of exceptional material abundance, what is celebrated is indeed the humblest of births.

### Fostering gratitude

Simple gifts encourage a sense of gratitude — a remarkable, necessary, and sadly rare virtue. When we receive or give simple presents, we shift our focus from materialism to appreciation for the thought and effort behind the gift. This gratitude cultivates a deeper connection with those around us, helping us recognize the many everyday blessings in our lives.

### Prioritizing relationships

Simple gifts emphasize the importance of personal connections over material possessions. When we choose gifts that are thoughtful and meaningful, we prioritize the bond shared with family and friends.

### Stewardship of resources

Catholic social teaching emphasizes responsible stewardship of resources. Opting for simple gifts aligns with this principle by reducing unnecessary consumption and waste. By making mindful choices in our gift-giving, we contribute to the well-being of the planet and demonstrate our commitment to caring for God's creation.

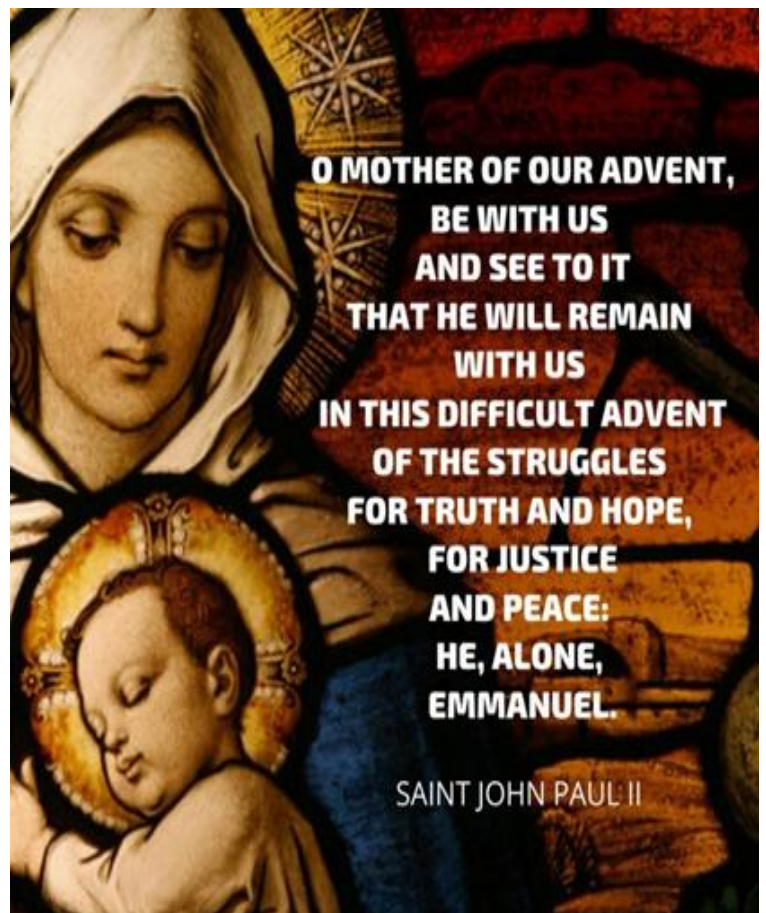
### Reflecting the Christmas message

The Christmas story is the ultimate narrative of love and hope. In choosing simplicity, we align our actions with the core message of the Gospel, spreading the joy of Christ's birth through acts of kindness and love — and not through ostentation.

In a world mostly driven by thoughtless, flashy consumerism, embracing simplicity in one's Christmas gift-giving (even though somewhat counter-cultural) can hold profound significance. By choosing modest presents, we embody virtues such as humility, gratitude, and stewardship — core teachings of the Catholic faith.

This Christmas, let us strive to find joy in the simplicity of giving, as we remember and celebrate the extraordinary gift of Jesus Christ.

Resource: <https://aleteia.org/2023/12/03/5-good-reasons-to-give-simple-gifts-for-christmas/>







## Reflect

It's beginning to look a lot like... almost CHRISTMAS! We're in the final stretch of this Advent season, folks. In these last few weeks, we've been told to stay awake, be vigilant and ready; prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' coming; immerse ourselves in a spirit of continuous joy, prayer, and gratitude. And, in today's Gospel, we are to listen and trust in God's plan, just like Mary did when she was given the important role of being the Mother of Christ and carrying the Son of God. This is a lot to digest, especially in four weeks' time. But our God is an awesome God, isn't He?! He loves and cares for us so much that He is giving us His only begotten Son. What greater gift to receive than the Baby Jesus, God Incarnate! May we be more like Mary, who embodies faith and obedience to God's will, no matter the circumstances. As we end this time of waiting and preparing, let us enter this Christmas season in joy and exultation as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

"Mary's greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself."  
– Pope Benedict XVI

We are grateful to you, our parishioners, and benefactors, for your continued love, prayers, and support for our student community here at the Newman Center. We are truly blessed and grateful for your kind generosity. Let us continue to pray for one another, and for peace in our world and among our brothers and sisters in Christ. From our 'ohana to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!  
St. John Henry Newman, pray for us! – Fay C. Pabo (@fa\_jo\_pabo)

Blessings to you and your 'ohana!  
– **Fay C. Pabo** (@fa\_jo\_pabo)

