



# Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 2025

Deal with us, Lord,  
in your mercy!

## PARISH CALENDAR

COME  
to the  
LORD's  
table



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Saturday, September 27	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, September 28	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, September 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, September 30	..... 10:00 a.m.	<b>Funeral Mass Sandy Dutro (+)</b>
Wednesday, October 1	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Pastoral Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer</b>
Thursday, October 2	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, October 3	..... 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 to the Blessed Sacrament</b>
Saturday, October 4	..... 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:

**Hb:1:2-3; 2: 2-4:** The prophet learned that his hopes would fulfilled, even though it may take longer than he expected. He is told to wait in confidence, for just people will live.

**2 Tm:1:6-8, 13-14:** Paul reminded Timothy that go bestows a spirit that makes the people strong, loving, and wise. That Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and enables them to guard the rich deposit of faith.

**Lk:17:5-10:** Jesus taught the apostles that faith gives power: a person with faith the size of a mustard seed can uproot a giant sycamore tree and transplant it in the sea with a single word.

Celebrate!

**PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY**

LORD JESUS CHRIST, eternal High Priest, you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the Cross and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice, Hear our prayer for the sanctification of ou priests. Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood may be ever more conformed to you, the divine Master. May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let them be shepherds according to your own Heart, single-minded in service to you and the Church and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life. Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours, draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN **Pope Benedict XVI**



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 200 Years of Catholicism in Hawai'i – Logo & Poster Contests

In preparation for the 200th anniversary of Catholicism in Hawai'i, the Diocese is inviting parishioners to participate in two creative contests: one to design a logo and another to design a poster for this historic celebration. Contest details, instructions, and deadlines are available on the white counter at the front of the church and on the parish website. Mahalo for sharing your talents!

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** This weekend's Gospel is a stark reminder to be mindful of those in need, both in our community and in our own homes. Sometimes, the person most in need of our attention and love is our spouse, who we may take for granted. Recommit to seeing and loving each other as Christ loves us. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is **November 14-16, 2025**, at the St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley, Oahu. For more information, contact Ed and Betty Coda at (808) 258-6688 or email [codawwme@gmail.com](mailto:codawwme@gmail.com). Our website can be found at [www.hawaiiwwme.org](http://www.hawaiiwwme.org). Space is limited. Get your spot reserved now.

**WORD OF LIFE:** *"The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40)\*" \*NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission USCCB Pro-Life Activities*  
*"Live the Gospel of Life: [www.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://www.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)*

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Sep 28 Sun: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Am:6:1a, 4-7; Ps:146; 1 Tm:6:11-16; Lk:16:19-31

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

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

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

Zec:8:20-23; Ps:87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk:9:51-56

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

Neh:2:1-8; Ps:137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Lk:9:57-62

**Oct 02 Thur: The Holy guardian Angels**

Neh:8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps:19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt:18:1-5, 10

**Oct 03 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

Bar:1:15-22; Ps:79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk:10:13-16

**Oct 04 Sat: Saint Francis of Assisi**

Bar:10:17-24; Ps:69:33-35, 36-37; Lk:10:17-24

## NOTES OF STEWARDSHIP

*In today's Gospel Jesus offers a warning about living selfishly in his parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The Rich Man holds sumptuous feasts and dresses in fine clothes. But despite his affluence he does nothing to relieve the painful hunger and debilitating condition of his neighbor Lazarus. He neglects to love his neighbor as he loves himself and is sent to hell for his lifestyle and desire for self-gratification. The Rich Man represents those who spend their money on their own personal pleasures with no regard for sharing their material possessions with the poor and needy in their own neighborhood. Good stewards realize the practical implications of not only loving God, but loving their neighbor as they would love themselves. Who are the less fortunate in our neighborhood? Do we share a portion of our own blessings with them? (International catholic Stewardship Council)*

