

# Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Fesus

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### August 24, 2025 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Strive to Thrive with the Lord Jesus!

Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 117:1,2; Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13; Luke 13:22-30

Our readings this weekend invite us to reflect deeply and prayerfully on our relationship with the Lord Jesus, which is characterized by both striving and thriving. When asked, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (Lk. 13:22), Jesus didn't focus on who or how many would be saved. Instead, He said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough" (Lk 13:24).

We are called to strive to thrive, which means making every effort with determination and discipline. The Book of Hebrews encourages us to endure our trials as a form of discipline, reminding us that God treats us as His children. After all, what child is there whose father does not discipline them? God loves us—His sons and daughters—so much that He disciplines us. This divine love guides us and assures us that discipline will shape and train us. A true disciple, who genuinely desires to become what God intends, strives to honor and glorify Him. It is a joy for disciples to strive out of gratitude for all the gifts they have received. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live for Christ every day, in all areas of our lives.

When Jesus says, "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough," He refers to Himself and His journey to Jerusalem, where He will face crucifixion. The cross fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah in our first reading, which states that God will gather people from all nations, speaking every language and tongue. God is setting a sign, and all will see and proclaim His glory.

Let us gaze upon the cross and listen to Jesus as He speaks from it: "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." Jesus is the narrow door; He is the way. To strive means to enter through this narrow door, allowing ourselves to be exposed to the light and love of Jesus Christ. We should let His light and love guide our actions. This involves surrendering to His grace through prayer, participation in the Holy Sacraments—mainly the Holy Eucharist and Confession —relying on the Blessed Virgin Mary, and leading a life of penance and charity toward others. It is by surrendering to His grace that we will strive and thrive.

If someone chooses to hide from God's light and love, they are voluntarily making themselves obscure and impenetrable to the light of Jesus. This choice can lead to a hardening of their hearts against God's love, resulting in eternal punishment. The Gospel illustrates this outcome as being outside a locked door, where those outside plead, "Lord, open the door for us" (Luke 13:25). However, the master responds that He does not know them. Those who are cast out will endure eternal suffering, described as "wailing and grinding of teeth" (Luke 13:28). This serves as a reminder that there is a reward for our efforts. Although we may face difficulties, the ultimate result will be profound joy.

I remember the old nursery rhyme, which I think all of us remember. It teaches us at a young age to strive to thrive. The title of this nursery rhyme is Row, Row, Row Your Boat. This nursery rhyme is an imitation of the little way of our patron, St. Theresa, her way of striving to thrive with the Lord. The rhyme goes: "Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily; life is but a dream."



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We strive to move our boat forward, continually progressing and thriving in life. No matter how challenging it may be, we must row our boat—our life—toward our destiny. We keep rowing and striving to do what is right and virtuous, because life is short. Life is like a dream; it slips away as soon as we wake up. Indeed, it is brief in comparison to our eternal destiny. We row our boat—our life—not with resentment, but merrily, merrily, merrily.

understanding the Catholic faith,

Tuesday, August 26th at 6:30pm in Room 210 (school building)
We will talk about how, "God Comes to Meet Us".

Catechumenate process

begins their journey in

The OCIA is aimed for those who are

seeking to be baptized in the Catholic

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor

The



#### **PILGRIMS OF HOPE:**

# GRUMBLING: A SYMTOM OF IMMATURITY OF FAITH

Throughout history, some individuals have remained perpetually dissatisfied. They remained grumbling regardless of their circumstances or the blessings they received, often leading to further discontent and a lack of peace.

This tendency is poignantly illustrated in the biblical narrative of the Israelites, who endured 430 years of slavery in Egypt. After being liberated by God, they still chose to grumble about their journey to the promised land (cf. Ex. 16:2-3; Ex 17:1-7; Num 11:1-6; Num 14:2-4; Num 21:5).

In the New Testament, we find this troubling tendency among the religious leaders and ordinary people who grumbled before our Lord Jesus. The scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath and for associating with tax collectors and sinners. Some individuals, including Jesus' disciples, complained about his teachings, finding them difficult to accept and even questioning his sanity. They still demanded that he perform more signs to prove their faith (cf. Lk. 5:30, 15:2, 19:7; Jn. 6:60; 6:41-45). In many cases, they failed to recognize the profound significance of Jesus' actions and teachings.

We observe this troubling tendency among good people in our times. Some tend to complain and demand tangible proof, rather than fostering a genuine trust in the divine. Jesus was especially critical of those who express dissatisfaction, emphasizing that true faith cannot depend on the temporary or the extraordinary. Instead, it is based on our obedience and trust in God's wisdom and goodness.

What if we decide not to grumble anymore? We can only get rid of grumbling if we learn to surrender to God's Providence and to embrace our lives joyfully, acknowledging that each moment reveals God's plan.

Every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we celebrate, we are called to echo Christ's sentiment of surrender: "Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." Let us strive to find contentment in Divine Providence and resist the urge to seek signs, embracing instead the profound realities of faith that nourish our souls.

Fr. MAH

### Weekly Offering Report For August 11, 2025 - August 17, 2025

Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering \$ 9,179.50 \$ 585.92

\*\*\* 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.

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025 Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025 Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025

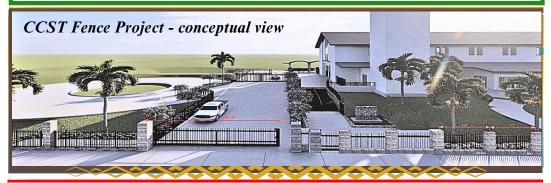
\$ 85,389.72 35,846.97

\$ 295,374.16

#### **Second Collections:**

September 6 - 7 for the Catholic University of America September 20 - 21 for the Debt Reduction of Parish Loan

Mahalo for your generosity.





West Honolulu Vicariate Presents
JUBILEE YEAR 2025 SPIRITUAL CONFERENCES

@ Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa
(with Holy Hour and Confession)

<u>September 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM</u> - 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."

October 15, 2025 @6:00 PM - Speaker: Fr. Royd Mweemba
Theme: PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION
AND MISION



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

f St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808

Sttheresaschool808

Website: www.stshi.org

# 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
- Kindergarden Teacher -
- preschool-Kindergarden 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



### :We are in need of volunteers: FRONT OFFICE

Anyone interested to help please call the Parish office at (808)521-1700 so we can put you on the schedule. Mahalo!

### **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

Tvra Lamb

Safe Environment Liaison

Pinky Mendoza

Office Coordinator

**Jennifer Asuncion** 

Office Secretary

Jonathan Lam

VHM Deacon

Francis Leasiolagi

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** 

Accountant

**Communications Coordinator** 

**Samy Ratum** 

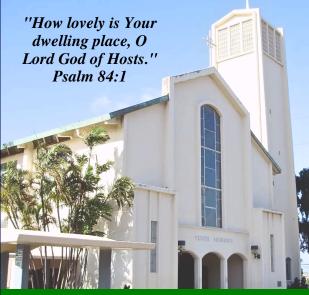
Facilities Custodian

Noraliza Tapec

On-Call Church Custodian

**Felipe Tan** 

Joan Mabag Custodian



### Daily Mass Readings www.usccb.org

August 25, 2025

Monday of the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22

August 26, 2025

Tuesday of the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26

August 27, 2025

Memorial of Saint Monica

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32

August 28, 2025

Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51

August 29, 2025

Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29

August 30, 2025

Saturday of the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30

August 31, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14