



# PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026

Remember your mercies, O Lord!

|                         |                           |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday, September 26  | ..... 5:00 p.m.           | Mass                            |
| Sunday, September 27    | ..... 7:00 a.m.           | Mass                            |
|                         | ..... 9:00 a.m.           | Mass (Live Stream)              |
|                         | ..... 10:30 a.m.          | Religious Education Classes     |
|                         | ..... 5:00 p.m.           | Mass                            |
| Monday, September 28    | ..... 7:30 a.m.           | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary         |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | Mass                            |
| Tuesday, September 29   | ..... 7:30 a.m.           | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary         |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | Mass                            |
| Wednesday, September 30 | ..... 7:30 a.m.           | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary         |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | Mass                            |
|                         | .. 9:30am -11:30 am       | Food Pantry Open                |
| Thursday, October 1     | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | Communion Service               |
| Friday, October 2       | ..... 7:30 a.m.           | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary         |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | <b>Mass - First Friday</b>      |
|                         | <b>9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m</b> | <b>First Friday Adoration</b>   |
|                         |                           | <b>to the Blessed Sacrament</b> |
| Saturday, October 3     | ..... 8:00 a.m.           | <b>Mass - First Saturday</b>    |
|                         | ..... 3:15-4:00 p.m       | <b>Confession - Church</b>      |
|                         | ..... 5:00 p.m.           | Mass                            |



## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Is:5:1-7:** Isaiah sang of his friend, "My friend had a vineyard/ on a fertile hillside." The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are God's cherished plant.

**Phil:4:6-9:** Paul wrote, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition. . . the God of peace will be with you." With thanksgiving, make your request known to God.

**Mt:21:33-43:** Jesus told the parable of the vineyard owner who sent out slaves and finally his son to the rebellious tenants who killed them. "The stone that builders rejected'/has become the cornerstone;/by the Lord has this been done,/and it is wonderful in our eyes."

## September 29: Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels—Feast

The archangels are a step above the guardian angels and serve humanity directly, performing the most important tasks. The three honored today are the only three mentioned in the Bible, but Jewish traditions name seven archangels, and some speculate that God uses a whole host of archangels.

Michael's name means **"Who is like God?"** The Book of Daniel names him as the prince who stands up for Israel's people (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, and 12:1). The Letter of Jude speaks of Michael fighting Satan in a dispute over Moses' body (Jude 1:9). The Book of Revelation reveals Michael's battle with Satan, casting him from Heaven (Revelation 12:7-8). In these passages, Michael is the great defender against Satan and his demons, the Church's protector, and the Prince of the Angels. Saints Basil, Robert Bellarmine, and Bonaventure have speculated that Michael directs the entire host of angels, taking Lucifer's place who was a Seraph of the highest realm. Pope Leo XIII wrote the prayer to Saint Michael, who defends us in battle, still prayed in many churches and in private devotion.

Gabriel's name means **"God is my strength."** In the Book of Daniel, Gabriel interprets Daniel's vision (Daniel 8:15-27; 9:20-27). In the New Testament, Gabriel appears to Zechariah to reveal John the Baptist's birth (Luke 1:5-20), and to the Blessed Virgin to announce the Messiah's birth (Luke 1:26-38). It might have been Gabriel who told Saint Joseph in a dream not to fear taking Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:18-25). Gabriel often appears in sacred art blowing a trumpet for his role in conveying divine messages, guiding prophets, and participating in important historical events.

Raphael, whose name means **"God has healed,"** is mentioned only in the Book of Tobit. Raphael guided Tobit's son, Tobias, on a journey, led him to the woman who became his wife, and accompanied the two back to Tobit, whom he healed. It is speculated that Raphael is one of the seven angels in the Book of Revelation who receives one of the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2).

**Glorious Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, I entrust myself to your angelic mediation.**

**Please set into motion God's plan for my life, protect me from the evil one, deliver to me God's holy word, and heal me of my sin. I thank you for the glorious duties you fulfill in the divine mission and rely upon you in my life. Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for me and mediate God's grace to me. Jesus, I trust in You. (My Catholic Life)**

# 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:** "Suicidal individuals – with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die. . . . The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, "does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request ad support me through this difficult time?"  
*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Every Suicide is Tragic"*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Sep 27 Sun: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Ez:18:25-28; Ps:25; Phil:2:1-11; Mt:31:28-32*

**Sep 28 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

*Jb:1:6-22; Ps:17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7; Lk:9:46-50*

**Sep 29 : Tue: Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Archangels**

*Dn:7:9-10, 13-14; Ps:138: 1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Jn:1:47-51*

**Sep 30: Wed: Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

*Jb:9:1-12, 14-16; Ps:88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15; Lk:9:57-62*

**Oct 01 Thur: Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

*Jb:19:21-27; Ps:27: 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; Lk:10:1-12*

