

PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026

Turn your ear, O Lord,
and answer me!



Upon this rock
I will build
my church

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Saturday, August 22	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 23	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 24	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, August 25	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, August 26	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a. m	Mass
	... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, August 27	 8:00 a.m	Communion Service
Friday, August 28	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, August 29	 3:15-4:00 p.m	Confession - Church
	 4:30 p.m.	Mass
	 5:30 pm	Deacon Hal's Jubilee Celebration

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Jer:20:7-9: Jeremiah only reluctantly spoke God's prophetic word. He tried to hold back, but the word burned like fire in his heart.

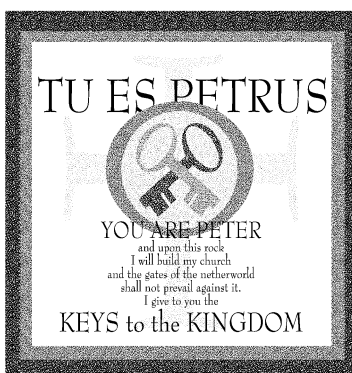
Rm:12:1-2: Paul urged the Romans to offer their God as a living sacrifice and not to conform to this age but to be transformed by God.

Mt:16:21-27: Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

August 29: The Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Martyr—Memorial

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was likely born in Ein Karem in the hill country five miles west of Jerusalem roughly six months before Jesus was born. Present at his birth were the Son and the Mother of God. Saint Thomas Aquinas and other Catholic theologians believe that John was sanctified in the womb immediately after the Blessed Virgin Mary greeted his mother (Luke 1:41). What we know of John's childhood is in Luke 1:80: "The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel." Raised as a devout Jew, John eventually entered the desert to pray, practice penance, and prepare for his mission. First, John is the precursor of the Lord. As the last Old Testament prophet and the first New Testament prophet, he bridges the gap to Christ. Sometime between 27 and 29, John gathered disciples from all walks of life whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptized with water.

John's life reached its earthly climax when Jesus approached while he was baptizing. John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel...Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:29-31; 34). After John reluctantly baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove and the Father's voice thundered, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). With that, John's life receded into the background, "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30). Saint John the Baptist, you were given a holy mission and sanctified in your mother's womb in preparation for that mission. You always pointed the way to Christ, the Savior of all. Please pray that I will have the same courage and the resolve to fulfill my duties, no matter the cost. Saint John the Baptist, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



To the LORD
Be Glory Forever.
AMEN ✝

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS:(former known as R. C. I. A)

"Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (or OCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's OCIA program will begin **Sept 20, 2026.**
- 2) OCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) OCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.

- 4) OCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:

- a. Rite of Acceptance (**beginning of Advent**)
- b. Rite of Election (**beginning of Lent**)
- c. OCIA Scrutinies (**during Lent**)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call the parish office at 808-6687833 or our OCIA Director (Don Gerry, 860-908-5954)"

WORD OF LIFE: "Death is a decisive moment in the human person's encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to company them and open them to hope. . . While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people's lives, it provides and authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to "remain" at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple to 'remain" at the side of suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple remained at the foot of the Cross." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice"*



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Saint Paul reminds us in today's second reading that the ultimate origin of everything is God. Since everything comes from God, we are God's own. We can never put God in our debt. There is absolutely no negotiating with God. Every breath we take is a gift. Every good deed we perform is grace. Good stewards realize they are created and called to make the beauty, greatness, compassion and justice of God and his gifts known throughout the world. The stewardship question for us is whether we are willing to embrace this call, acknowledge our dependence of God and give our lives over to him completely for his purpose.

International Catholic Stewardship Council

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER **FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY**

Good and gracious God, Even in the midst of these extraordinary times, you continue to reveal your loving presence in the communal life of our parish. Help us to see your active presence in our parish family a community where peace, love and fellowship will prevail. May it be truly prayerful, intensely Eucharistic, and deeply joyful.

