



# *Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus*

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## ***July 20, 2025 - 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*** ***Friendship with the Lord Jesus: Presence, Time, and Attention***

**Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15:2-3,3-4,5; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42**

Christian hospitality is one of the pillars of stewardship, which necessitates presence, time, and attention in welcoming others and being always willing to step up and help. We have two parallel stories of hospitality which are blessed and rewarded by God: one that occurred in the mountain of Mamre and the other in the village of Bethany, as recounted in the first reading and the Gospel.

Abraham and Sarah's hospitality towards the three strangers, rooted in their faith in God, led to a miraculous reward. Their barrenness was transformed into fertility, as Sarah conceived a son. This awe-inspiring event reminds us that divine visitation often occurs through ordinary means, like meeting a stranger or someone in need of help. And the hospitality we extend to someone will not go unnoticed; there is always a reward. As Jesus said, 'whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink — amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward' (cf. Matt 10:42). There is a blessing for being hospitable!

On the other hand, the hospitality that occurred in the village of Bethany was nurtured and grew out of friendship. Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus are close family friends of Jesus, much like Abraham and Sarah were friends of God. They live in the town of Bethany, a stone's throw away from Jerusalem. One can notice the closeness of the family to Jesus through their gestures and dialogue. It's casual, honest, and friendly. Martha, inundated with the work in the kitchen, honestly expressed her concern to Jesus, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me' (Lk 10:40). She would not tell Jesus this way if he is not a close friend, and who would not understand her complaint if all she wants is to give the best hospitality to her guests? Yes, she seemed to be anxious at the moment.

Jesus, a dear friend, must have smiled while looking at and listening to Martha's complaint. His response, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken from her' (Lk 10:41-42), did not discredit Martha's legitimate concern. He did not take it lightly, but he made it an occasion to teach the beauty of friendship. He made Mary's disposition an ideal of friendship.

Friendship is always the gift of our being. It is not what you have offered but how much you give your time, presence, and attention, without which, friendship is at risk, weakens, or dies. Hence, the value of friendship is not in material things. It is an encounter from person to person, celebrating each other's being. You can buy friends and multiply them with material gifts, but you will never win their hearts and genuine loyalty.

Our Lord Jesus profoundly reminded Martha and us of the sublime beauty of friendship that we sometimes overlook: the value of presence, time, and attention. These are profound expressions of our being, and they are inseparable, the 'one thing' that the Lord recognizes as the 'better part' and that 'should not be taken away' from our daily lives. This 'one thing' is the undivided attention and devotion we give to our relationship with Jesus, which endures until eternity, while our works or ministries will come to an end.

St. Gregory beautifully summed up this story of Martha and Mary. He said,



'Martha signifies the active life as she busily labors to honor Christ through her work. Mary exemplifies the contemplative life as she sits attentively to listen and learn from Christ. While both activities are essential to Christian living, the latter is greater than the former. In heaven, the active life terminates, while the contemplative life reaches its perfection.'

Our lives as friends of Jesus flow from the "one thing" that is not to be taken for granted, undervalued, or disregarded, but must be practiced. Without this "one thing," it would be deceiving to claim he is our friend. The "one thing" is our time with the Lord in prayer, which requires dedicated time, presence, and attention.

Let us not allow the day to pass without spending time with Jesus. It is where genuine hospitality is nurtured and grows, and where perseverance in the face of life's challenges and our care for others in his name is nourished and sustained.

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor



## PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

### On Offering Prayers and Mass Intentions

The Church urges us to 'pray unceasingly,' a call that holds immense significance in deepening our relationship with God and seeking His guidance and blessings (cf. 1 Thess. 5:16-17). This call to prayer is not just a duty, but a privilege — a sacred honor bestowed upon us through the public and private worship of bishops, priests, religious, deacons, and the laity. We pray for the common good, strengthening our bond with one another and with God (cf. 1 Thess. 5:23-25).

It is a privilege to offer Mass intentions, a sacred honor bestowed upon us by the Church. The highest form of worship, where the Church offers prayer to the Father, is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian life. During the Mass, the priest, 'in persona Christi,' offers prayers and sacrifices on behalf of the faithful. This spiritual connection with Christ, our Savior, and the prayers offered for the entire Church make Mass intentions profound offerings to the altar of the Lord. These intentions can be for various reasons, such as the remembrance of a departed loved one, the health and well-being of a friend or family member, or a specific intention, like a birthday or anniversary.

By offering Mass intentions, we not only participate in the Church's prayer life but also receive spiritual benefits. One's monetary intention offering contributes to providing for the temporal needs of the parish in a small way, highlighting our shared responsibility and community spirit within the Church. This act of giving, both spiritually and materially, is a profound expression of our faith and love for God and our community.

To offer a Mass intention, you can schedule it through the parish office or use special envelopes at the church entrance. When using the envelopes, you can write your intention on the envelope and enclose your offering within it. Please note that your offering will be part of the "collective intentions," which are multiple offerings united in a single Mass. (Fr. MAH)



\*the relics and the mortal remains were temporarily transferred to the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus for the duration of the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace's restoration.



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa  
of the Child Jesus  
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HONOLULU



In Partnership

FEEDING  
AMERICA

**OHANA PRODUCE PLUS**  
**Food Distribution**  
**Saturday, July 26 - 9:00 to 10:45 a.m.**



ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY  
(5 days before distribution)  
<https://www.cocathedral.org/>

# Weekly Offering Report

## For July 7, 2025 - July 13, 2025



**SAINT THERESA SCHOOL**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Office Phone: 808-536-4703



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808  
 Sttheresaschool808  
 Website: [www.stshi.org](http://www.stshi.org)

### Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 9,037.50	\$ 868.24
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\*\*\* Looking for convenient, safe and secure way of giving to our church? We have online giving feature in our website, just click on the link and go through the easy-to-follow steps to go about it. We also have a Giving Kiosk beside the statue of St. Damien. Please have a look at these methods for your church contributions. We thank you for your continued support in fulfilling the mission of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. \*\*\*

We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction of which is in progress. Please continue to pray with us for the completion of this important project for the safety and security of our church and school.

### SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

- Principal - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/Teacher - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Ondayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- Preschool-Gr.8 PE & Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - preschool-Kindergarten Religion Teacher/Coordinator for School Liturgies - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade Teacher - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade Teacher - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Teacher - Taiena Finau
- 6th grade HR/Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Algebra/Pre-Algebra/Math 8 - Sally Mejia
- 7th grade HR/Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Preschool-8 Music/School Choir - Keith Febrero
- 8th grade HR/Middle School or MS Science & Math 7 -
- 8th grade HR, Middle School Japanese/Language Arts 6/Art 7 & 8 - Tiani Quon
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of May 31, 2025	\$ 160,095.46
Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of May 31, 2025	52,892.32
Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of May 31, 2025	\$ 301,057.13

### Second Collections:

August 2-3 for the Catholic Charities Hawaii  
 August 9 - 10 for the St. Theresa School Assistance

*Mahalo for your generosity.*

CCST Fence Project - conceptual view



**West Honolulu Vicariate Presents**  
**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 SPIRITUAL CONFERENCES**  
**@ Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa**  
 (with Holy Hour and Confession)

**August 20, 2025 @ 6:00 PM - Speaker: Fr. Edgar Brillantes**

Theme: **We are Pilgrims of Hope - Jubilee 2025 and Beyond**

"We are all called to spread the peace and joy of Jesus our Savior on our way to the Kingdom."

**September 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM - Speaker: Fr. Arlan Intal, MS**

Theme: **MARY, OUR MOTHER OF HOPE**

"In her apparition at La Salette on Sept 19, 1846 in France, the Blessed Mother who appeared to 2 children named Maximin and Melanie left a message of hope to make her message known to all people."



**: Wanted :**

## ***Middle School Science Teacher***



Earth Science  
Life Science  
Physical Science



*"How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord God of Hosts."  
Psalm 84:1*



### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday  
from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
(Closed during Lunch break from 12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Saturdays  
from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Sundays  
from 7:30 am - 11:30 am

### **MASS SCHEDULES**

#### **Sunday Mass**

6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 pm

#### **Daily Mass**

Mon – Thurs: 6:30 am

Fri – Sat: 8:00 am

#### **Vietnamese Mass (VHM)**

Daily Mass:

Mon. Tues. & Thur. at 5:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sundays at 3:30 pm

#### **Holy Hour/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession**

Wednesdays

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction & Confessions at 6:15 pm

(First Wednesdays of the month with Bishop)

### **PASTORAL TEAM & PARISH STAFF**

#### **Fr. Manuel Hewe**

Pastor

#### **Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC**

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

#### **Tyra Lamb**

Safe Environment Liaison

#### **Pinky Mendoza**

Office Coordinator

#### **Jennifer Asuncion**

Office Secretary

#### **Francis Leasiolagi**

Deacon

#### **Jonathan Lam**

VHM Deacon

#### **Ray Lamb**

Deacon

#### **Roy Matsuo**

Retired Deacon

#### **Marlowe Sabater**

Deacon

#### **Fr. Anthony Tran**

VHM Chaplain/Parochial Vicar

#### **Bernie Gora**

Director of Music

#### **Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili**

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

#### **Grace Young**

Communications Coordinator

#### **Samy Ratum**

Facilities Custodian

#### **Noraliza Tapeç**

On-Call Church Custodian

#### **Felipe Tan**

Accountant

#### **Joan Mabag**

Custodian

## **Daily Mass Readings** [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**July 21, 2025**

*Monday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42

**July 22, 2025**

*Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene  
Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians  
5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18*

