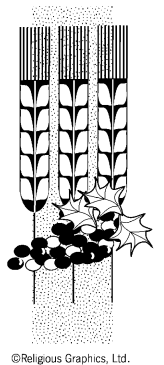


PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2026

O Lord, you are good
and forgiving!



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Saturday, August 29	 4:30 p.m.	Mass Deacon Hal's 25th Jubilee Celebration
Sunday, August 30	 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Mass Mass (Live Stream) Mass
Monday, August 31	 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary Communion Service
Tuesday, September 1	 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary Mass
Wednesday, September 2	 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. ... 9:30am -11:30 am	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary Mass Food Pantry Open
Thursday, September 3	 7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting
Friday, September 4	 8:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service Liturgy of Hours/Rosary Mass - First Friday
Saturday, September 5	 8:00 a.m. 3:15-4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m First Friday Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament Mass - First Saturday Confession - Church Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ez:33:7-9: God called the prophet as a watchman for the house of Israel. Unless those called by God try to turn the wicked away from evil, they will not be saved. When holy people speak up in God's behalf, they are saved.

Rm:13:8-10: All commandments are summed up in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law."

Mt:18:15-20: Jesus said, "If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

September 5: Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta—Memorial

Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu was born in Skopje, present-day North Macedonia, the youngest of three surviving children. Her devout Catholic parents called her Gonxhe, meaning "rosebud" or "little flower" in Albanian. When Gonxhe was eight, her father died, and her family suffered financially. Feeling called to serve the poor, at eighteen, she traveled to Ireland to join the Loreto nuns. After learning English, the young novice moved to the Loreto House in Darjeeling, India in 1929. In 1931, she made her first profession of vows, taking the name Teresa, after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. She then taught at a girls' school in Calcutta. Making final vows in 1937, she became "Mother Teresa."

On September 10, 1946, Mother Teresa was traveling by train from Calcutta to Darjeeling for an annual retreat and time of rest. During the trip, she heard Jesus' "call within a call," to quench His thirst by following Him into the slums to serve the poorest of the poor. She observed September 10 as "Inspiration Day," the day she believed God founded the future Missionaries of Charity.

Jesus' thirst on the Cross was the purpose of Mother Teresa's life and the reason God called her to found the Missionaries of Charity. With no end to the depth of Jesus' thirst, there was no end to the depth of love she was called to give to Him by loving the poorest of the poor. Mother Teresa would quench Christ's thirst in those she served and encounter Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor.

For eighteen months, Mother Teresa heard the "Voice" speak to her, calling her to trust, surrender, and love while her spiritual director and the archbishop tested her. Finally, with the permission of the Loreto Superior and the Holy See, Mother Teresa began her new mission on August 17, 1948.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, you experienced Christ's thirst within the depths of your being. Driven to charity, you searched endlessly to bring satiation to our Lord in the distressing disguise of the poor and suffering. Please pray that I will be freed of every selfish motivation in life so that I can give myself to others, freely and wholeheartedly, as an instrument of the Most Merciful Heart of Jesus. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



FATHER
open our eyes and our hearts

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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: "If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on

www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project

Rachel Ministry near you. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life

Activities "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"

www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 30 Sun: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer:20:7-9; Ps:63; Rms:12:1-2; Mt:16:21-27

Aug 31 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:2:1-5; Ps:119: 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102; Lk:1:45-51

Sep 01 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:2:10b-16; Ps:145: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14;

Lk:4:31-37

Sep 02: Wed: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:3:1-9; Ps:33; 12-13. 14-15, 20-21; Lk:4:38-44

Sep 03 Thur: Saint George the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

1 Cor:3:18-23; Ps:24: 1bc-2 3-4, 5-6; Lk:5:1-11

Sep 04 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:4:1-5; Ps:37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk:5:33-39

Sep 05 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:4:6b-15; Ps:145: 17-15, 19-20, 21; Lk:6:1-5

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus brings up the topic of the cross to his followers. They would not realize the cross was part of god's plan and was to be their legacy until after the Resurrection. Today's followers of Christ recognize they are stewards of his entire legacy, including his cross; that through their mutual sacrifices God's glory is revealed. They don't live their lives in Christ only when it is convenient for them.