Teach us how to be good stewards of our parish family even during times of stress and anxiety.

By the power of the Holy Spirit make our hearts humble and compassionate so that we may carry out our responsibilities to our parish family in a just and holy manner.

And through your Spirit, may we love one another as you love each of us, as sisters and brothers who gather around the Eucharistic table, an authentically holy, Catholic community, working together to hasten your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

International Catholic Stewardship Council

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 23 Sun: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is:22: 19-23; Ps:138; Rms:11:33-36; Mt:16:13-20

Aug 24 : Mon: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Rv:21:9b-14; Ps:145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn:1:45-51

Aug 25 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday

2 Thes:2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps:96: 10, 11-12, 13; Mt:23:23-26

Aug 26: Wed: Ordinary Weekday

2 Thes:3:6-10, 16-18; Ps:128; 1-2, 4-5; Mt:23:27-32

Aug 27 Thur: Saint Monica

1 Cor:1:1-9; Ps:145: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt:24:42-51

Aug 28 Fri: Saint Pius X, Pope

Ez:37:1-14; Ps:107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt:22:34-40

Aug 29 Sat: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ez:43:1-7ab; Ps:85: 9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt:23:1-12

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – August 21, 2026

Ka Leo Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nu’ia

A REMINDER to ALL:

Our Saturday - Vigil Mass - next week August 29th will be at 4:30pm. The parish will celebrate **Deacon Harold Levy’s 25th Deaconate Year** and fellowship to follow.

Ho’omaika’i – Congratulations Deacon Harold Levy and God bless you for 25 years of your faithful Deaconate Ministry in St. Rita Parish Ohana!

Also, a **brief blessing of the site of future St. Rita Parish Center** will take place right after the 4:30pm Mass. Please join us for the 25th Deaconate Celebration of Dcn Harold Levy and the blessing of the site.

Our Prayers and Condolences

Funeral mass and burial for late **+Letita Lefua** (wife of late Deacon Jerome) took place this **past Saturday, August 22nd** at Sacred Heart Church in Waianae. 11:am Funeral Mass and Burial at Mililani Cemetery at 2:30pm.

Our prayers and condolences to Lefua & Vito Ohana - Aiga. Eternal Rest Grand Unto **+Letita** O Lord, and Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her, May **+Letita’s** Soul and Souls of all the Faithful Departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen.

Scripture Reflections

Introduction: Today we celebrate **21st Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A**. Today’s readings invite us to reflect on trust, servant leadership, and on our personal relationship with Jesus. They challenge us not only to ask, “**Who is Jesus?**” but to also ask “**Who is Jesus for me?**” and “**Who am I becoming because I know Jesus?**”

Old Testament: Isaiah 22: 19-23

Background Context: The 1st Reading from **Prophet Isaiah** speaks about leadership in the difficult period in the history of Judah. Jerusalem was under threat from the powerful Assyrian Empire expanding from the north.

Shebna who was an important royal scribe and steward in the southern Kingdom of Judah, under King Hezekiah. Tragically **Shebna** had become proud and concerned more

about his own position and honor than serving the people he was entrusted with by the king.

God removed the royal steward **Shebna** because of his pride and chose **Eliakim**, a **faithful servant** in his place and called him “**my servant**” and stated that he will be “**a father**” to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Eliakim is given **the key** to the House of David. “**I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder.**” (Isaiah 22:22). A sign of authority and responsibility and God also fasten him like a peg in a firm place.

Application to Life: A pride offends God because a heart filled with pride forgets that authority is entrusted and not attained by one’s own power. We are informed Eliakim is like a **strong peg** who can carry considerable weight - authority, **Eliakim** is therefore considered as one who others can depend upon.

Unlike unfaithful and proud **Shebna**, **Eliakim**. This gives us an important lesson about leadership. **Authority is not given to make us important; it is given so that we can become support for others.** Shebna wanted to make a name for himself. **Eliakim** is called to carry the weight of others.