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 934.00
Candles	60.00
Funeral	300.00
Mass Intention	10.00
Outreach	45.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4, 349.00</b>

### RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 1, 615.00
Repair & Maintenance	85.00
Catholic University	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1, 705.00</b>

### MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri  
8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm  
Closed Wednesday  
Weekend Appointments  
Available

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time C September 28, 2025a

### Ka Leo O Ke Kahuipa Aloha 'Ohana Nui'ia

**Faith Formation – CCD Class:** St. Rita Parish Faith Formation Classes begin today, right after the 9:00am Sunday Mass. Do enroll your children in this very important part of growing up to “**know, understand and speak about our precious Catholics Faith.**”

**Funeral Mass:** Funeral Mass for **+Sandy Kaala Dutro** will be held this coming **Tuesday, September 30, 2025, here in our church.** +Her body will arrive at 8:30am. **The funeral mass will be at 10:00am** here in St. Rita Church. We offer our prayers and condolences to +Sandy's father Stephen and to the Dutro Ohana. **Eternal Rest Grant Unto +Sandy O Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her. May +Sandy's Soul and the Souls of all the Faith Departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen.**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Month of October First Friday, Eucharistic Adoration will be held this coming **Friday, October 3, 2025.** 8:00mass followed by hourly Adoration until closing Benediction at 7:00pm. “**Come and spent an hour with the Lord! If an hour is not available at least 15 minutes of silent prayers before the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ!**” What boundless blessings are bestowed to all who come before the Lord in Faith! Come and pray on behalf of your husband, wife, children, relatives, ohana and all you desired in your heart for their salvation.

**October - Month of Rosary:** Throughout the Month of October, we will have the Rosary **prayed 30 minutes before each mass.** Make a little sacrifice to come early and pray with the St. Rita Rosary Ohana seeking Our Blessed Mother's maternal blessings upon our parish ohana. (More information of brief history of Rosary will follow next week).

**St. Rita Parish Rosary Rally – Prayers,** headed by our Respect Life Ministry will take place **Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00noon** at the front of our parish Marian Grotto. Come and join us! For more information leave a message for **Cami Adam's Respect Life Ministry Chair** at our parish office 808 668-7833.

### Scripture Reflections

**Old Testament: Amos 6:1, 4-7**

**Background Context:** Prophet Amos prophesied in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC at the time of relative stability and prosperity in the Northern kingdom of Israel. They enjoy political stability and cultural flourishing and wealth, especially among the elite – by the wealthy class. Tragically this period of prosperity was deeply unequal among the Israelites.

The excessive luxury and consumption of goods and food among the elite and wealthy are clearly made known by prophet Amos; **“...lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches...eat lambs taken from the flock and calves from the stall.” (Amos 6: 1).**

What an excessive life they enjoyed! Yet all this extravagant lifestyle while the majority of Israelites suffered poverty and want. Drinking wine is one thing but in bowls? And to anoint themselves with best oil (perfume oil), showed not only extravagant excesses but blatant heartless lifestyle. The heart of the condemnation; **“they are not grieved over the ruined of Joseph!”** Their sin is not only indulgence but **apathy** toward suffering and the collapse of their own fellow men and women (society).

Prophet Amos warned those who had assumed that privileged status, wealth and power that made them feel and wrongly assumed to be immune to calamity, were blinded to the impending severe punishment that will soon befall them by the conquest of the Assyrian Empire (began in 732 BC & finally crushed by Sargon II). The norther kingdom of Israel thus ceased to exist!

The **key message** is that religious identity or heritage does not excuse moral failure, injustice and neglect of the vulnerable.

**Application to Life:** We witness a fearful rebuke and dire warning against complacency and dangers of life that the wealthy cushioned by excessive luxury ignored. The plight of those less fortunate among them was invisible to them. God’s powerful words of condemnation spoken by Prophet Amos not only illustrates the tragic moral decay of the wealthy Israelites, but also the frightful condemning words of God spoken by prophet Amos against them, **“Woe to the complacent of Zion!** The word **“woe”** used in the Scriptures expresses profound, lamentation, signifying an impending calamity in consequence to grave sin.

It is a prophetic declaration used by prophets to announce God’s judgment for their rebellion, corruption and sin. Prophet Amos indicts not only corrupt behavior but their failure to empathize, to be at apathy to even try to feel the grief for the suffering of the poor among them. **“...yet they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph.” Amos 6:6.**

Although none of us may be found lying stretched out on couch and drunk from wine consumed with a bowl, meaning to gulp wine like a drunkard and eat lambs and calves, the choice meats, the most prized and expensive meat sought by the wealthy we too can easily fall complacent and be in apathy in our regards to the poor among us.

Prophet Amos' words invite us to examine our conscience. Where have we reclined on our own beds of ivory enjoying comfort while ignoring the pain of others? Do we notice the ruined of our neighbors and the divisions in our communities...the wounds of Joseph? Do falling into comfort and luxury lull us and dull our Christian conscience to think and even believe in this very precarious era of our human history that our mighty national military will shield us from utter destruction? Israelites of old fell into the diabolical trap of freshly existence that made them spiritually blind!

Every day heading to St. Rita Church I drive through Farrington Highway and I have begun to notice the gradual growth of the homeless encampment at **the Hakimo Road intersection by the Makai side**. 4 months ago, heading early in the morning for weekday mass I had a slow leak that became a total flat tire right in front of the encampment just before the pumping station. I parked at the gravel roadside and spent about 25 minutes uneasy trying to pump enough air into my rear flat tire. I wanted to get out of the place but not leave the car behind. Some people from the homeless camp walked by and smiled another gesture to wave. For the first time I stopped what I was doing and looked at the homeless camp not with the eyes of passing curiosity but looking closely and I felt a heavy heart at the condition of so many. Words of prophet Amos now sounded so different than it did before this encounter, it is easy to celebrate progress and growth while we may ignore the economically and politically marginalized in our midst, **“the collapse of Joseph.”**

Of course I do not have answers to the plight of the homeless, but ever since that day, when I drive by that intersection of **“Hakimo Road beach homeless encampment”** I gaze with a different attitude, having looked closely at their faces, I now whisper words of blessings at them, and at mass when we for the **“homeless”** I feel a little more personal concern and compassion for their plight and struggles of the homeless.

Prophet Amos calls us to wakefulness to grief where love has grown cold and act where injustice persists. Ultimately, we see that God's judgment is not just punitive, but it is a call to transformation of our hearts and them to act as the Lord may lead us. Prophet Amos does not simply accuse but seeks to wake us up so that we live more faithfully and compassionately for those who are less fortunate among us.

The wealthy and powerful in Isreal were rebuked for their indifference; a sobering reminder of their spiritual blindness that can follow anyone of us who isolate themselves in earthly comfort. History confirmed prophet Amos' warning: northern kingdom of Isreal fell to

Assyria. Amos showed that corruption hastens-quickens political collapse for already the spiritual collapse had taken place long before!

### **New Testament: 1 Timothy 6:11-16**

**Background Context:** Today's second reading is taken from the last chapter of **First letter of Paul Timothy**, who was a dear disciple of Paul. Paul was in Rome imprisoned, while Timothy was experiencing difficulties in leading the community of Christians in Ephesus. In this letter Paul pours out his heart to Timothy urging him **to be faithful** in his mission – task as a shepherd. By calling Timothy **“a man of God”**, a title rooted in the Old Testament prophets (**Deuteronomy 33: 1; 1 Kings 17:18**), here Paul reminds Timothy of his very special call as the servant of the Lord, the shepherd to his church in Ephesus.

As the servant of the Lord, he is to live a holy life marked by love, patience and gentleness toward his Christian community in Ephesus. Yet Paul reminded Timothy that he must remain firm, unwavering in his duty, to proclaim the truth of the gospel with courage to both the rich – powerful and the poor – lowly alike.

