

September 6, 2026

Love is the fulfillment
of our works!



Where
two or
three are
gathered
in my
NAME
I am
there
with
them

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Saturday, September 5	 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Sunday, September 6	 7:00 a.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream), Aloha Sunday
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Monday, September 7	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, September 8	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, September 9	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
	 10:00 a.m.	Leeward Vicariate Meeting
Thursday, September 10	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, September 11	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, September 12	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Sir:27:30-28:7: Forgive the injustice of your neighbor, for then your own sins will be pardoned. Remember death, stop sinning, recall the commandments, love your neighbor, think of God's covenant, and overlook the faults of others.

Rm:14:7-9: We are not our own masters, but we are responsible to the Lord as servants. ed 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:18:21-35: In a parable on forgiveness, Jesus compared the reign of God to a king settling accounts with his officials. Moved by compassion, the king forgave some or all of each debt. An official then extorted the full amount he was owed, and the king punished him.

September 8: Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Feast

Patron Saint of chefs, cooks, distillers, drapers, fish dealers, goldsmiths, silversmiths, needlemakers, potters, restaurateurs, silkworkers, and tilemakers

Today's Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated exactly nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, just as Christmas is celebrated nine months after the Church remembers the Son of God's Incarnation on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Only the three most consequential figures in the Bible receive the honor of a liturgical celebration to commemorate their births: Jesus, Saint John the Baptist, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Nothing is known for certain about the Blessed Virgin Mary's birth or of her upbringing, since the Bible only introduces Mary to us at the Annunciation. However, an early second-century apocryphal text called the Protoevangelium of James (The Gospel of James), paints a detailed picture of her conception, birth, early years, and betrothal to Saint Joseph. Though the account is not part of the canon of Scripture, it has been a source of reflection throughout the centuries and is the source of the traditional names of the Blessed Mother's parents, Joachim and Anne.

The feast we celebrate today is believed to have been first celebrated in the fifth or sixth century in the East and was tied to the dedication of a Byzantine church near the Pools of Bethesda in the Old City of Jerusalem. The church was built over what was believed to be Mary's birthplace and the home of Joachim and Anne, a short distance from the Temple. In the twelfth century, the current Basilica of Saint Anne was built on the same site. Beneath the basilica lie what are believed to be the caves in which the Mother of God was born and lived.

Birthdays celebrate people. They are occasions to rejoice in and honor the whole life of that person. The other memorials, feasts, and solemnities of the liturgical year honor various specific aspects of Mary's life. Today's feast honors her whole life, her personhood, and the gift of who she was and is.

Dearest Mother Mary, your conception was immaculate and your birth glorious. You were conceived without sin, born without sin, and remained sinless throughout your life. In Heaven, you radiate God's beauty and splendor and will do so for all eternity. Please pray that I will more fully imitate your many virtues, so that I can be a fitting instrument of your divine Son in the world. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. (My Catholic Life)

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: "Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that "the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable". Pope Francis, Homily of the Canonization of Mother Teresa, September 4, 2016 © 2026 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved

WEEKLY READINGS

Sep 06 Sun: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez:33:7-9; Ps:95; Rm :13:8-10; Mt:18:15-20

Sep 07 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:5:1-8; Ps:5: 5-6, 7, 12; Lk:6:6-11

Sep 08 : Tue: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi:5:1-4; Ps:13: 6ab, 6c; Mt:1:1-16, 18-23

Sep 09: Wed: Saint Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor:7:25-31; Ps:45: 11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Lk:6:20-26

Sep 10 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps:139: 1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk:6:27-38

Sep 11 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:9:15-19, 22b-27; Ps:84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; Lk:6:39-42

Sep 12 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

1 Cor:10:14-22; Ps:116: 12-13, 17-18; Lk:6:43-49

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Operation Funds Collection:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,807.00
Candles	135.00
Mass Intention	90.00
Outreach	145.00
Total	\$ 4,177.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 751.00
Repair & Maintenance	150.00
Total	\$ 901.00

ON-LINE GIVING (AUGUST)