They make a decision to take up their cross and carry it, no matter what the cost. In the midst of the uncertain times we live in, what crosses do we bear in order to reveal God's glory?. **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection \$ 3,807.00

Candles 135.00

Mass Intention 90.00

Outreach 145.00

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RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund \$ 751.00

Repair & Maintenance 150.00

Total \$ 901.00

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

Whoever wishes
to come after me
must deny himself
take up his

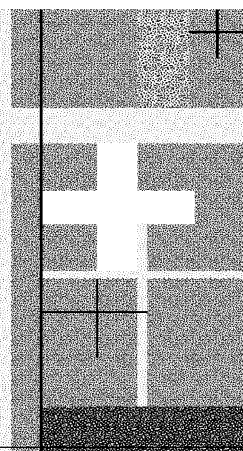
CROSS

and follow me
but whoever loses
his life for my sake
will find it

for the
SON of MAN

will come in his
FATHER's glory
and he will repay
everyone

according to
his conduct



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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time A – August 30, 2026

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

We Extend our Heartfelt Ho’omaika’i to:

Deacon Harold Levy celebrating 25th Years of Deaconate here in St. Rita Parish Ohana. After the 4:30pm Mass this Saturday, August 29th with a brief blessing of the ground for future St. Rita Parish Social Hall we celebrated **Deacon Harold Levy’s 25 years** as a dedicated Deacon for the Diocese of Honolulu **July 21, 2001 - July 21, 2026.** All 25 years of his deaconate was faithfully served at St. Rita Parish here in Nanakuli, Hawai’i. God bless you **Deacon Harold Levy!** Mahalo nui loa to all who labor to bring this celebration to fruition with ono food, music and presence.

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Jeremiah 20: 7-9 Background Context: In our 1st reading from Prophet **Jeremiah**, we witness the prophet’s deep anguish arising from within him. It is perhaps one of the most intense passages in the **Book of Jeremiah**. It is often called “**Jeremiah’s lamentation**” because Jeremiah spoke very honestly and bluntly to God about his suffering and frustration in fulfilling his call as a prophet, yet at the same time his inability to abandon or suppress his prophetic mission given by God.

“You duped me, O Lord and I let myself be duped,” (Jeremiah 20:7). He lamented upon encountering so much resistance by the people, he is overpowered by the mission that brought him suffering. Despite its pain, prophet Jeremiah understood that he cannot suppress the fire of God’s word within him, **“You were too strong for me.” (Jeremiah 20: 7).**

A deep disappointment and a cry, arising out of encountering fierce resistance from the start of his prophetic mission as he spoke on behalf of God about the evil that the Israelites, temple priests and court officials had fallen into and unless they repent destruction would fall upon them.

Facing the consequences of his prophetic work were false accusations, maligning his character and being labeled as a traitor and suffered physical abuse. Jeremiah felt abandonment and totally disregard by the people he was sent to warn and save.

His prophetic mission took place during a period of political and religious turmoil in **Judah (Southern Kingdom)**, roughly around **605 BC– 604 BC.** in the **reign of King Jehoiakim.**

Upon being utterly rejected he was particularly humiliated by Pashhur a powerful court priest who struck him and placed in stocks and eventually thrown him into a dry cistern, left to die.

Application to Life: Prophet Jeremiah's anguish and sufferings do resonate with many of us. As parents or kupuna who tried hard to guide their children or grandchildren correctly in the path of God, are so often today met not only with deaf ears by their children or grandchildren but some even are told to **"be quiet or mind their own business."**

I often have parents who tell me in pain **"what happen to my child? I had sacrificed so much and gave them good education and brought them to church. Now as adults they refuse to go to church or even get involved with bad sinful company?"**

Yet like prophet Jeremiah within their heart a deep emotion and desire to reach out swells. They cannot stop loving and praying that their children and grandchildren will not lose the sight of God and eternal life. And this longing for them cannot leave their hearts despite being disappointed by them over and over again.

