

Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

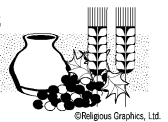
October 19, 2025

Behold, the eyes of the Lord!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, October 18	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, October 19	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, October 20	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, October 21	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, October 22	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, October 23	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, October 24	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, October 25	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass

Give thanks
to the
Lord of the
harvest

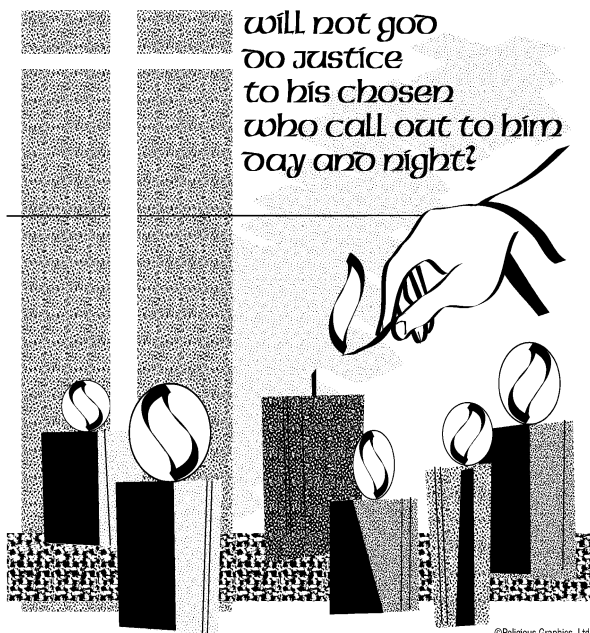


NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Sir:35:12-14, 16-18: Though not unduly partial toward the weak, God hears the cry of the oppressed. God is not deaf to the wail of the orphan or the complaints of the widow. The Lord is a God of justice.

2 Tm:4:6-8, 16-18: Paul claimed to Timothy that he had fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He claimed that now a crown of victory awaits him as he arrives safely in the heavenly reign.

Lk:18:9-14: Jesus told the story about the Pharisee and the tax collector to help those who placed confidence in their own righteousness while holding others in contempt. Jesus encouraged people to pray with the tax collector, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, is a special day celebrated by the Catholic Church around the world to recognize and support the Church's missionary work. Each year, the Pope chooses a theme for World Mission Sunday. For 2025, the theme is: "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples" This theme calls all Catholics — young and old — to be messengers of hope, just as missionaries bring Christ's love to people around the world. "Hope Among the People starts with you: Please be generous! Envelopes are in your packets or on the white counter at the entrance of the church.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: This weekend's Gospel tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, highlighting the importance of humility. The Pharisee boasts of his good deeds, while the tax collector humbly ask for mercy. A truly loving marriage is built on humility and a willingness to ask for and give forgiveness. 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. Our website can be found at www.hawaiiwwme.org. Space is limited. Get your spot reserved now.

WORD OF LIFE: *"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. . . . But do not give in to discouragements and do not lose hope. . . . The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."* Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS

Oct 19 Sun: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex:17:8-13; Ps:12; 2 Tm:3:14-4:2; Lk:18:1-8

Oct 20 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:4:20-25; Lk:1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Lk:12:13-21

Oct 21 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps:40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Lk:12:35-38

Oct 22 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:6:12-18; Ps:124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Lk:12:12-48

Oct 23 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:6:19-23; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk:12:49-53

Oct 24 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:7:18-25a; Ps:119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94; Lk:12:54-59

Oct 25 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Rm:8:1-11; Ps:24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk:13:1-9

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

If we want to know what Jesus' parable is about in today's Gospel, it seems that we don't need to work too hard because Saint Luke tell us right at the beginning: "Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart." This parable has often been used to bring comfort to us about our prayer life. But could there be a more challenging message for those who take stewardship seriously? Widows were the poorest and most vulnerable of people in Jesus' time. Oppressive legal and economic structures were the norm. Jesus embraced with great compassion the poor and the marginalized. Could it be that we are also encouraged to pray persistently for the poor, the weak and the vulnerable as we hear their cry for justice? And that we must not lose heart that we can effect change in their lives?