For us Christians the image of “**the key of David**” mentioned foreshadowed - pointed toward **Jesus Christ** who has the ultimate authority to open and shut. In **Jesus Christ** we see the perfect servant leadership, authority expressed through love, humility and self-giving.

A good leader is not necessarily a person who stands in the center, but the person who can quietly carry the weight – exercise authority on behalf of others. In families, communities and church, God may place people in our care. The question is not “**How important am I?**” but “**Can others lean on me and be led in the right path God willed?**”

New Testament: Romans 11:33-36

Background Context: In the 2nd Reading taken from Paul to the Romans, Paul highlights that God’s Wisdom is far greater than human understanding. Paul reminds us that we cannot fully understand God’s plans. We often ask, “**Why God allow this?**” or “**Why is God doing things this way?**”

Application to Life: Paul teaches us that faith does not mean having answers to every question. Sometimes faith means trusting the One whose wisdom is greater than ours.

There is a beautiful lesson about humility. Paul asks, **“Who asked has known the mind of Lord?”** or **“Who has been His counselor?”**

We cannot place ourselves above God or imply that God owes us something. Everything we have is ultimately received from God. The passage ends with one of the most beautiful summaries of Christian Faith.

“For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be glory forever!”
God is the source of our life, the One who sustains us and the final goal of our existence.

The challenge is to move from **“I need to understand everything”** to **“I can trust God even when I do not understand.”** Like Paul we are invited to turn our question into prayer, our uncertainty to into trust and our understanding into worship. And perhaps this is why knowing Jesus is so important. **Faith** is not simply about having all the answers. **It is about knowing the One – Jesus Christ whom we trust.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Background Context: What is the difference between shopping for a best friend and shopping for an acquaintance? When you shop for your best friend, you know exactly What he likes and dislikes. You know exactly what makes him happy.

But with acquaintance you may know their name but few things about them but you really do not know what they would love. Because you only really know someone when you have relationship with them. Knowledge grows through relationships. That is the heart of the Gospel today.

Jesus asked His disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”** They give different answers. John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

Then Jesus makes the question personal; **“But who do you say that I am?”** Simon Peter responded, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

This is a turning point in the Gospel, **Simon Peter** has not simply given the correct answer to theological question, but **Simon Peter** has recognized the person standing before him. **Jesus** is not merely a prophet or a teacher; **Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God!** And **Jesus** told **Simon Peter** that this understanding has been revealed to him by the Father.

Application to Life: Christianity is not merely about having information about **Jesus**, it is about having relationship with **Jesus**. I can know that **Jesus** was born in Bethlehem. I can know **Jesus’** miracles and parables. I can even know many passages of the Scripture by

heart. But none of this this automatically means that we know **Jesus**. We can attend mass, read Scripture, study theology, know prayers and even speak beautifully about **Jesus** – and but still may remain distant from **Jesus**.

Jesus also asks of us the same question “**Who do you say that I am?**” Not what does the Catechism says about **Me**, not what your parents say about **Me**. Not what others say about **Me**. All these are important, but **Jesus** asks for **our personal confession of faith**.

Simon Peter’s confession also becomes the foundation of the Church. **Jesus** gave **Simon Peter** the “**keys**” and **entrusted him with the Church**. For us Catholics this is an important foundation for ministry of **Peter** and for the apostle’s succession through the Church’s continued mission-discipleship in action **Jesus Christ** entrusted to the Apostles.

Our Faith is personal, **but it is never private** we receive the **faith from the Church**, we **live with the Church** and we **sent by the Church**. We are invited today to turn **Jesus’** question around and **ask Jesus** in prayer; “**Jesus who am I for you?**”

Simon Peter’s answer changed his identity he was no longer just simply Simon; **Jesus** **called him Peter - the Rock-solid Foundation**. When we truly encounter **Jesus**, **He** also gives us new identity and new mission-living the discipleship.