**Application to Life.** Timothy is reminded by Paul that in his faithfulness he will bear witness to faith in Jesus Christ as he had done when he was baptized and appointed the leader of the Christian community in Ephesus. **Paul tells Timothy to “compete well for the faith”** a term of familiar use in the Roman Empire of athletes who train and to do their best in their sport's competition. An athletic imagery to show that a Christian life is one of constant struggle, calling for discipline, courage and perseverance.

Do we realize too that by our Baptism we are **“to run the race and win?”** As in all races, **“the start is the easiest...everyone can start off...but the real heart of the matter is to finish the race!”** Paul's letter addresses us too, we the Christian parents, fathers, mothers, youth and children...**“to compete well for the faith”** that is do your best to live out our baptismal promises. Don't forget our reward is not simply earthly accolades of silver or gold medals, nor sashes place on our shoulders, but the crown of eternal glory? Our Faith is never passive, it requires effort, vigilance, and perseverance until the day of Jesus Christ's return in glory

Truly there are times when we want to do the right thing, our spirit is convinced but our body does not seem to want to cooperate. Well, take the example of St. Francis of Assisi who often called his **uncooperative body - “brother ass”** and pushed on. We all know how the animal **“donkey-ass”** can be very stubborn, well someday our body seems that way too.



Let us heed Paul's words to Timothy, "**lay hold of eternal life to which you were called...**" **1 Timothy 6:12**, which emphasized that our eternal life is not only a future promise but also a present reality that **we must embrace** and **live with conviction** for the sake of the Jesus Christ. What does your spouse see in your face or your children hear from your mouth when it is Lord's Day? Words of mumblings or a spirit filled words of "**let us worship and give thanks to God?**"

It is already hard enough that our children are overly influenced by the world, should we not, who should know better make a little more effort to assist our children, both young and old along the path? Jesus remained faithful in confessing the truth of God's kingdom even under the threat of death, we are called to mirror this fidelity.

Jesus Christ is the **Blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, King of kings, Lord of lords.**" Paul echoes the imperial titles used of the Roman emperor, reassuring God's ultimate authority. "**Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light**"; God is transcendent beyond human vision. The words that resonate with Jewish apocalyptic and wisdom traditions, (**Psalms 104:2; 1 Timothy 1:17**). **Truly this majestic doxology shifts the focus from our human struggles to divine glory.**

Let us not be afraid to give all we are to God and realize that in the sight of God, rich and poor are alike, for all of us; we are all called to grow in Christian attitude toward whatever we possess, be it much or little. Truly there is a reward far superior to any effort our Christian life may demand; **the reward is not something but Someone, Jesus Christ Himself!** Let's compete well for the Faith!

### **Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31**

**Background Context.** The parable contrasts **the rich man** who dressed in purple garment and fine linen. The rich man dressed in purple a dye associated with royalty; it signified extreme wealth and add to that a fine linen - luxury undergarments. He also dined sumptuously each day, that is he feasted everyday implying excessive indulgence. (The rich man is nameless, for he is defined only by wealth, while the poor man is given a name).

Meanwhile, in contrast to a helpless beggar, hungry, laid at his door, a **poor beggar named Lazarus**. He would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Lazarus was covered with sores that the dogs even came and licked his sores.

In his parable, Jesus never gave a name to the personages, but he does give a name to this poor beggar; Jesus named him **Lazarus (Eleazar in Hebrew)** which means "**God is my**

**help.”** The rich man is buried with dignity, while Lazarus’ burial is not even mentioned, highlighting his obscurity in life.

But after this earthly life their situations are reversed, **Lazarus** is comforted at the bosom of Abraham, while **the rich man** suffered torment in the netherworld. Lazarus carried by angels to Abraham’s bosom, an image of divine care. In Jewish tradition, it is Abraham the father of the Jewish people who welcomed good Jews in to paradise.