International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

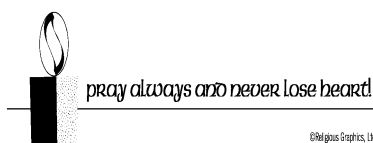
Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 588.00
Candles	61.00
Funeral	200.00
Outreach	95.00
Total	\$ 3, 944.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 1, 020.00
Repair & Maintenance	120.00
Total	\$ 1, 140.00

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of the
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are
like
incense
rising
to the
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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time C October 19, 2025

Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa Aloha 'Ohana Nui'ia

Knights of Columbus Sunday: We welcome our Knights on this 3rd Sunday dedicated to our Parish Knights of Columbus. The bake sale takes place after 7am and 9am Masses under the banyan tree.

Congratulations - Ho'omaika'i and Blessings to: Journey OliviaBelle Lines Fetui – Salavea who was baptized at the 9:00am Sunday Mass today. God bless her parents: **Junior Fetui – Salavea & Vanessa Lolani Kales** and her godparents **Thomas Jibke & Jabkiek Jibke**.

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Exodus 17:8-13

Background Context: Today's reading from **Book of Exodus** tells us of the power of Moses' prayer in defeating the Amalek (Amalekites), the powerful tribe who blocked Israelites way to the Promise land. This event took place during the Israelites journey through the Sinai wilderness after their departure - freedom from Egypt. (**Exodus 17: 1-7**). The Israelites now faced the first formidable challenge, a battle with Amalek (Amalekites).

The tribe of Amalek (Amalekites) were a fierce tribe, who were the relatives of the Israelites, since they descended from Esau, the elder brother of Jacob. But they proved to be a permanent enemy to the Israelites for centuries, they were still so at the time of Saul and David three hundred years later, (**1 Samuel 15: 1-9**). **Rephidim**, considered a place of testing and doubt (**Exodus 17: 2-7**), Israelites first place of battle.

Moses ordered Joshua, his commander, to battle the Amalek (Amalekites). This is the first mention of Joshua as Moses' assistant and future leader. Joshua obeyed, and Moses ascended the hill with the staff of God, the same one used to perform miracles in Egypt, (**Exodus 4: 2-3, 7: 8-13, 14: 26**). It symbolized divine authority and God's presence in Isreal's midst. How decisive Moses' prayer was can be made out from the fact that as long as he prayed, the battle went in their favor while the Amalek (Amalekites) got the upper hand the moment Moses stopped praying (lowered his staff).

Application to Life: The raised hands of Moses with his staff signified Moses' prayer, his total dependance and his intercession before God. If Moses remained in prayer symbolized by raising of his staff toward God, Isreal triumphed. When his strength faltered

and he failed to raise his staff, Israelites' success waned, a reminder that victory belongs to God, not alone on human effort.

We can reflect on two important lessons; First even a great and chosen leader like Moses needed help, as Aaron and Hur supported Moses in prayer toward God. Truly an example of the importance of others who assist us – in communion with us in our prayers. This is precisely what our **worship on Lord's Day** is about. That we gather in communion with each other at the Holy Mass to be united and lift our prayers-worship to God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. On the Sacrifice of the Cross, in unbloody sacramental form yet the same timeless Sacrifice of the Calvary takes place.

Second, what are the challenging obstacles we face in our daily spiritual journey to our **"Promise Land that is heaven"** and like the Israelites of old? We too are on a journey to our ultimate destination- heaven, we too must face and overcome challenges and obstacle, our **"Amalek."** Our complacency, our lack of fervor and failure to prioritize our spiritual life compared to so much investment of Time, Talent and Treasure we spend for earthly -temporary gain?

The battle of Israelites and Amalek is symbolic of our **"spiritual fight daily"** but not in merely physical – of earthly realm, but the ongoing fight between good and evil.

New Testament: 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:2

Background Context: Our Second Reading taken from the Second Letter to Timothy, Paul reminded Timothy to be rooted in the authentic teaching he had first received, likely from his grandmother Lois, his mother Eunice (**2 Timothy 1:5**) and from Paul himself. Paul made it clear that **Faith is transmitted through trusted witnesses**. In today's passage Paul recalls to Timothy the importance that the Scriptures has both for the personal spiritual benefit and the education of the Christians in the Faith.