**Oct 02 Fri: The Holy Guardian Angels**

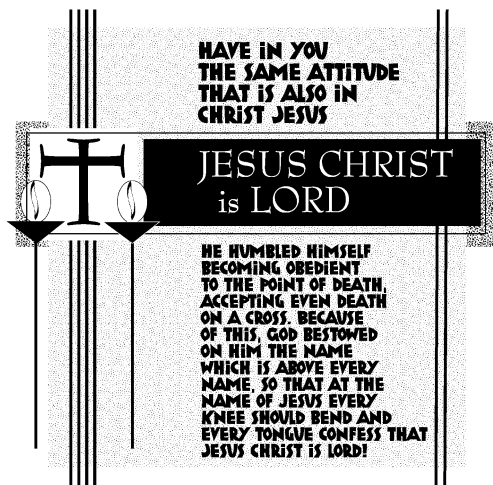
*Jb:38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps:139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab;*

*Mt:18:1-5, 10*

**Oct 03 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

*Jb:42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps:119: 66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130;*

*Lk:10:17-24*



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## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*Saint Augustine, a doctor of the church, once wrote that he first, second, and third most important attitude in Christianity is humility. In today's second reading, Saint Paul is concerned with how we conduct ourselves in our community of faith. He urges us to let our conduct be worthy of the Gospel we say that we believe; and that it all begins with humility. He asks us to consider others better than ourselves, and to serve them by looking out for their best interest, not ours. Consider how Saint Paul's appeal to imitating Christ's humility can enhance your relationships.*  
*(International Catholic Stewardship Council)*

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### Operation Funds Collection:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sunday Collection</b> | <b>\$ 3,024.00</b> |
| <b>Candles</b>           | <b>40.00</b>       |
| <b>Mass Intention</b>    | <b>40.00</b>       |
| <b>Outreach</b>          | <b>45.00</b>       |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 3,149.00</b> |

## RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Building Fund</b>                 | <b>\$ 781.00</b>   |
| <b>HI Catholic Ministries Appeal</b> | <b>1,801.00</b>    |
| <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>      | <b>100.00</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$ 2,682.00</b> |

## MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

Do what is  
right and just  
and  
you shall  
surely live!



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## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A September 27, 2026

**Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa**

**Ho'omaika'i to our Newly Baptized: Jaxson and Jeremiah Dias, sons of Brenton & Selena Dean – Bongo. The godparents are Angelo Dean-Bongo & Sierra Strong.**

**Baptism** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sacrament we enter and celebrate as a Christian, becoming the child of God. **Baptism** cleanses us of our **original Sin** and through rebirth in water and Spirit bestowed the **Sanctifying Grace**. The Baptized child becomes the **child of God**, giving the child the privilege to call God, Our Father and to inherit eternal life won by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parents and godparents have promised to raise their baptized children in the Faith of the Catholic Christian Faith. This is a solemn promise that they made to God who has entrusted His sons and daughters to be raised a faithful Christian and one day inherit the eternal joy in Heaven.

**St. Rita Building Committee** will meet at 12noon today at Kamiano Trailor.

**St. Rita Faith Formation has started: Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> ...today 10:30am – 12noon!**

**OCIA Classes on Sunday evenings after 5:00pm Mass**

### **Scripture Reflections**

#### **Old Testament: Ezekiel 18: 26-28**

**Background Context:** **What is the cause of our suffering in life?** Is it the punishment for the deeds of our parents or is it a punishment for our own deeds? This question often rose in the minds of ancient Jews.

1<sup>st</sup> reading taken from **prophet Ezekiel** touches upon this question. The reading revolved around the **Hebrew proverb** that was commonly used among the Jewish people during the time of prophet Ezekiel.

The proverb was, **“the parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”**. This *proverb meant that the parents have eaten of the unripe grapes and passed the resulting sour taste to their children, implying the present generation was unjustly punished for what their fathers – parents did.*

So why were the people of Judah (Jews) complaining like this? The events of this reading from prophet Ezekiel took place between the first and the second deportation (exile) of the people of Judah to Babylon between the **years 597- 587 BC**. The people of Judah enduring exile in Babylon interpreted the proverb to mean that they were suffering exile because of the sins of their parents.

In other words, they believe themselves to be innocent and their treatment by God’s hands – exiled in Babylon, to be unjust. The Jews complained that God had taken them to exile in account of sins committed by their forefathers.

They began to look at God as their opponent instead of asking what they could do to change. They lend themselves to think that they had no choice and asked why God is punishing them.

This mode of thinking had a serious fallout, not taking personal responsibility-kuleana and owing to the consequences to their own evil, the people began to lose hope, they began to believe that they were doomed regardless of what they might do. There was no way of escape. Therefore, they reasoned there is no point in being faithful to God, thus creating excuses for themselves of their own sinful lives.

