



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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September 14, 2025 - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (C)

Let us Gaze Upon the Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 78:1bc-2,34,36-37,38; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you; for by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates two significant historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, in the year 320 beneath the Temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication of the Basilica and shrine built by Constantine on Calvary in 335, marking the site of the Crucifixion.

Why is this feast significant for all of us, and why do we exalt the cross?

First and foremost, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross because what was once a symbol of death and suffering has been transformed into a means of redemption for the entire human race. The cross has become a symbol of life and victory.

Secondly, we exalt the cross because it serves as a reminder that Christianity is not merely an abstract religion. It is grounded in God's direct intervention in the world, involving real historical events, actual people, and ultimately, a genuine execution on a real cross. Without this history, all our proclamations about Jesus would be in vain.

Finally, we exalt the cross because it embodies Christ's forgiving and healing love. This love compelled Jesus to endure the cross. Even while on the cross, His love was so profound that He forgave His executioners (cf. Lk. 23:34). The love revealed through the cross overcomes the power of sin, offering forgiveness and assurance of God's abundant mercy, as demonstrated through one of the criminals crucified alongside Jesus (cf. Lk. 23:43).

Our readings today help us understand these reasons. Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about the salvation of the world, indicating that when He was lifted up—both on the cross and later in glory through His resurrection and Ascension—those who believe in Him would have eternal life (cf. Jn. 3:14-15).

This lifting up is foreshadowed by the bronze serpent that God commanded Moses to create. The people were punished by snake bites, and Moses pleaded with God to remove the snakes. Instead of taking away the snakes, God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole (cf. Num. 21:7-9). This was an unusual request, but the serpent was not to be worshipped; it was simply to be gazed upon, serving as a reminder of their covenant with God and their need to depend on and trust Him. Anyone who looked at it was healed.

When we gaze upon the cross, we are reminded, in a single glance, of the price of sin and how the world is healed from sin through the obedience of our Lord Jesus. The people in the desert had a similar opportunity presented to them in the image of the bronze serpent: to understand the consequences of sin and the power of love. However, over time, they forgot this crucial message.

Like the people of the Old Testament, we depend entirely on God, yet we sometimes forget this truth. To gaze upon the cross is to take a step toward remembering it and encountering divine love and mercy. The cross is not just a beautiful symbol; it is



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a powerful reminder of how we are forgiven and reconciled to God.

With gratitude, let us share this love and forgiveness with others, for in doing so, we truly exalt the cross, for by His cross He redeemed the world!

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor

The OCIA Catechumenate process continues their journey in understanding the Catholic faith,

Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30pm in Room 210 (school building)

We will talk about why “*I Believe in God*”.



The OCIA is aimed for those who are seeking to be baptized in the Catholic faith, as well as those desiring to receive the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, but is open for all who are looking to reinvigorate their relationship with Christ.

We look forward to meeting you this Tuesday evening.



CHAMINADE SCHOOL OF NURSING

LET'S UNITE AGAINST CANCER!

Please join us for an informational session on cancer awareness including:

- EDUCATION ON CANCER AND RECOMMENDED SCREENINGS
- LEARN WAYS TO PREVENT CANCER
- FUN ACTIVITIES
- FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
- INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS

**14
SEPTEMBER**

**6:30AM-
12:30PM**



**SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY,
SURVIVORS, AND BEING IN THE FIGHT!**
Find out more at our Student Booth!



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

In Partnership



OHANA FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, September 20

7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

**Pre-registration after mass
at Church Lanai**

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



Year of Jubilee: Gaze Upon the Cross

Many of us find solace in praying before the Cross. There is a comforting effect when we gaze upon it, especially if we use our imagination to remember and contemplate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus.

This practice inspires us to reflect on the depth and breadth of God's love—His unwavering love that saves and sustains us. At the same time, it also invites sorrow, as it serves as a reminder of our sins, which our Lord Jesus lovingly took upon Himself.

The act of looking at the Cross is foreshadowed in the Book of Numbers 21:4-9. God instructed Moses to create a bronze serpent and place it on a pole so that anyone who gazed upon it would be healed from the poison of snakebites. This command is quite unusual; the very source of death—the snakes—has now become a means of healing for those affected. This serves as a prefiguration of the Cross.

The words of Jesus in the Gospel of John offer us a profound catechesis. He states, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM” -- this emphasizes that Jesus is God and our Savior! He continues, “I do nothing on my own; I say only what the Father taught me” -- this shows that Jesus lives in obedience and serves as our model of fidelity. Jesus adds, “The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him” -- this highlights that Jesus is always in communion with the Father—through Jesus, we are mystically and sacramentally united with him and in him (cf. Jn. 8:28-29).

The sacrifice of Jesus transforms the Cross, which was once a symbol of punishment for sin, shame, and death, into a source of our redemption from poison of sin’.

When we gaze upon the Lord on the Cross, we are reminded that we are saved not by magic, but by sacrificial love. The Cross, therefore, serves as our pasture—a source of spiritual nourishment that provides us with strength and comfort. Our refuge comes from knowing that we are with the Lord, who understands pain and suffering and has emerged victorious. In faith, we proclaim, “We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you; for by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!”

What we gaze upon is what we celebrate and receive through the Holy Eucharist. Today, if your mind and heart are troubled or poisoned by anxiety and distress, find comfort in looking upon the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. MAH

Weekly Offering Report

For September 1, 2025 - September 7, 2025



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	\$ 10,784.50	\$ 1,013.03
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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/Music 1-8 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/Math 8 & Discovery - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/LA 6 - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Ondayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health/Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- PK-8 PE & MS Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide & Resource Teacher - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - Leilani Tanaka
- PK, Kindergarten Religion & Liturgy Coordinator - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade/Sacramental Prep - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Teacher - Taiena Finau
- Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Math 7 - Christian Raquepo
- Middle School Japanese/7 & 8 Arts/ Marketing - Tiani Quon
- MS Science - Peter Park
- Permanent Sub - Bernadette Lopez
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025	\$ 85,389.72
Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025	35,846.97
Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of July 31, 2025	\$ 295,374.16

Second Collections:

September 20 - 21 for the Debt Reduction of Parish Loan
 October 4 - 5 for the Ohana in Christ Diocesan Appeal
 October 11 - 12 for the Repairs and Maintenance

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)

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."

October 15, 2025 @6:00 PM - Speaker: Fr. Royd Mweemba

Theme: **PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISION**



:We are in need of volunteers:

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

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

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

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



Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

September 15, 2025

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Timothy 2:1-8; Sequence — Stabat Mater; John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

September 16, 2025

*Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope,
and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*

1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17

September 17, 2025

*Wednesday of the Twenty-fourth Week
in Ordinary Time*

1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35

September 18, 2025

*Thursday of the Twenty-fourth Week in
Ordinary Time*

1 Timothy 4:12-16; Luke 7:36-50

September 19, 2025

*Friday of the Twenty-fourth Week in
Ordinary Time*

1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3

September 20, 2025

*Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Tae-
gõn, Priest, and Paul Chõng Ha-sang,
and Companions, Martyrs*

1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15

September 21, 2025

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke
16:1-13 or Luke 16:10-13