

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 26, 2025

Christ has truly loved us!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, October 25	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, October 26	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, October 27	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, October 28	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, October 29	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, October 30	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, October 31	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, November 1	 8:00 a.m.	First Saturday - Mass
	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass

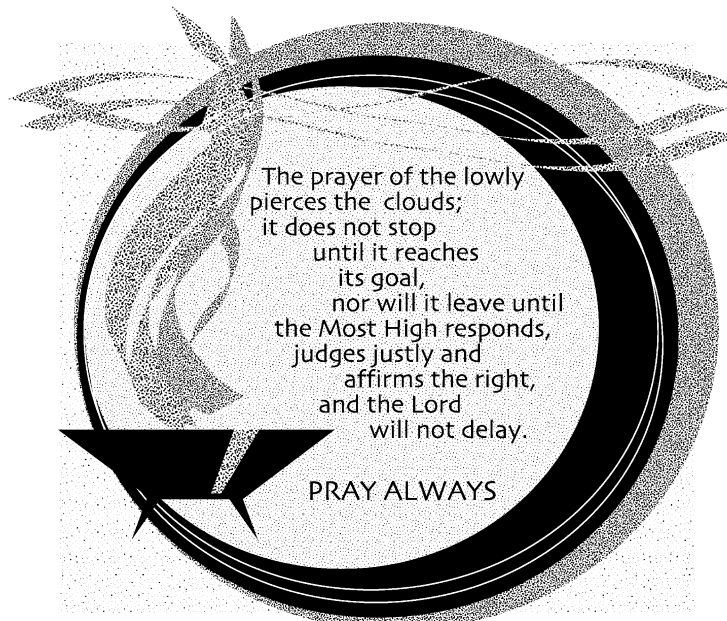


NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Wis:3:1-9: *The souls of the just, though proved as gold in a furnace, shall not be touched by torment. By placing their trust in God, the faithful. Will abide in love, grace, and mercy.*

Rm:6:3-9: *The Christian lives in union with the risen Christ, a union that finds its term when the Christian will one day be "with Christ" in glory.*

Jn:6:37-40: *Jesus rejects no one who comes to him. Everyone who believes in the Son will have eternal life and be raised up on the last day.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER MONTH OF ALL SOULS: The month of November is set aside to reflect and remember those who have gone before us. During November, all Masses said at St. Rita will be said for the deceased members of our parish families and friends. **NO OTHER MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Beginning, **Sunday, November 2nd** There will be a box place for the names of "All Souls" where you may place your love one's name and the parish will pray for all those who have died. "All Souls Envelopes" are on the white counter at the entrance of the church.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, Mahalo for giving to the "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples" for the World Mission Sunday.

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: "The witness of our Blessed Mother [in the Gospel account of her visit to her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth,] invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. . . . Mary's witness is an invitation to step out in love and compassion. It is a summons to **make haste** to help vulnerable women who may be isolate and alone." **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Called to serve Moms In Need**
www.respectlife.org/called-to-serve-reflection

WEEKLY READINGS

Oct 26 Sun: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir:35:12-14, 16-18; Ps:34; 2 Tm:4:6-8, 16-18; Lk:18:9-14
Oct 27 Mon: Ordinary Weekday
Rm:8:12-17; Lk:68:2 & 4. 6-7ab, 20-21; Lk:13:10-17
Oct 28 Tue: Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
Ep:2:19-22; Ps:19:2-3, 4-5; Lk:6:12-16
Oct 29 Wed: Ordinary Weekday
Rm:8:26-30; Ps:13:4-5, 6; Lk:13:22-30
Oct 30 Thur: Ordinary Weekday
Rm:8:31b-39; Ps:109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Lk:13:31-35
Oct 31 Fri: Ordinary Weekday
Rm:9:1-5; Ps:147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk:14:1-6
Nov 01 Sat: All Saints
Rv:7:2-4, 9-14; Ps:24;1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 Jn:3:1-3; Mt:5:1-12a

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*There is an interesting twist we find in today's gospel when we hear Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector praying in the temple. The Pharisee is "praying to himself." It doesn't mean he was praying silently. It seems to mean something a lot more troubling, that he is praying to himself; that God is not his prayer's intended audience. The words of the Pharisee are very much centered on himself: he makes claims about his character. He highlights his own admirable activities. Good stewards of their prayer lives know that a prayer of praise and thanksgiving should focus on the goodness of God. Do your prayers of thanksgiving always stay focused on God's unfathomable, immeasurable goodness and generosity? **International Catholic Stewardship Council***

