



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Go, and Share the Good News!”

As we journey through the sacred season of Advent, we are blessed to reflect on the profound figures who guide us in preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior. From the First to the Third Sunday of Advent, our focus is on John the Baptist, whose call to “prepare the way of the Lord” resonates deeply within us. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, our hearts turn to Mary, the Mother of God, whose humble acceptance and profound faith invite us to embrace the mystery of Christ’s coming with open hearts.

Mary’s story is one of divine grace and joyful obedience. When the angel Gabriel announced to her that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with unwavering faith. In her haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also miraculously with child, we witness a beautiful encounter filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth’s exclamation, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,” echoes through the ages, reminding us of the joy and hope that Mary brings into our lives.

The joy we celebrate on the Third Sunday of Advent finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Mary. His birth brings the light of God’s love into the world, a love that is unconditional and transformative. Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again, offers us forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. This joy is not meant to be kept to ourselves but shared with others, just as Mary shared her happiness with Elizabeth and Elizabeth’s joy with Mary. Let us, too, go forth with haste to bring the light of Christ to our families, friends, and even those who have wronged us, fostering peace and harmony in our diverse world.

As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, we look to Mary as our model of faith and discipleship. Her role in the history of salvation is unparalleled, for through her, our Savior was born. Her life of faith and obedience to God’s will is a testament to the power of divine love. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us reflect on how we are responding to God’s call in our own lives. Are we living as Stewards of the Gospel, bearing witness to His mercy and kindness?

Mary’s love for God was profound and unwavering. Let us ask ourselves if we, too, are humble and obedient, ready to embrace God’s will in our lives. Do we show the same love and care for those entrusted to us, and even for strangers? May we open our hearts and minds like Mary so that we can bring Jesus into every aspect of our lives, illuminating the world with hope, joy, and love. Go and share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual