

PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2026

I will be your Lord, forever!

Saturday, September 19	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, September 20	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
	 6:30 p.m.	O. C. I. A. Class - Church
Monday, September 21	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, September 22	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting - Kamiano Thr.
Wednesday, September 23	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, September 24	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, September 25	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, September 26	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ez:18:25-28: The Lord spoke through Ezekiel: "Hear now, house of Israel. . . If he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life."

Phil:2:1-11: Paul quoted an ancient hymn: "Who, though he was in the form of God./did not regard equality with God something to be grasped./Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of the a slave./ . . becoming obedient to the point of death./even death on a cross./ Because of this, God exalted him/and bestowed on him the name/which is above every other name."

Mt:21:28-32: Jesus said that outcasts enter God's reign because of faith but not the righteous who lack repentance. "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

September 23: Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest—Memorial

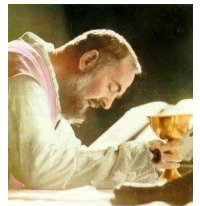
Saint Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione in the rural town of Pietrelcina, Italy. Called Franci (Frankie), he was the third of five surviving children. Town life centered around the local church of Saint Anna with feasts, Masses, processions, novenas, and parish festivals. Early on, Franci exhibited great piety, dedicating himself to God and the Blessed Virgin at age five. He suffered from nightmares as a toddler and later believed that they were evidence of the devil already tormenting him. His three years of public schooling were interrupted by various illnesses.

Five days before joining the Capuchins, Pio had a vision in prayer. A "majestic Man" led him to do battle with a "mysterious creature." When the creature fled, Pio received a beautiful crown. He was told that he must continually fight the creature but would always win with the majestic Man's help. Three days later, after receiving the Eucharist, Pio realized that the creature was from hell, but the Man at his side was Christ. In a vision two days later, Jesus and Mary consoled and strengthened Pio. At age nineteen, Pio took his final vows, and was ordained a priest at twenty-three.

Padre Pio soon became known as a mystic. His ecstasies made his Masses long and devout. He heard confessions and counseled many, often with "pray, hope, and don't worry." On September 20, 1918, while praying after Mass, Jesus' wounds pierced Pio's body. He openly carried the stigmata for exactly fifty years, and no doctor could explain the wounds. People flocked to see the living saint and mystic. He manifested the charisms of healing, bilocation, levitation, and prophecy. Foreign visitors heard him speak in their own language. He could read hearts, spent weeks at a time eating only the Holy Eucharist, and slept little or not at all. Miraculous conversions resulted from his ministry.

Saint Padre Pio, you loved God with all your heart and bore Christ's wounds on your body. Through you, many lives were converted, hearts healed, and sins forgiven. Please pray that I will receive the healing I need to more fully devote myself to God's will and serve Him with all my might. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

(My Catholic Life)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKEND RETREAT:

Registrations are now being accepted for the **October 9-11, 2026 Retreat!** If you or a friend are hurting from a past abortion and are searching for a confidential, non-judgmental, safe place of healing and supported to express and reconcile painful emotions and begin the healing process, you've found the right place and are welcomed. Both women and men are impacted by abortion and greatly benefit from the retreats. Singles, couples and family members of aborted children have come to Rachel's Vineyard for peace and inner healing. You are not alone. Pick up a Rachel's Vineyard brochure at the entrance of church for more information.

WORD OF LIFE: "When we have lost our way and find ourselves brought low by sin and suffering, we can know with confidence that the Lord will never abandon on us. No matter what sins we have committed or how many times we have chosen to separate ourselves from the flock, we can know that Christ's mercy and kindness awaits us. There is nothing we can do, no sin so great, that cannot be overcome with the infinite mercy of Christ." USCCB "Hope After Abortion"

WEEKLY READINGS

Sep 20 Sun: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is:55:6-9; Ps:145; Phil:1:20c-24, 27a; Mt:20:1-16a

Sep 21 : Mon: Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph:4:1-7, 11-13; Ps:19: 2-3, 4-5; Mt:9:9-13

Sep 22 : Tue: Ordinary Weekend

Prv:21:1-6, 10-13; Ps:119: 1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk:8:19-21

Sep 23: Wed: Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Prv:30:5-9; Ps:119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk:9:1-6

Sep 24 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Eccl:1:2-11; Ps:90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17bc; Lk:9:7-9

