Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"Entering the Holy Season of Advent"

How blessed we are to be given yet another opportunity to be renewed by God's grace. As we enter the holy Season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of joyful expectation as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We prepare not only to celebrate His birth at Christmas, but also to welcome Him more deeply into our hearts and to look forward with hope to His glorious return.

Advent reminds us that the Lord comes to us each day. He comes through the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. He comes through His living Word proclaimed among us. He comes through our encounters with one another as members of the Body of Christ. And He comes through the poor, the suffering, and all who long for compassion and mercy. As disciples of Jesus, we are called not only to welcome Him but also to bring His light and love into others' lives.

As we journey through this Advent season, we do so with renewed hope. In a world often marked by division, uncertainty, violence, and suffering, we place our trust in the promise that Christ is Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the light that no darkness can overcome. Advent assures us that God has not abandoned His people. Rather, He continues to come into our lives, healing our wounds, renewing our hearts, and guiding us toward His Kingdom of peace, justice, and love.

Whenever we prepare for an important celebration, we devote time and energy to ensure everything is ready. We attend to every detail, so the occasion is joyful and meaningful. In the same way, Advent calls us to prepare spiritually for Christ's coming. Beyond decorating our homes and planning Christmas festivities, we are invited to prepare the manger of our hearts so Jesus may find a worthy dwelling place within us.

We can prepare for His coming through daily prayer, meditation on Sacred Scripture, and participation in the Sacraments. We are encouraged to seek God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience His loving forgiveness and healing grace. Faithful participation in Sunday Mass, attending daily Mass when possible, and observing the Holy Days of Obligation deepen our communion with Christ. Advent also calls us to continue the Church's mission of charity by reaching out to those in need, sharing our blessings, and becoming signs of God's compassion in the world.

This sacred season is also a privileged time for self-reflection and spiritual renewal. It invites us to examine the areas of our lives that need conversion and growth. The Lord calls each of us to let go of attitudes, vices, and choices that draw us away from Him and to embrace the life of discipleship more fully. Just as Jesus called His first disciples to be witnesses of His love, He calls us today to be instruments of hope, reconciliation, and peace in a world longing for His presence.

Our Advent journey begins now. Let us walk together in faith, hope, and love. May this season be filled with abundant grace and spiritual blessings. May our hearts be watchful and ready to welcome Christ anew into our lives, families, parish, and world.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who waited with faith-filled hope for the birth of her Son, accompany us throughout this holy season and help us prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

A blessed and grace-filled Advent to all.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual