



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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August 16, 2026 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Our Exclusive Groups and Our Inclusive Faith

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Our typical human inclinations cause us to form groups. We like to associate and hang out primarily with people who have similarities to us. In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, a Canaanite woman called out to Jesus for help. The Canaanite woman was in distress because her daughter was tormented and possessed by a demon. The disciples dismissed the Canaanite woman's cries, and they asked our Lord to send her away. Even Jesus dismissively says, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Still, the Canaanite woman did not stop pestering Christ.

Rather than give up, the Canaanite woman persisted in her prayer. The RSV biblical translation of Matthew 15:25 writes that she knelt before Jesus and begged him even more. Our Lord answered with insulting language, comparing the Gentiles (the peoples of different nations who were not of Jewish descent) with dogs. Cleverly, the Canaanite woman responded that even dogs eat the crumbs or scraps that fall from the masters' table.

The disciples felt like they were a click, an exclusive group which blocked off access to outsiders. I can imagine them thinking, "Why would a non-Jew ask for healing from our Master, our Lord, and our Rabbi." In an unexpected turn of events, the Canaanite woman shows the disciples how to pray. The Canaanite woman displayed to them the greatness of her faith, even though she was considered an outsider.

First, the Canaanite woman addressed Jesus as both Lord and Son of David (Matthew 15:22). Then, even after being denied help, the Canaanite woman persisted in her prayer, and she doubled down on her efforts. When Christ insulted her, including all the other Gentiles, the Canaanite woman retorted to our Lord's insult in a tactful, tasteful, and ingratiating manner. She played into Jesus' insult with humility and cunning.

God's salvation transcends the boundaries that we place amongst our different groups. It is true that we like to stick to our groups. We like to form communities with those whom we share commonalities. Still, Our Lord's saving power is greater than any boundary we may construct between different peoples, between different cultures, between Asian, Polynesian, Micronesian, African, and Caucasian peoples. Look at our church, we do not discriminate on who may attend Mass. Look at Catholic hospitals and Catholic schools, we serve all peoples who are in need. Although the church and these church affiliated associations promote a Catholic worldview, the word "Catholic" itself means that the church is both universal, a missionary church for all peoples, and that the church contains the fullness of the faith (CCC 830-831).

The disciples had a narrow world view, that is why they shunned the Canaanite woman who begged Jesus for help. Do we avoid those who are culturally different from us? Do we like to hang out only with those people who are similar to us? Do we avoid conversing with peoples of other Christian denominations, other churches, or other faiths? Let us broaden our worldview and see with the eyes of Christ. That even those whom we view as



outsiders may be searching for help from the Lord. They may be searching for help from the Son of David. They may be searching for help from God. Sooner or later, they may realize that Jesus Christ is there to help them. Before they realize this, we may bear witness to them of Christ's healing presence through our works of charity and inclusion. For, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the master's table.

Fr. John Akau, Parochial Vicar

A Journey of Joyful Witness to Doing all things with Love.



We worship what we believe; we live what we worship. Genuflecting and Bowing in the Mass

The Canaanite woman in today's Gospel knelt in homage before Christ. When we enter a Church, if the tabernacle with the Body and Blood of Our Lord is in the church, then we would genuflect (touching the floor with the right knee) before entering a pew. If there is no tabernacle with the Eucharist in the church, we may bow towards the altar before we enter a pew. If the tabernacle is present in the church, during the Mass, the priest and servers together will genuflect when they have processed to and have reached the sanctuary. If there is no tabernacle, the priest and servers bow towards the altar.

These acts of reverence, such as genuflecting and bowing, are done so that we may express worship to God. They are not just random, repetitive, and ritual motions that have no meaning. These motions are symbolic and expressive. We genuflect to recognize Jesus' presence, and we bow to show honor to the altar, where Jesus is consecrated.

During the Mass all the attention gets focused on the altar, the place where Christ will be made present. So, we may notice the lectors, cantors, altar servers, priest, and deacons, when they pass by the altar, they will bow towards the altar to show reverence for it.

For receiving Communion, we should always present ourselves the right way. Before receiving Communion, we bow as a sign of reverence towards the Body or blood (GIRM 160). Then, we may extend our non-dominant hand with palm facing upward and place our dominant hand under it. When the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion says, "the Body of Christ." We respond, "Amen." Then when the priest places the Body of Christ in our extended palm, we use our dominant hand to pick up the Body of Christ and consume Him immediately.

We have the option to receive the Body of Christ by mouth. We do this by opening our mouths and sticking our tongue out a little, so that the minister of Holy Communion may place the Host on our tongue. When receiving the Blood, we again should first bow our head, and then after the minister of Holy Communion says, "the Blood of Christ," we respond, "Amen." We must firmly take hold of the cup of precious Blood, so as not to spill it, and take a sip. Then, we hand the cup back to the minister of Holy Communion. All these gestures are ways in which we express our worship and honor to God.

(Fr. JJA)



The Order of Christian Initiation
Faith Formation sessions have
started once again.

The OCIA is a process for those seeking to be baptized into the Catholic Church, as well as those desiring to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. However the faith formation sessions are open for everyone wanting to know more about their Catholic faith.

Come join us!

Our topic this week is
"My soul longs for you, O God"

as we come to know how our hearts desire God,
even if we are not aware of it.

Tuesday - August 18th at 6:30pm - parish rectory

For more information, please contact the parish office @ (808)521-1700.



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

In Partnership



FEEDING
AMERICA

OHANA PRODUCE PLUS

Food Distribution

Saturday, August 2~~nd~~ 29th

9:00 to 10:45 a.m.

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



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Clergy, Religious Communities, and Parishes

FROM: Rev. Alfred Omar Guerrero, Director

DATE: August 13, 2026

RE: Mass Dispensation due to Inclement Weather

The Governor declared a state of emergency for Hawai'i ahead of Tropical Storm/Hurricane Lala, so travel may be imprudent. Traveling for Mass could be unsafe or prohibited, placing one's life and the lives of others at risk. Bishop Michael T. T. Castori, SJ, has granted a dispensation for all those affected, so the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, August 16, 2026, is not in force.

For those who cannot attend Mass, time should be spent reading the Word of God or in prayer to mark the Lord's Day.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

- From Psalm 46

A Prayer to Avert Storms and Hurricanes

Father, all the elements of nature obey your command.
Calm the storms and hurricanes that threaten us
and turn our fear of your power into praise of your goodness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Protection During a Storm

Loving God, maker of heaven and earth, protect us in your love and mercy. Send the Spirit of Jesus to be with us, to still our fears and give us confidence. In the stormy waters, Jesus reassured his disciples by his presence, calmed the storm, and strengthened their faith. Guard us from harm during this storm and renew our faith to serve you faithfully. Give us the courage to face all difficulties and the wisdom to see the ways your Spirit binds us together in mutual assistance. With confidence we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Legacy Sunday --- Beginning Your Legacy Journey

"Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

— Matthew 6:21

Legacy Sunday is an invitation to reflect on the values and faith you wish to pass on to future generations. Through thoughtful planning, you can care for your loved ones, ensure your wishes are honored, and leave a legacy that reflects your faith and gratitude for God's blessings.

What is legacy planning?

Legacy planning is the process of preparing for the future by creating or updating important documents such as a will, trust, powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, and health care directives. It provides peace of mind for you and your family while ensuring your intentions are clearly communicated.

I don't consider myself wealthy. Is legacy planning still important?

Absolutely. Legacy planning is not about the size of your estate—it is about caring for the people and causes that matter most to you. Every adult should have a plan in place, regardless of age or financial circumstances.

Can I include my parish or another Catholic ministry in my plans?

Many Catholics choose to include their parish or Catholic ministry in their estate plans after providing for their loved ones. These planned gifts become a lasting expression of faith and gratitude and help ensure that the ministries they cherish today continue to serve future generations.

Where can I learn more?

The Hawai'i Catholic Community Foundation is available to provide educational resources and information about:

- Wills and trusts
- Powers of attorney
- Beneficiary designations
- Charitable gift planning
- Health care directives
- Other legacy planning resources

For more information, please contact:

Hawai'i Catholic Community Foundation

Phone: 808-585-3331

Email: hccf-admin@rcchawaii.org

Website: <https://www.hawaiicatholiccommunityfoundation.org/legacy-society/>

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

— 1 Peter 4:10

Every gift we receive from God - our faith, our families, our talents, and our resources - is entrusted to us for a purpose. Through thoughtful legacy planning, we have an opportunity to care for those we love while continuing to share God's gifts with future generations.



Scan to View
Legacy Sunday Video



**Hawai'i Catholic
Community Foundation**

OUR CALLING • MAKING DISCIPLES • SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE



Backpacks, blessings, and bright smiles filled the day as the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters of St. Peter Claver Unit 419 set out on a mission of faith and service. What began as a back-to-school backpack giveaway quickly became a sweet and memorable experience with the community at Pu'uhonua 'o Waianae. Together, they discovered that even the smallest acts of kindness can leave the biggest impact.

The day was filled with faith, fellowship, and service as the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters of St. Peter Claver Unit 419 journeyed to Pu'uhonua 'o Waianae to deliver backpacks and lunches to children and teens in the community. Guided by the spirit of Catholic service, our young members embraced the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of local families preparing for the upcoming school year.

Leading the effort were Junior Knight Commander, Jason Kaneaiakala, and Junior Daughter Counselor and Vice Grand Lady, Maila Kaneaiakala. They were also joined by Grand Knight Deacon Ray Lamb and Grand Lady Tyra Lamb. Together, they escorted our Junior Knights and Junior Daughters as they carried out the mission of serving others with compassion and kindness. The day began and ended in prayer, reminding us that service is one of the most powerful ways to demonstrate our faith. As backpacks were distributed, smiles were shared, conversations were exchanged, and the start of new relationships were built. Our young members witnessed firsthand the importance of helping others and becoming active stewards of God's love in their community.