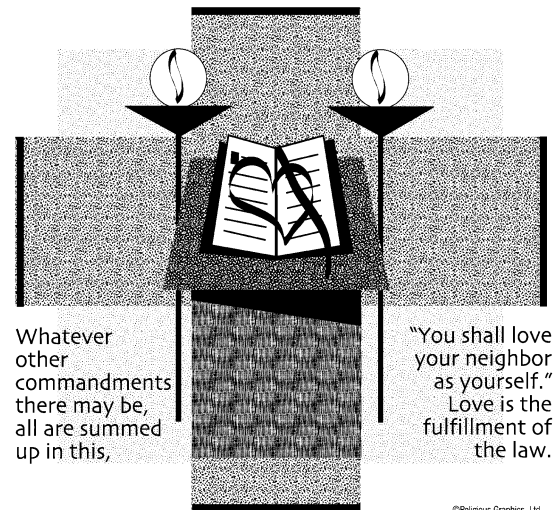
Operation Funds Collection:

General Collection	\$ 5,930.00
Outreach	1,110.00
Total	\$ 7,040.00

Restricted Collection:

Building Fund	\$ 2,780.00
Repair & Maintenance	845.00
Total	\$ 3,665.00

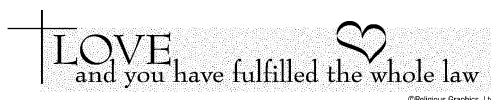
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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – September 6, 2026

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

Scripture Reflections

Introduction: Christian love is more than being kind to people we like, it also means having **courage** to correct, the **humility** to listen and the **grace** to forgive.

The readings from the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Prophet Ezekiel is told by God to be a **“watchman”** that is to warn and correct. Paul tells in Roman’s that our debt we owe to one another is love. Jesus teaches us further what this love is and told us how to deal with broken relationship not by gossip or revenge but through **truth, love, forgiveness** and **prayer**.

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Background Context: Prophet Ezekiel lived during a painful time in Israel’s history. Jerusalem was under threat from Babylon and many Israelites had already been taken into exile. In this situation God gave Ezekiel a particular mission. **“I have appointed you as watchman for the house of Israel.” Ezekiel 33: 7.**

A **watchman** stands on the city wall watching for danger and sounds the trumpet when danger appears. The responsibility – kuleana was to warn the people. If they listen or not it was not their responsibility – kuleana, but to warn them no matter what. This image of **watchman** speaks powerfully to us today.

Application to Life: We are not responsible for changing everyone around us, but we are responsible for caring - loving enough to speak the truth when something is wrong. Sometimes love requires a difficult conversation, a correction or a courage to say, **“I do not agree with you”** or **“it is wrong and it is a sin”**. Remaining silent in face of wickedness because we are afraid of rejection is not an act of kindness nor respect.

Even as all of us are called to be **watchman** and are responsible to act on behalf of God to warn, correct and guide those in error, God’s stern warning given through prophet Ezekiel is a grave warning especially to parents, kupuna, priests and all who may hold and have moral authority. For failing to correct the wicked the one in error and if that wicked one dies, we are held accountable for their death.

But if the wicked one is warned and still does wickedness, we are not held responsible if they did not heed our warnings, they bear the deadly consequences themselves for remaining in error - wickedness.

The responsibility – kuleana of one who has the moral authority is to correct, warn and guide those who are in error even if they refuse.

But prophet Ezekiel also reminded us that **a watchman** does not stand above the people judging them, rather **the watchman** stands for their good - salvation. His warning comes from God, not from his own righteousness and it is meant to lead people back to life -God. God does not desire the sinner's death but want the sinner to turn back and live.

Before I ask who needs me to be **a watchman**, perhaps I should first ask, **“Am I willing to let someone be a watchman for me?”** A **Christian watchman** is not someone looking always to find what is wrong in others. Rather a **Christian watchman** is someone who loves enough to speak the truth and humble enough to be corrected himself. How can we correct others if we refuse to hear others' corrections?

New Testament: Romans 13:8 -10

Background Context: In the 2nd reading taken from Paul to the Romans, he gives us a simple but powerful message. Our greatest Christian duty is to love one another. He tells the Roman Christians, **“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another” (Romans 13:8)**. Paul is not saying that we should ignore our responsibilities – kuleana, but rather he reminds us that love is a debt that we can never completely repay.

Application to Life: Every day gives us a new opportunity to love. Paul connects love with the commandments. He mentions such as not committing adultery, not killing, not stealing and not coveting. All these commandments he says are summed up in one command, **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” (Romans 13:10)**.

When we genuinely love another person, we would not want to harm, deceive or destroy that person. Love naturally leads us toward what is good. Sometimes we make Christianity complicated. We think that being a good Christian may mean only that we pray more, go to church or following religious practices.

These are very important, but Paul reminds us that love must be at the heart of everything we do. The real test of our faith is often found in **ordinary relationships**: how we speak to our family-ohana, how patiently we listen, how we treat difficult people and whether we forgive those who hurt us.