Let us ask ourselves 3 questions today, **1). do I know about Jesus?** Or **2). do I know Jesus** and thus knowing **Jesus 3). change the way I live?** **St. James** reminded the early Christian Church, “**What good is it my brothers if someone says he has faith but does not have works. Can the faith save him?**” (James 2: 14-26). “**...faith without works is dead...**” (James 2:17).

Perhaps today instead of giving **Jesus** theological answers or emotional feelings, let us give **Jesus** a personal answer. **Let us move** from knowing about Jesus - to knowing Jesus from information to relationship and from relationship to mission – live discipleship, deeds and words alone.

LOOKING AHEAD: St. Rita Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00pm Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at Kamiano Trailor.

Month of September First Friday, Eucharistic Adoration, September 4, 2026. Right after 8:00am Mass (9:00am to 7:00pm). Closing Benediction 7:00pm. Mark your calendar and make the most important hour you can offer back to God! Give praise, thanks, offer petition and make reparation for our sins and the sins of the world: We give thanks to God for all the Blessings... “**Unless the Lord builds the house in-vain do we labor...**” Psalm 127:1. **Have a blessed week in the Lord!**

Appointed for cap

What is Legacy Sunday? Frequently Asked Questions About Legacy Sunday

Legacy Sunday is an opportunity to invite parishioners to reflect on the legacy they hope to leave. Its primary purpose is to encourage every family to have a thoughtful estate plan in place—one that reflects their values, protects the people they love, and ensures their wishes are honored after they are gone.

A well-designed estate plan can provide peace of mind by helping loved ones receive their inheritance more efficiently, reducing unnecessary legal costs and delays, minimizing taxes where appropriate, and, in many cases, avoiding probate through proper planning. It is a meaningful act of stewardship and care for one's family.

Legacy Sunday also encourages Catholics to consider including their parish, parochial school, or another Catholic ministry in their estate plans as an expression of gratitude and faith. By making a charitable gift through an estate plan, parishioners can continue supporting the ministries and mission of the Church they cherish, creating a lasting impact for future generations while caring for those closest to them.

How is this different from the other times the Church asks parishioners for donations?

Unlike an annual appeal or parish collection, Legacy Sunday is not an “ask”. It encourages parishioners to plan for their own legacy and consider future gifts through their estate plans.

Estate Planning Basics

What is an estate?

An estate includes everything a person owns at their time of death, including homes, bank accounts, retirement accounts, investments, life insurance, vehicles, and personal belongings.

Am I too young or don't have enough assets to need an estate plan?

No. Estate planning is important for every adult, regardless of age or level of assets. An estate plan allows individuals to make decisions about how their assets are distributed and who should make financial or healthcare decisions if they are unable to do so.

I already have a will. Why should I review it?

A will is important but if you have assets greater than \$100,000 in the State of Hawai‘i, distribution of your assets will go through probate court. However, if you create a trust, your assets will go directly to your beneficiaries. Also, tax laws change frequently, and most attorneys recommend a review of your will and/or estate plans at least every 5 years.

Choosing Where Your Gift Goes

Can I choose where my gift goes and how it is used?

Yes. A legacy gift may benefit a parish, parochial school, or ministry. Donors may designate how they would like their gift to be used, though each parish, parochial school, or ministry may have its own gift acceptance policies. By contacting the Hawai‘i Catholic Community Foundation first, HCCF can help donors document their wishes appropriately to ensure the funds are stewarded and used according to their wishes. Estate plans may also include gifts to multiple Catholic organizations or charitable causes.

Ways to Give

1. Simple Designations

These are often the easiest to implement and can be updated without rewriting your entire will.

- **Bequests in a Will or Trust:** You can designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your total estate, or specific assets (like real estate or jewelry).
- **Beneficiary Designations:** You can name HCCF for the benefit of your parish, parochial school, ministries as a full or partial beneficiary of your **401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy**. This can be done easily on-line without requiring legal assistance.
- **Pay-on-Death (POD) Accounts:** For standard bank accounts or CDs, you can designate HCCF to receive the funds immediately upon your passing.

2. Donor-Advised Funds (DAF)

A DAF is like a personal charitable investment account. You can name a DAF as the beneficiary of your estate. Your heirs can then act as "successor advisors," recommending grants to specific charities over time, which keeps the family involved in philanthropy without the administrative burden of a private foundation.

3. Real Estate

You can leave your home or property to the Church upon your passing.

4. Retained Life Estates

If you wish to give away your home or farm but still live in it, you can deed the property to a charity while retaining the right to live there for the rest of your life. You receive a current income tax deduction, and the property passes to the charity automatically at your death. Contact HCCF for assistance with this process.

4. Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) from your IRA Accounts

RMDs are an easy way to give to your church, parochial school, or a ministry and in this instance would be given directly to the church, parochial school or the Diocese to support the ministry. RMD cannot be given to HCCF due to its IRS designation. Giving directly will avoid taxes that you pay on your RMDs.

RMDs are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 73.

What is the role of the Hawai'i Catholic Community Foundation?

The Hawai'i Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF) exists to help Catholics put their faith into action through philanthropy by receiving, stewarding, investing, and distributing charitable gifts that support the mission and ministries of the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i, always in accordance with each donor's wishes.

Can I remain anonymous?

Yes. Donors decide whether they wish to share their legacy gift with the designated beneficiary and what details they would like to disclose. Any information shared with HCCF will be kept confidential.

Can I change my mind later?

Yes. Many legacy gifts are revocable, meaning they can be changed or removed if personal circumstances change. There are irrevocable trusts which allow for immediate tax advantages. If you are interested in these types of trusts these can be set up with the help of an estate attorney. Contact HCCF for more information.

Ways to Leave a Legacy Gift

What types of gifts can I leave to the Church?

There are many ways to make a legacy gift, including:

- Designating the Church as a beneficiary of your Will or trust
- Making the Church a full or partial beneficiary of your Retirement account or life insurance
- Leaving a gift of Real estate
- Donating Appreciated stocks/securities
- Other assets

Every person's situation is unique. HCCF is here to help in answering your questions and also providing professional advisors you can work with directly to help you fulfill your wishes.

Working with Professionals

Where can I find an estate planning attorney?

Parish leaders should not recommend a specific attorney. HCCF can provide additional resources and guidance, including a list of attorneys who have experience assisting individuals with estate planning and charitable gifts. During our live sessions in June, we promised a list to you. However, after speaking with our legal counsel, it was recommended that we provide the referral directly to the potential donor through HCCF when we meet with them allowing the opportunity to understand the need of the particular donor.

Does the parish pay for estate planning?

No. Individuals are responsible for their own legal and estate planning expenses.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Questions about planned giving opportunities may be directed to the HCCF. Legal, financial, and tax questions should be discussed with qualified professional advisors. If needed HCCF can provide a list of advisors to assist them.

Will you be providing our faithful the current Catholic Advanced Health Directives?

Again, we met with legal counsel who recommended we refer individuals to Eva Andrade and Father Mark Gantley who are experts in this area. In addition, sessions are being presented throughout the state by Father Mark and Eva on our Catholic advanced health directives to make informed decisions. Father Mark can be reached at mgantley@rcchawaii.org and Eva Andrade can be reached at eandrade@rcchawaii.org.

Is there a deadline or minimum gift amount?

No. Legacy Sunday begins an ongoing conversation. Parishioners can create or update their estate plans whenever they are ready. Every legacy gift, regardless of size, can make a meaningful difference.

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- Designating the Church as a beneficiary of your Will or trust
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- Leaving a gift of Real estate
- Donating Appreciated stocks/securities
- Other assets

Every person's situation is unique. HCCF is here to help in answering your questions and also providing professional advisors you can work with directly to help you fulfill your wishes.

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 |

Phoebe Foy, HCCF Associate:

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HCCF Contacts

General Contact Info:

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For more information, please contact:

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"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.