Sep 25 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Eccl:3:1-11; Ps:144:1b & 2abc, 3-4; Lk:9:18-22

Sep 26 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Eccl:11:9-12:8; Ps:90: 3-4, 5-6, 1213, 14 & 17; Lk:9:43b-45

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

From an early age, we tend to distort the concept of "fairness": "I am good. I deserve good things. I am not receiving good things. Something must be wrong. Who's going to fix it?" We also know the age-old expression: "Who ever said life was fair?" Jesus knew this expression when he offered his parable in today's Gospel reading Christian stewards acknowledge, with humility, that they receive good things from the Lord in abundance; even if these gifts are not the ones they think they need when they need them. Consider which servants you identify with most in the Gospel reading, the ones who demand "fairness", or that final servant who, seemingly, deserves the least..

(International Catholic Stewardship Council)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Operation Funds Collection:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,837.00
Candles	25.00
Mass Intention	225.00
Outreach	100.00

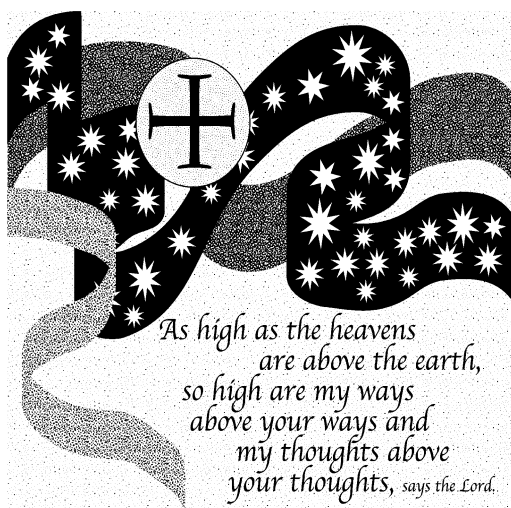
Total **\$ 4,187.00**

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 415.00
HI Catholic Ministries Appeal	1,538.00
Catholic University	25.00

Total **\$ 1,978.00**

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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Old Testament: Isaiah 55: 6 – 9

The 1st reading taken from the prophet Isaiah comes in the context of Israel's experience of exile. The people had known suffering, displacement and consequences of turning away from God.

Yet God did not abandon the Israelites, instead God invites them to return, seek Him and received His mercy.

Application to Life: There is a sense of urgency in the reading, as God's invitation is being offered now.

We can easily postpone prayer, forgiveness, conversion and reconciliation, telling ourselves, **"I will do it later,"** the famous statement, **"tomorrow I will do it."**

But God's grace calls us in the present moment, not **"later or tomorrow,"** for spiritual procrastination often ends in tragedy, the loss of final opportunity to respond to God's grace, for tomorrow never came for many.

Prophet Isaiah calls out; **"Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts..." (Isaiah 55: 7).**

God's call to conversion is not merely changing what we do; it also means allowing God to change the way we think, judge and see others.

And when we turn back, we discover that God is not waiting to punish us.

Rather God is merciful and in forgiving, **"...our God who is generous in forgiving."** Finally, God reminds us: **"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways..."**

We often fall into the temptation where we want God to explain everything, and we want to understand everything. We also find ourselves wanting to plan everything. But faith often means trusting God before we understand God.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to seeking God is not doubt but delay. We wait for “the right moment, the right mood or the right circumstances” which often do not come.

Prophet Isaiah reminds us: the right moment to return to God, conversion of our hearts is the moment God is calling us, and **that moment is now!**

New Testament: Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a

In today’s 2nd reading Paul writes to the Philippians while facing the possibility of imprisonment and even death.

Yet Paul’s concern is not primarily about what will happen to him. Paul’s deepest desire is that Christ will be honored in his life and in his death.

Thus, he states, **“for me life is Christ and death is gain.”** This does not mean that Paul despises life, rather, if he continues to live his life will be an opportunity for fruitful service.

If he dies, he hopes to be with Christ. Paul therefore finds himself torn personally, he longs to be with Christ, but he also knows that remaining alive will allow him to serve the Philippians and help them grow in faith.

Application to Life: This reveals something beautiful about Christian discipleship. Our life is not ultimately about ourselves. Paul is willing to remain because others need him.

His love for Christ becomes love expressed through service. Paul’s love for Christ becomes love expressed through service.