**Application to Life:** Prophet Ezekiel spoke on God's behalf, stating, **"Is it my ways that are unfair or rather are not your ways unfair?"** This is an important biblical theme. When something difficult happens, human beings seem to quickly ask: **Why is God doing this to me?** But prophet Ezekiel prompted by God invites us to ask another question: **How am I living before God?** The problem is not with God's justice, the problem is that we tend to try to justify ourselves, instead of examining our own lives first.

How often do we find ourselves with excuses in our trials and blame someone else who is responsible, our past life's circumstances are responsible and try to blame others for the consequences we may suffer for the evil we have done?

The situations of our life, for example when we are born, where we grow up, the education that we receive definitely affects our lives. But they don't have to define us and limit us. We can take responsibility for our lives and can rise above the situations that we find ourselves in today.

The challenge before us today is to stop making excuses and blaming others for what is happening in our lives. We are called to look at our lives honestly and **turn** to the Lord, taking responsibility for our lives and actions. The way forward is through repentance the way out of death to life.

We sometimes meet people who play the blame game, **"so and so is happening in my life today because this person did this or that person did that"**.

God further states **"When the righteous man turns away his righteousness and commits iniquity..."** Here Ezekiel introduces an important principle, a grave warning lest we become complacent in our spiritual life, that the past good we may have done, does not give us permission to stop choosing what is good.

We may have lived well for many years but if we deliberately turn away from God and choose evil, our present choice matters. This does not mean that our one sin - evil - erases an entire life of goodness. Rather prophet Ezekiel warned about **fundamental turning** of our life away from God.

The important word is **turning** the idea connected with one's direction in life. Are we walking – **turning** toward God but then deliberately **turning** around and waking in opposite direction? The question therefore is not simply What kind of person I have been but where am I going **now?**

## **New Testament: Philippians 2: 1 - 11**

**Background Context:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is the continuation of last week's letter of St. Paul to the Philippians where we find Paul's recommendations of how followers of Christ should live. He mentions the gifts that the Philippian church has received, namely encouragement in Christ, consolation from love sharing in the Spirit, compassion and sympathy and then mentions the responsibility-kuleana they now have.

Paul expressed his desire for them to have deep abiding, internal unity among themselves. The 1<sup>st</sup> step to achieving this kind of unity is not to be motivated by selfish ambitions or conceit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> important thing is to have the quality of humility and not to look down on anyone.

**Application to Life:** Paul encourages us to put away our selfish ambitions of conceit and our tendency to be high-minded and self-absorbed, then we will naturally grow in concern for and the interests and needs of others. The reading also has the famous hymn of **kenosis, self-emptying**. Paul emphasizes that Jesus did not cling to the privileges of the divine nature but instead emptied himself to the form of a human slave - servant.

We are reminded that Jesus further humbled himself by being born in an obscure place in poverty as a child with all the weaknesses of a human being. He was humble in total obedience to His Heavenly Father to the point of death, in the most shameful way possible for a Jew, a death on the cross.

We need not be discouraged when we find ourselves having to struggle in our faith, knowing that the Son of God so humbled Himself to fully become one of us and thus lifting each one of us to such a dignity of belonging to Him.

Not only was Jesus exalted by the Father but the whole world is brought into submission to the Son. In Jewish culture people considered a person's name more than a simple label to identify that person. They believed that the name expressed something of the person's crucial character.

Each one of us baptized in Jesus Christ, as members of His body the church and we share fully in the glory that is to come. Paul has no doubt who is really Lord, not Caesar whom he will stand trial before; but Jesus Christ. We too must daily reaffirm who we follow and serve, none other than Jesus Christ our Lord!

## **Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32**

**Background Context:** The Gospel passage taken from Matthew contain Jesus' response to the question about his authority raised by chief priests and the Jewish elders earlier when "**Jesus had cleansed the Temple**", **Matthew 21: 12- 14**. They challenge Jesus asking, "**By what authority are you doing these?**" **Matthew 21: 23**.

Jesus then told them, "**The parable of the two sons**", **Matthew 21: 28-32**. The <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> son who said I would do what his father asked him but did not do and the <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> son who said he would not do but later does.

The **chief priests and the elders** who heard this parable would have surely gotten the message that this parable was directed toward them. They were the ones who claimed to obey God and observe the requirements of the Mosaic Law but in actuality failed to do so.

These religious leaders are the <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> son who said yes supposedly to Mosaic Laws - God but did not live it and would not accept the need for repentance and rejected not only John the Baptist but also Jesus himself. At the same time the tax collectors and the prostitutes they turned to God, they are the <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> son who initially refused to obey God but then repented and obeyed, doing what they were told.