We too are swayed to quit – give up from continuing to live out our baptismal promises when we encounter difficult obstacles. How often we have said to ourselves, **"I quit, why am I doing this when nobody seems to care?"** Yet deep within our desire to do what is right and to obey and serve God cannot just disappear from our hearts.

As years go by and as we age, we realize the folly of the world and all its passing pleasures. Our memories of childhood First Holy Communion Day and many memories of how we once loved and had profound peace revisit us more often. The deep-seated desire to live Christian discipleship and to fulfill the divine calling – baptismal promises always remain in us. Despite it all we want to persevere and not lose eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The struggles we face to live a Christian discipleship in the world today might be formidable, but they also lead us to a deeper understanding of our purpose, that we are the children of God and destined to eternal life in heaven.

St. Augustine of Hippo (354 AD-430 AD) whose feast is on August 28th in his autobiography, **Confessions** poured out his heart and wrote of his own struggles he faced, clinging to the sins of desires of lust (sexual immorality & incontinence) to finally totally abandoning those grave sin and with whole heart finally embrace God's will. He wrote, **"You have made us for yourself, Our Lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (Book I).** We must never forget that we are created in God's image and therefore we cannot help but seek and desire God as our ultimate goal. **"God created mankind in His**

own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them,” (Genesis 1: 27). Yes, we are “wired to God!” and for all eternity this longing remains!

The psalmist today expressed this deep and unfathomable yearning for God, “My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God,” (Psalm 63:2), a thirst only satisfied by the divine - God.

New Testament: Romans 12: 1 – 2 Background Context: The 2nd reading taken from Paul to the Romans, Paul in just 2 verses (1 - 2) in simplicity and depth stated to the Christians in Rome, “to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship” (Romans 12: 1). Interestingly Paul used the language of the Temple sacrifice, which would have been very familiar to the many Jewish Christians in Rome.

In the Old Testament animals were offered upon the altar but Paul makes a radical change. Christian sacrifice is not primary an animal, it is your own life, “a living sacrifice.”

Application to Life: There is a beautiful paradox here, a sacrifice normally involves something being killed, **but Christian sacrifice is a living sacrifice.** It means every day we Christians place our life in God’s hands. Why does Paul state, “your bodies?” Paul does not state, “offer your heart,” he stated, “offer your bodies.” For Paul Christianity is not only an interior experience. That is our faith must become visible in the way we live physically and concretely.

Our bodies are involved in Christian discipleship. The offering – sacrifice embraces one’s **whole life and activity.** It implies striving to discover God’s loving plans for us at every step and to joyfully submit to them, in obedience to God’s 10 Commandments, nothing more nothing less.

Paul then gave a negative command; “Do not conform to this to this world.” The Greek verb used by Paul for “conform” means taking the shape or pattern of something, Paul is warning the Christians do not simply allow society – world to decide what you should become “but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” He does not say merely “try harder” he stated “be transformed”, it described a profound transformation interior change that affects the whole person, even our external behavior.

Our Christian conversion is therefore not changing a few habits, like avoiding candies for Lent or being sociable. It is to allow God **to change the way we think.** When **our minds change, our choices begin to change.** When **our values change, our lifestyle changes.** When **our vision changes, we begin to see people differently,** so that **we may discern that is the will of God, “..what is good and pleasing to God.” Romans 12: 2.**

This radical invitation challenges us to let go of the worldly ways of thinking and embrace a life that reflects Christ's love and sacrifice. **It is about aligning our lives to God's will,** often a lifelong difficult journey but one that leads us to true peace and fulfillment, in this passing life and in the eternal life to come.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27 Background Context: In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus revealed the true nature of discipleship: **“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).**

This is a stark contrast to what the world often promotes, self-fulfillment and comfort. Jesus is asking us for a deeper commitment, one that acknowledges our struggles and challenges but also promise eternal life if we persevere.