Today we can ask ourselves, **“Do my love for God become visible in the way I treat people?”** Perhaps, the person who needs our love more is someone we find difficult to understand or accept. **Love is not merely feeling it is a daily choice** – take up your cross and follow me, to seek good of another.

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

Background Context: A small disagreement between two people can sometimes become much bigger than the original problem. Instead of speaking to each other, they begin telling others. Sooner small misunderstanding becomes a broken relationship. Jesus gives us a better way in today's Gospel. The steps to direct and honest conversation. Jesus does not tell us to gossip, complain to others or speak about the person behind his or her back.

Application to Life: We are called to go back to the person directly but with the intention of winning back the relationship, not winning an argument. If the person does not listen Jesus suggest another step. Take one or two other people with you. If necessary, then the matter can eventually be brought before the community - church.

This showed that conflict is not a private matter simply between one person to another. When relationships are damaged the whole community – church and surely the ohana-family is affected. At the same time Jesus gave us a process not a guaranteed formula. **We can do our best, but we cannot force another person to change.**

We can **speak the truth, listen in forgiveness and apologize and reach out** but **the final response** belongs to the other person. This gives us different levels of conflict resolution. **First** speak privately, **second** seek the help of one or two trusted people, **third** involve the wider community when necessary.

At every stage the goal should be reconciliation and restoration and not punishment or humiliation. We are to be compassionate just as God is compassionate to us. How can the sanctifying grace of God that comes in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist have an effect in a heart that is harden?

The mistake we often make is that we often fail to differentiate the person from disagreement and, worse, we tend to let pride take the best of us and we fail to listen in humility. Next time when you disagree with someone, try and see if you can first listen to all that the other person has to say before quickly responding, it is not easy!

There is also another important lesson here; **unforgiveness can keep us imprisoned long after the original conflict has ended.** We replay the conversation in our minds; we imagined what we should have said and tragically we carry the resentment for years. Sometimes the other person may even have forgotten about it or have died before the relationship is healed. But the wound remains alive within us.

We know that illness (both bodily and psychologically) may have its roots in the hatred, anger, resentment and unforgiveness people carry in their hearts. How much burden do we carry in illness of body and spirit for holding on to grudges and hatred?

How many good years of joy and union with God we have lost because we refuse to forgive and now with old age, we have much regret?

Truth be told, forgiveness does not mean saying that what happened was acceptable, it means refusing to allow another person's wrong doings to control our hearts forever.

Finally, Jesus stated, **"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20**). This is not simply about having a small prayer meeting, in the context of the conflict, Jesus assured us that he is present even in difficult and challenging conversations that have to take place. **When people pray together, seek truth together, and genuinely desire reconciliation for there is a power greater than their own, God's presence.**

LOOKING AHEAD:

October is the Month of Rosary: All Rosary prayers will be prayed 30 minutes before Mass. On Aloha Sunday, in October 4th Rosary will be prayed in Olelo Hawai'i. Rosary will start on Aloha Sunday at 6:15am, 8:15am and 4:15pm. Please join us to present roses of prayers to Our Blessed Mother!

OUR HAWAIIAN MASS FOLDERS: They are available to assist us all to pray in Olelo Hawai'i in Mass responses. The parts of the people's responses are highlighted for ease of use. What better way to express our rich living Hawaiian Culture – Heritage in Nanakuli as Catholics by praying in Olelo Hawai'i. **St. Joseph** has Ilicano Masses, **Our Lady of the Star of the Sea** has Chinese Masses and **Sts. Peter & Paul** and **St. John the Baptist** both have Spanish Masses and **Co-Cathedral, St. Teresa Lisieux** has Vietnamese Masses.

LABOR DAY: Monday, September 7th Parish Office will be closed.

LEEWARD VICARIATE PASTORS' MEETING: Wednesday, September 9th Pastors and Parochial Vicars from **Leeward Vicariate** (Sacred Heart, Waianae, St. Rita, Nanakuli, St. Jude, Kapolei, Immaculate Conception, Ewa, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ewa Beach and St. Joseph, Waipahu).

FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS' MEETING: Sunday, **September 13 at 10:40am** in Kamiano Traylor. Topic: Coming 2026- 2027 Faith Formation Year. **CATECHETICAL**

SUNDAY: Sunday, **September 20, 2026**. All Catechists will be Commissioned officially.

*Have a Blessed Day!
Fr. Paul J. McCarroll*