**Application to Life:** As we reflect on this passage, the 2 sons are far from being called good sons, yet the parable is about **doing what God has commanded, to obey His commandments**. We know that there would be one question that would be asked of us after our death. "**Did you do the will of God the**

**Father?** While we may be involved in many activities and probably many associations in the church the basic question to be asked is **Am I doing God's will or am I doing my own will?**

The next question, in introspection **which son am I?** Here I recall having friends in college who often used to hang out – lunch hours, study or library hours with us but that person would never answer his phone whenever we called him.

We came to realize and knew for sure that this was the last number we should call if there was ever an emergency.

Am I like the **2<sup>nd</sup> son** who is always delivering big speeches and giving out free advice to all (hot air), but when someone requires real help, I will not be available? Or am I like the **1<sup>st</sup> son** who likes to avoid all tasks and opportunities that come my way and instead stick to only the things that I want to do? But later would have a change – conversion of heart and do what has to be done? Actions speak louder and are more important definitely than words, words alone are cheap.

The **important difference between the two sons is the ability to change one's mind -heart - conversion.** The **1<sup>st</sup> son** was able to reflect on his life and what his father was asking him to do and respond accordingly. The **2<sup>nd</sup> son's** response emanates from a habit, say yes to please others and avoid conflicts but never delivers.

There is no or little reflection in life, no thought or ability of conversion, yet change is a constant in all our lives. To reflect and seek conversion is necessary for not only peace in our hearts but fulfillment in life and attainment to eternal life won by Jesus Christ on the Cross for us.

Many a time in our lives we are faced with new situations and new possibilities. We may not like what happened and then choose to operate out of habit and avoid those situations. Or we could reflect – pray on what God is asking of us in these new situations, challenges, discern and in praying about them and we are enlightened to choose to embrace them. Let us pray for grace to take responsibility - kuleana for our lives and be doer of the word instead of being hearers and speakers – hot air of the word only!

**OUR PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES:** To **Trugillo Ohana** on the death of their mother, **+Nellie Trugillo.**

**Eternal Rest Grand** unto **+Nellie Trugillo** O Lord, and Perpetual Light Shine Upon her, May **+Nellie** and all the Souls of all the faithful departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen. (Funeral date is still pending).

**Our Prayers & Condolences to Boilan Ohana - +Jovita I. Boilan was laid to her rest this past Friday.**

### **OCTOBER is the MONTH of ROSARY**

**Rosary prayers throughout the Month of October, 30 minutes before all mass except on Aloha Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.** On Aloha Sunday, the Rosary will be prayed at 4:15am (Saturday), 6:15am before 7am Mass, 8:30am and 4:45pm on Sunday. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Mysteries will be prayed in Hawaiian while the Apostles Creed, Hail Holy Queen and the Litany will still be in English.

**Come and join us in the beautiful prayers of the Holy Rosary which is spiritual roses presented to Mary the Mother of Jesus and the reflections on the Mysteries of our Faith.**

## **FIRST FRIDAY, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Our First Friday Eucharistic Adoration will take place this coming First Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026.**

**8:00am Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration 9:00am – 7:00pm**

**Do sign in** and spend an hour before Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist in the Monstrance on the Altar. Pray for peace, for our parish, for your ohana, the elderly, the sick and conversion of sinners.

**Celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Large San Damiano Cross and prayers with explanation of the San Damiano Cross will be made available at the area of church sanctuary.**

**OUR 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTIONS - MAHALO NUI LOA for Your Continuous and Generous Support:** We collected **\$1,801.00** last weekend. We now have turned in to the Diocese the total **\$9,581.00** to date, which is now **69.21%** of the goal of **\$13,843.00**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The **New St. Rita Church Sign** is displayed on the west side wall of the church. Donated by Pablo and Maria Secretaria of Sacred Heart Parish, Waianae.

Please **Sign-in the Mahalo Card** to express our gratitude.

### **Invitation from Chaminade University**

Recommended informative lecturers on Topic of AI and Human Person by 2 outstanding Catholic professionals: Kyle Ballarta and Luis Kim. **Location:** Chaminade University – Mystical Rose Chapel

**Free parking is available.** Learn more: [Chaminade.edu/marianist-lecture](https://chaminade.edu/marianist-lecture) **Date: Sunday, October 18, 2026**

## **RACHEL'S VINEYARD**

**Registrations are now being accepted for OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2026 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.**

If you or your friend is experiencing hurt from past abortion and are searching for confidential, non-judgmental, safe place for healing and support to express and reconcile painful memories and emotions.

Amazing grace of God is encountered in the Rachel's Retreat. Healing and process to find peace begins. Singles, couples and family members of aborted children have come to Rachel's Vineyard Retreat peace and inner healing. You are not alone. Pick up the Rachel's Vineyard brochure at the entrance of the church or call **Lisa Shorba 808 490-4702 or 808 469-5470** all calls are kept confidential.

*Have a blessed week in the Lord!  
for all of us*