Three times Jesus made known to His apostles that He would suffer and die, (Matthew 16:21-23, Mark 8:31-32, & Luke 9:21-22), and each time Jesus would take care to add that He would rise again from the dead. Only after Jesus' resurrection did the apostles understand the meaning of Jesus' passion and death.

In **chapter 16** of the Gospel Matthew presents Jesus in **three stages: 1.) Confessed by Peter and Christians as God and as Savior (Matthew 16:16), 2.) Announcing His suffering and death and that of each Christian with Him (Matthew 16:21) and 3.) Coming in glory to reward His followers (Matthew 16: 27).**

When Jesus accepted the confession of Peter **“You are the Christ the Son of Living God,”** Peter may have imagined that from then on, everything would be plain sailing for he is following the Messiah.

Counting on Jesus' promise **“...I will give you the keys to the kingdom...”** And perhaps Peter heard Jesus only in his earthly terms. Thus, Jesus clearly corrected him, **“You are thinking not as God does but as human being do.”** After Peter remarked to Jesus, for Peter reasoning as a human being thought it obligation to take Jesus aside, almost forcibly and remonstrate with Him **“God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall happen to you.”**

The possibility of the Messiah being killed could not enter the mind Peter, he could not accept this, even though he had been inspired by the God the Father earlier and recognized Jesus as the Messiah. In fact, no Jew awaiting the Messiah would have accepted such a statement Jesus made.

To the Jews the Messiah had to be the victorious, living and reigning. This perhaps explains the shock of Peter when he heard Jesus' statement about his coming suffering and death.

Application to Life: Jesus admonished Peter with one of the sternest words, we read about it in the Gospel. Jesus reprimanded Peter, “**Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me...**” since Peter was tempting Jesus to go the wrong way as the devil had done in the desert. Then right after his stern rebuke to Peter, Jesus now turned from His own cross to the disciples’ cross “**Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follows me.**”

To deny oneself does not mean hating oneself or believing that we have no value. **It means refusing to make myself, my comfort, my desires, my plans the center of everything.** Christian discipleship means saying “**Lord not only what I want, but what do you want?**”

Now a days we cannot imagine how horrible the very words “**to be crucified**” sound at the ears of the people at the time of Jesus. The Apostles had witnessed on more than one occasion people being led to be crucified. Early Christians found it difficult to explain to non-Christians that Jesus died on the Cross to save all men. Pagans often mocked them as people “**following a God who had been crucified.**”

Yet Jesus does not seek suffering for its own sake nor should we, rather Jesus accepted the cross because He chose to remain faithful to the Father and His mission to redeem us.

The cross represented everything He refuse to run away from; love, sacrifice, rejection and obedience, Jesus invites us to do the same. Most of all we are reminded “**For those who want to save their life will lose it and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.**”

Jesus is explaining the fundamental paradox of Christian existence. If I make my preservation the highest goal, I ultimately lose the deeper meaning of life.

Let us ask ourselves, are we willing to embrace our crosses? Are we ready to deny ourselves in pursuit of God’s will? To put on God’s plan first?

Sometimes we have to admit our prayers are not really “**Lord show me your will,**” but rather “**Lord bless the plans I have already made.**”

God’s final judgment will reveal the true value of every one of our lives. Those who appeared successful in the eyes of the world may discover that they invested their lives in things that cannot last. Those who sacrificed themselves in love of God will discover that their lives had eternal value.

LOOKING AHEAD: Labor Day, Monday, September 7th, Parish Office will be closed for the holiday. **Leeward Vicariate Meeting:** St. Rita hosting, **Wednesday, September 9th** from 10:00am – 1:00pm. **First Friday Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, September 4th** 8:00am Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration **9:00am – 7:00pm** (Benediction). Hele Mail

R. Paulo Jim Cap