

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2022

## Gospel

John 1:1-5, 9-14 (Shorter Form) or  
John 1:1-18 (Longer Form)

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the  
human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.  
He was in the world,  
and the world came to be through him,  
but the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him  
he gave power to become children  
of God,  
to those who believe in his name,



who were born not by natural  
generation  
nor by human choice nor by a man's  
decision  
but of God.

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.

## Readings for the week:

<b>Sunday</b> <b>Christmas</b> (Mass during the day) Isa 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 John 1:1-18 or 1:1- 5, 9-14	<b>Monday</b> <b>St. Stephen,</b> <b>First Martyr</b> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Matt 10:17-22	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>St. John,</b> <b>Apostle and</b> <b>Evangelist</b> 1 John 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 John 20:1a, 2-8	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Holy</b> <b>Innocents</b> 1 John 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Matt 2:13-18	<b>Thursday</b> 1 John 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Luke 2:22-35	<b>Friday</b> <b>Holy Family</b> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Matt 2:13-15, 19-23	<b>Saturday</b> 1 John 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 John 1:1-18	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Mary, Mother</b> <b>of God</b> Num 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21
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### Opening Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Reflecting on Living the Gospel

On this night, we hear the story of Christ's birth from the Gospel of Luke. The timing was neither ideal nor negotiable. There was not even time to secure adequate accommodations and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Through this, we are reminded that God is prepared to do miraculous things in the midst of our everyday lives whether or not we are prepared for them. In other words, God's time will always have the final say. God's timing, though ultimately for our benefit, will not be dictated by our readiness.

This gospel challenges us to recognize that all moments are ripe with sacramentality, with miracle-potential. The shepherds in the field had no idea that they were working on the first Christmas. The angels appeared above, singing "Glory to God in the highest," and notified the shepherds that something monumental had occurred. At that moment, the shepherds had an important choice to make. They could embrace and listen to the message of the angels or they could dismiss it.

When we experience interruptions to our day-to-day routines, how do we respond? Is it with a spirit of openness, with the hopeful outlook that perhaps there is a message meant for us in the disruption? It is difficult to live in a way that leaves us fully open to whatever each moment presents. Sometimes love and duty require us to tend to our work and our routines with a single minded dedication and focus. There are times, however, when we need to be jolted out of those routines so that we can remember the sacredness and divine potential of each moment. This Christmas narrative serves as a reminder that the most significant gifts could arrive at seemingly insignificant (or inconvenient) times.

### Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we rejoice in your self-gift to us. Through the solidarity and hope of your incarnation may we remain faithful to your gospel and the way of discipleship. **Amen.**

#### For Reflection:

- Jesus, the Word of God, entered fully into human life. Do you find this hard to believe? What parts of your life feel distant from how you understand Jesus's earthly experience?

#### Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

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**MASS TIMES:**

**Fr. Anastacio Postrano, Pastor**

Daily Mass: 6:30 AM – 7:30 AM (except Mondays)

Saturday: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

4th Wednesday Masses are at 9:00AM at Hale Makua Nursing Home (Wailuku).

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every 1st Friday: 6:00 AM

**CONFESSION**

Saturday: 4:30 PM

After every weekday mass or by appointment.

**SACRAMENTS**

Baptism, Confession, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, Funerals please call the office to make an appointment (808) 244-3284 or (808) 385-3021 (please leave a message).

You can also reach us via email at [stannwaihee@gmail.com](mailto:stannwaihee@gmail.com).

Parish Council Chair: Brandy Cajudoy Finance Chair: Gloria Filo

**Financials: 12/12/22 –12/18/22**

<b>Weekly Collection Goal \$2400</b>	<b>Total \$2203.00 Short \$197.00</b>	
<b>In Church</b>	\$	<b>2103.00</b>
<b>Online Giving</b>	\$	<b>00.00</b>
<b>Mail In</b>	\$	<b>100.00</b>

**Saturday Evening Mass, December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.**

**New Year's Day Mass on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Special Mahalo to:**

**Elaine Ishikawa family for the flower arrangements.**

**Tina Ugale, Auntie Juanita Kauhaahaa and company for preparing our Church for the Nativity of Christ.**

*Merry Christmas!*

*And*

*Have a Blessed Week!*