**July 23, 2025**

*Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9

**July 24, 2025**

*Thursday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Matthew  
13:10-17

**July 25, 2025**

*Feast of Saint James, Apostle  
2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28*

**July 26, 2025**

*Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne,  
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30*

**July 27, 2025**

*Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14;  
Luke 11:1-13*

## Explanation of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa's 95<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary Logo

The Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa Church (CCST) was founded on July 19, 1931, and was later elevated to the status of a Co-Cathedral on July 28, 1985. This elevation was a significant recognition of our church's pivotal role in the Diocese of Honolulu, allowing us to share in the spiritual leadership that serves the larger Hawaii Catholic community.



This year, 2025, marks the 94th anniversary of our beloved Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa Church since its foundation. In 2026, we will celebrate the 95th year of our founding.

The logo for this significant milestone not only captures the meaning of our shared journey but also our unity as a community of faith. It is our shared history and faith that bind us together, making us part of something much larger than ourselves — a spiritual family united in our love for God and for one another.

The logo's expanding circular orange image, transitioning to yellow, symbolizes our parish's remarkable growth in liturgical, sacramental, and social ministries. This growth is a tangible sign of the fruits of the nourishment we receive through the Most Holy Eucharist and the enduring presence of the Holy Spirit. It is also a testament to our unwavering commitment and dedication to our faith.

The church figure within the circle symbolizes our humble dependence on God. It represents the church as a body, with Christ as its head, in whom we live, move, and have our being (cf. Acts 17:28). This figure serves as a visual

reminder of our collective reliance on God's grace and guidance in all aspects of our church life and mission.

The shade of blue lines of the church building emphasizes trust in divine providence and the love for Jesus exemplified by St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Her life and teachings, particularly her 'Little Way' — a path of spiritual growth that emphasizes doing the small things with great love, even in the face of difficulties and challenges — serve as a model for living our faith and our love for Jesus. This 'Little Way' is our way in responding to the church's perpetual invitation to come and adore the Lord, 'venite adoremus,' which finds its completion in our active participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is a spiritual heritage of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, which we are grateful to be part of, and one that will continue to shape our growth as children of God, Pilgrims of Hope, yearning for the treasures of heaven. (Fr. MAH).

***“Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.”***

St. Therese of the Child Jesus





# SAINT THERESA SCHOOL

## **A Message of Faith, Hope, and Love for Catholic Education**

By Bernie Gora, Principal of St. Theresa School

Dear Families and Friends of St. Theresa School,

As principal of our beloved Catholic school, I am continually inspired by the strength and unity of our church and school community. In today's world, where the values we hold dear are often challenged by secular influences, our mission to nurture faith, character, and academic excellence in our children is more vital than ever. We are living in times that test our firm determination of who we are, pilgrims of hope.

On March 20, 2024, our beloved Pope Francis said, "Let us get up, therefore, and set out as pilgrims of hope, because, just as Mary did with Saint Elizabeth, we too can bring news of joy." The world around us sometimes questions the importance of faith-based education, and the pressures to conform to secular standards can feel overwhelming. Yet, it is precisely in these moments that our Catholic identity shines brightest. Our school is not just a place of learning-it is a sanctuary where Christ's love is at the center of all we do.

I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of our faith in action. Whether it is the compassion our students show to one another, the dedication of our teachers, or the unwavering support of our families. It is clear that God is at work in our community. Together, we have faced challenges-big and small- and emerged stronger because we rely on prayer, perseverance, and each other.

Let us remember that our strength comes from our unity in Christ. We are called to be a light in the world, to stand firm in our beliefs, and to teach our children the values of kindness, integrity, and service. No matter how much the secular world may try to defy or diminish the role of Catholic schools, we know that our foundation is built on the rock of faith.

As we move forward, let us continue to support one another, to pray for our students and staff, and to trust in God's providence. Together, we will keep our school strong and healthy-not just for today, but for generations to come. Soon our children will return. Their first day back is August 6. Let us welcome them back with open arms and loving hearts!

May God bless you and your family abundantly.

With gratitude and hope,  
Bernie Gora  
Principal of St. Theresa School Honolulu