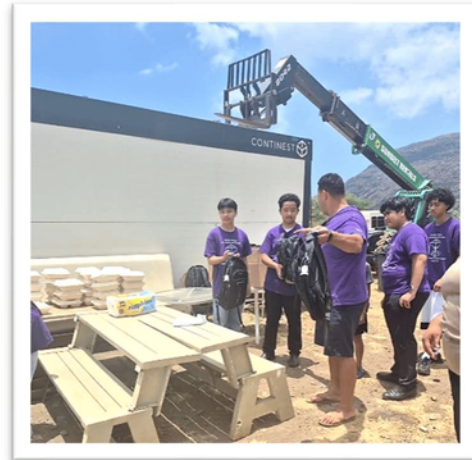
The families and children of Pu'uhonua 'o Waianae welcomed us with. While our visit was intended to provide an extra boost as students prepare for the new school year, it was also an opportunity to recognize the strength, resilience, and commitment already present within the community. We were not there simply to help a disenfranchised population; we were there to support and encourage families who are already working hard to create brighter futures for their children.

Throughout the day, the presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt in every interaction. God's love united us in fellowship, reminding us that when we come together in service, we build stronger communities and create lasting bonds of faith and hope. The experience was as much a blessing for our Juniors as it was for those receiving backpacks. This event marks only the beginning of many more good works to come from the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters

of St. Peter Claver Unit 419. Our young leaders are committed to continuing their philanthropic efforts and living out the values of faith, service, and charity.

We invite our community to support the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters in their mission of serving others. Your donations to our Most Holy Order help provide opportunities for our youth to grow as leaders while making a positive impact on the lives of those around them. To donate to our Junior Division or for more information on how to join our Junior Division, please email stmariannecope419@gmail.com.

On behalf of Unit 419, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported our youth and our ministry. Mahalo for believing in our young people, investing in their future, and helping us continue God's work in our community. Together, with faith as our foundation, we look forward to many more opportunities to serve and uplift those around us. God bless you all.



Weekly Offering Report

For August 3, 2026 - August 9, 2026



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



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808



Sttheresaschool808

Website: www.stshi.org

Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 9,874.00	\$ 832.71
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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. ***

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of June 30, 2026 **\$ 281,193.90**

Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of June 30, 2026 **\$ 263,448.52**



CHURCH FENCE PROJECT REPORT

- **Materials & equipment rental**—steel, concrete, paint, machinery **\$ 196,421.99**
- **Labor & Miscellaneous expense**—fabrication, installation, dredging **\$ 139,602.76**
- **Total Cost** **\$ 336,024.75**

The Fencing Project is our proactive effort to mitigate potential harm to our parishioners, schoolchildren, school and Church staff and personnel, guests, and other legitimate visitors. Our Security Camera installation complements this effort.

Thank you for your support! May God bless you all!!!

Second Collections:

August 15-16 for the St. Theresa School Assistance
 September 5-6 for the Catholic University of America
Mahalo for your generosity.

2nd Offering this weekend
August 15th & 16th is for the



SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

- Principal/Music 1-5 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/ELA 5 - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Administrative Assistant - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admissions Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Ondayog
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Preschool Aftercare - Janna Isidro
- Kindergarden Teacher - Taiena Finau
- Kindergarden Aide - Lenie Macadangdang
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade - Faith Afu
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 4 Religion/4 & 5 Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- 5th Grade/Math 5-8 - Christian Raquero
- 5-8 Science/STEM - Delwin Dang
- 6th Grade/Social Studies 5-8 - Alyssa Yabes
- 6-8 ELA/6-8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- 7th Grade/Religion 5-8 - Shaun Agtarap
- 8th Grade/Japanese 5-8/Art 7-8 /PR Media - Tiani Quon
- PK-8 PE - Jayven Bumanglag
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- Music 6-8 - Kukahi Lee
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

August 22, 2026

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass at 8:00 AM

There will be a floral offering after mass. Bring flowers.



"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

Fr. John Akau

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Anthony Tran

VHM Chaplain

Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

Tyra Lamb

Safe Environment Liaison

Grace Young

Communications Coordinator

Pinky Mendoza

Office Coordinator

Bernie Gora

Director of Music

Earl Morita

Church Grounds Maintenance

Jennifer Asuncion

Office Secretary

Ray Lamb

Deacon

Samy Ratum

Facilities Custodian

Francis Leasiolagi

Deacon

Roy Matsuo

Retired Deacon

Noraliza Tapeç

On-Call Church Custodian

Jonathan Lam

VHM Deacon

Marlowe Sabater

Deacon

Felipe Tan

Accountant

Joan Mabag

Custodian

Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

August 17, 2026

*Monday of the Twentieth Week in
Ordinary Time*

Ezekiel 24:15-23; Matthew 19:16-22

August 18, 2026

*Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in
Ordinary Time*

Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-30

August 19, 2026

*Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in
Ordinary Time*

Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16

August 20, 2026

*Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and
Doctor of the Church*

Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14

August 21, 2026

Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40

August 22, 2026

*Memorial of the Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Ezekiel 43:1-7ab; Matthew 23:1-12

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36;

Matthew 16:13-20