Even in torment, the rich man sees Lazarus as a servant (**“send Lazarus”**). His attitude has not changed for wealth blinded him (his soul) in life and continued even in death.

Jesus goes on to describe in detail the complete reversal of situation: the rich man had his good things in life, Lazarus **“evil things.”** Now the order is inverted. This echoes Mary’s Magnificat (**Luke 1:53**) **“He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty.”** The parable of the rich man could have ended at this point, but Jesus confirms His explanation with the detail of the five brothers, mainly that the rich and powerful seldom learn that unbridle riches and wealth are dangerous.

We see the rich man pleading with Abraham to send Lazarus with a message for his five brothers; like him they too were proud selfish and unconcern about the people in need.

The rich man argues that a miraculous resurrection would convince his brothers. Abraham replied, **“If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convincing if someone will rise from the dead.”** This anticipates the resurrection of Jesus – yet many still refuse despite the greatest sign.

**Application to Life.** At the time of **French Revolution** at the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (**1789 – 1799**) when France was in great political upheaval and faced severe famine by the French peasants the ruling **Queen Marie Antoinette (1755-1793)** is quoted as have said, **“let them eat cake!”** to the starving French peasants.

French historians debate whether she actually said it, **but the phrase has come to symbolize a heart that is blind to the sufferings of others.** In today’s gospel of Luke Jesus tells a parable with similar warning. It is interesting to note that **the rich man is not condemned for being wealthy but for what he failed to do.** He saw Lazarus daily yet chose to ignore him.

**This is the sin of omission. Not the evil we commit – do, but the good we refused or failed to do.** Rich man’s wealth and indulgence in flesh (sumptuous feasting, fine linen and purple dyed garment) built formidable walls of comfort and ease in his life so high that

he became numb and insensitive to the sufferings of a poor beggar – Lazarus right in his doorsteps.

**It is a stern warning about spiritual insensitivity** the rich man developed and made him totally unmoved at the sight of a beggar at his door! God sent prophets in the days of old, just as we have the scriptures the Word of God the teachings of Jesus. **But just as he did not listen or even make any efforts to see, we too can be just as blinded by our purse of earthly, material gain and comfort and ease to please our flesh.**

The **rich man** from the place of torment asked for a miracle, that someone rising from the dead to warn his brothers. Abraham replied that if they will not hear God's Word- prophets and Scriptures they will not be convinced by a miracle either.

**How true are those words of Abraham in our time**, we know too well what the 10 Commandments of God is, and in fact our conscience is often stung when we fall into complacency and into sin. Yet often we act deaf, dumb and blind to the Light of Jesus Christ!

In due time our hearts can harden and become insensitive to both truth and evil - sin, they become so confused that like the world, truth and evil are upside down. You see **“like frogs in a slow boiling pot, we remain comfortable in sin until it's too late.”**

**Salvation is not about wealth or poverty**, but faith lived and our love for Jesus Christ expressed in action.

Who is **the Lazarus** at my own door - gate? **The rich man's tragedy is not that he lacked compassion after death but that he lacked it while he still had the chance.** It is the powerful indictment of social justice and call to action in the present.

**Lazarus represents** the poor and the marginalized who are right outside our door, **perhaps even inside the door**, our own family members who may have drifted away from Faith, deprived of Faith and nourishment from Jesus Christ, they are starved and deeply hunger in spirit. Living an aimless life of alcohol, drugs, promiscuous sex, sensuality and often in bitterness void of God.

**Lazarus represents** perhaps those whom we meet day to day at work, school or in our social gatherings who simply just need encouragement, friendly but truthful guidance or loving correction. So many times, we missed the graced opportunity **“to feed, nourish, and lead others”** in their deep spiritual hunger because we are too self-conscious of ourselves and not enough of Lazarus-others around us. Have a blessed week in the Lord!