Therefore, he tells the Philippians: **“Only conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” Philippians 1: 28.**

Our faith is not only something we believe; it is something we live. The question for us today is simple:

If Christ is truly the center of my life, what would change in the way I live, serve and relate to others?

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16a

Background Context: We may have heard people say, “**I have been faithful, I prayed, served, sacrificed and tried to do what was right.**”

So why does someone who seems to have done so little receive the blessing I have been praying for?” At some point, we too may have compared ourselves with others and asked: “**What do I get for being faithful?”**

We generally tend to look on “**those who were not hired early in the morning as people who were perhaps lazy or were trying to avoid work**”.

Application to Life: Putting “**we**” in place of those labors hired much later, let us ask ourselves these questions.

But what if they were there early too but were not prepared to be hired? What if then the landowner came first and only a few jobs were available? Let us imagine ourselves among those who were not hired.

We desperately need the money, bills are piling up and food is running low. We wait, hoping someone will hire us; but hour after hour passes and still yet we are not still chosen?

Finally, at five o’clock, when we had almost given up, the landowner comes and hires us. We work for only one hour, before the sunsets for the day, then comes the incredible surprise, the manager gives us a full day’s wage!

We can now go home and feed our families. How would you feel? Would you call it unfair-or would you call it grace-blessing?

The central message of the Gospel is this: God keeps looking for us even when so often we are not prepared to respond.

The God - landowner does not come only once; the early dawn, but at nine o’clock, noon, three o’clock and even at five o’clock, just before the sun sets for the day. He kept returning to the marketplace at all those different times of the day.

God does the same with us, even when we feel that we have wasted years, fallen way, or arrived late, God continues to call us.

But then comes the uncomfortable part, those who worked from early morning received the same wage as those who worked the very last. The early workers complain **“you have made them equal to us.”**

The truth is that they are not cheated, they receive exactly what was promised, **“agreeing with them for the usual daily wage...”** But what troubles them is the generosity shown to other workers who came so late.

This is where the comparison enters our relationship with God. Sometimes we are faithful, we pray, serve the Church and try to do what is right, yet life still brings suffering, disappointment, and unanswered prayers.

We may ask, **“Lord, after all these years, where is my reward?”**

What happens inside me when someone else receives the blessing I have been praying for? Can I thank God for another person’s blessing even when I am still waiting for mine?

The parable reminds us that God’s grace is not a salary -wage we can demand from Him. We cannot put God in our debt. God’s mercy – grace is a gift; we cannot calculate His love according to our hours of service or compare our journey with someone else’s.

Perhaps, therefore, the question is not, **“Why did they get the same as me?”** but **“Why am I not grateful that God has been so generous to me?”**

Whether we came to God early or late, whether our faith has been strong or weak, the God - landowner keeps coming back for us. In the Kingdom of God, we do not secure our place by competing with others.

We receive it as a gift of grace and respond to that grace through faithful love. Someone might ask, **“Then why should I serve God faithfully for years if someone who comes at the last moment receives the same reward?”**

Because **the greatest gift** is not simply what we receive at the end. **The true gift is belonging to God, waking daily with God to experience His love & mercy leading us to eternal life and to work in God's vineyard today!**

Indeed, **prophet Isaiah** was right when he spoke on behalf of God; **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.”** God's thoughts are not like our thoughts, we think in terms of calculation, comparison and deserving; God thinks in terms of His mercy, generosity and grace.

So today instead of comparing our blessings with someone else's, let us look at our own lives and say with gratitude from our hearts, **“God is good all the time, and all the time God is good...Mahalo Ke Akua!”**

Announcement

MAHALO NUI LOA for Your Continuous and Generous Support: We collected **\$1,538.00** last weekend on our second Collection. We now have turned in to the Diocese the total **\$7,780.00** to date, which is now **55%** of the goal of **\$13,843.00**.

2nd Collections will be taken on weekly basis for St. Rita's **2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal**. We hope to reach or be near the goal of **\$13,843.00** the Diocese has set for us by December 2026. In this way whatever is still due will be less on our **2027-2028 Diocesan Assessment**.

The **2nd Collection Envelopes** can be found in the pews or at the entrance of the church with St. Rita Church name stamped on it. Please kokua and simply donate whatever amount you may be able to weekly assist St. Rita Parish and print your name or envelope number.

Again, Mahalo Nui Loa for your Kokua and Generosity