Application to Life: Scripture is presented as a living source of our salvation and not merely for our information. Indeed, for our spiritual formation that leads to continuous growth in faith in Jesus Christ.

"That all Scripture is inspired by God, and it is use for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16. This verse is centered on the Church's understanding of the divine, that God is the Author. Scripture is not human inventions, but a divine gift meant to influence and shape our daily life with sound doctrine and moral integrity.

Do we attentively listen to the **Word of God** proclaim every Sunday at our Worship? Or are

we too distracted and restless because we had not given a brief time to quiet our souls and minds to enter the **“Mystery of our Faith – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?”**

The **Word of God** attentively heard-listened and reflected prepares us to know how to act in our daily lives, to make right and sound decisions and choices therefore to bear fruit – by our good deeds. Just as Paul gave Timothy a solemn charge in the presence of God, the same task is given to us at our Confirmation, the task of preaching – living a Christian life which is both sacred and urgent.

It is important to note that every parent or elderly – kupuna, are called and given the mission **“to proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching,” (2 Timothy 4:2).** We must admit that as Catholic Christians in the past we have made little use of the Scriptures in our prayer and in application to our daily life. That may account for the feebleness of our prayer life and courageous living in Jesus Christ. Now it is not a question of throwing overboard formulas we learned as children but putting new life into them through Holy Scripture – Word of God.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Background Context: Today’s parable belongs to Luke’s unique collection of teachings on prayer and persistence. Luke more than any other evangelist, emphasized prayer as the heart of Christian life and discipleship. The passage follows Jesus’ teaching about the coming of the Son of Man (**Luke 17: 20-37**) linking faithful prayer to faithful waiting of God’s justice.

Social historical background of the time of Jesus helps us to understand the contrast and the amazing story of the widow who overcame the obstacle to her request. In ancient Israel widows were among the most vulnerable, often poor, powerless, and dependent on others for protection. The Law of Moses commanded the care for widows (**Deuteronomy 24: 17- 21**), yet in practice, they were frequently neglected or exploited.

Judges on the other hand were expected to uphold justice especially for the weak (**Exodus 22:22-24**). But in this parable the judge is describes as corrupt and indifferent, he **“neither feared God nor respected people.”** The setting emphasized the power of perseverance and faith, even when justice seems delayed.

Application to Life: Luke introduced the moral of the story right from the start as **the disciples are called to be persistent in prayer and courageous in hope, especially in difficult times.**

The judge represented **the worldly system** that is cold and self-centered, the opposite of God's justice and mercy. The **widow symbolized perseverance in prayer**, a person with no power except for faith and persistence.

Her insistence shows that true prayer is not demanding, but it is trusting and constant. The judge refused for a while but finally acts, not out of compassion but annoyance, because this widow kept bothering him.

We see that Jesus used the contrast of the judge and the widow to highlight God's goodness, if even an unjust man yields to persistence, how much more will God who is love itself, will not fail to respond to His children's cries. **"Will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night" Luke 18:17.**

Here Jesus not only reminded us of but personally reassured us that God who is our Father hears our prayers, even when answers seem delayed. God's timing is not our human timing, but His justice is certain. Throughout the past weeks, I found the messages of the Scripture readings to all touch upon in one way or another on the plight – struggled of our St. Rita Parish Building Project.

Let us respond to Jesus' poignant question, **"When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?" Luke 18:8** with astounding yes! We will remain faithful just as our parents, grandparents, great grandparents and those who on that day met Bishop Alencastre across the church where the railroad car stopped, and they requested that a church be established in Nanakuli. Their requests were all met, and St. Rita church stands today facing the old railroad track that still exists.

The parable ended with searching question; **"...will faith he (Jesus) finds faith on earth?"** faith is not only believing that God can act but continuing to pray when God seems silent. Persistent prayer keeps faith alive.

We are to perseverance in faith and prayer. Holding on to God even when our journey seems long. The answer seems delayed, and the battle seems uphill.

Story: A little girl once asked her mother **"why do we keep praying for the same thing every night? "Doesn't God already know what we need?"** The mother smiled and said, **"Yes but prayer is not about reminding God, it's about reminding ourselves to trust in Him."**

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.