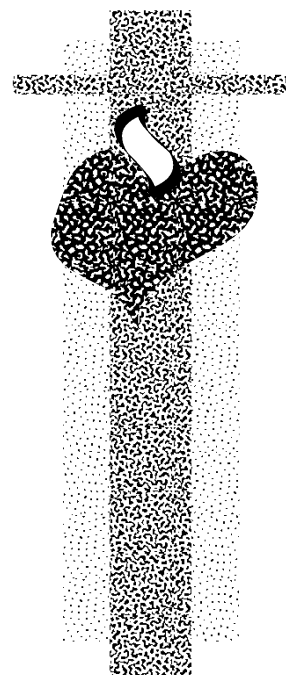
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 261.00
Baptism	380.00
Candles	75.00
Mass Intention	20.00
Outreach	45.00
Total	\$ 3, 781.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 675.00
Repair & Maintenance	60.00
World Mission Sunday	95.00
Total	\$ 830.00

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Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Sirach 35: 12—14, 16-18 **Background Context:** The **Book of Sirach** also called by another name: “**The Wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach,**” or simply “**The Book of Ben Sira**” (named of the author of the book). This book was written in Hebrew **200BC**. Some 60 years his grandson residing in Egypt translated it into Greek for the benefit of Jews living abroad who did not know Hebrew.

In the **Jewish tradition**, the Book of Sirach is known by the Hebrew title of the primary voice of the book: **Qoheleth**. Hebrew word **Qoheleth**, translated as “**the Preacher**” literally means “**one who calls an assembly.**” Many English translations render **Qoheleth** as “**The preacher.**” At the time of writing this book, Judaism was under the assault of Hellenistic influence, and many Jews were tempted to abandon traditional Jewish Faith for Greek-Hellenistic customs and philosophy. **Ben Sira** sought to strength the faith of his people, emphasizing fidelity to the Law, reverence for God and trust in divine justice. The message of the Sirach, **God listens to every single prayer that comes from a humble heart while God invariably rejects the prideful prayer of anyone who pretends to have a right to be listened by God.** **Application to Life:** Who in the world has not experienced injustice? There seems to be injustice perpetuated in society by those with power or wealth. The sting of injustice has affected many, especially the weak and poor in society. We take comfort in the words of Sirach who taught that God’s justice is perfect and impartial and that God is not influenced by human status, wealth or power.

Unlike the many earthly judges (rulers) we encountered who showed favoritism, we are assured that God’s judgment is rooted in **truth** and **righteousness**. Here, Ben Sira clarifies for us that God’s justice is not biased, yet God is especially attentive to those who suffer, “**though not unduly partial toward the weak, he hears the cry of the oppressed**” (**Sirach 35:12**). This reflects the Old Testament understanding that God defends the weak, the widow and the orphan. (**Psalms 68:5; Deuteronomy 10:18**).

“**The Lord is not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor the widow when she pours out her complaint**” (**Sirach 35:14**), personifying God’s mercy. For the cry of the defenseless, “**the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds**” (**Sirach 35:17**). In facing our daily struggles to be faithful to God even if it seems that evil triumphs and our efforts look futile, may we remain faithful. The truth is our faithfulness to God’s commandments are never in vain. Our prayer, poor as we maybe have special power when comes from a sincere heart that depends totally on God. The humble believer’s plea does not vanish; it ascends until it

reaches God's throne. This emphasizes both God's faithfulness and efficacy of our perseverance in prayer.

New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Background Context: Today's reading is from the last chapter of the 2nd Letter of Paul to Timothy, who was a bishop in Ephesus. Paul who is in jail at Rome, sees himself at the very sunset of his life, ready to "**pour out his life**" in God's honor as Jews poured oil and wine over victims, they offered God in sacrifice at the Temple in Jerusalem. Like Jesus at His passion, Paul saw himself abandoned by even his most trusted Christians and thus he wrote, "**at my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me.**" (2 Timothy 4:16). Yet his prayer is that this desertion abandonment be not held against them.

Application to Life: What a wonderful thing, a source of courage and consolation it would be for us, if we can like Paul say on our death beds, "**I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith**" (2 Timothy 4: 7). There are few followers of Jesus Christ in the history of Christianity who did, and suffered for the faith of Jesus Christ, what Paul did and suffered. Yet we also know how Paul's faith journey began, he was once a Pharisee who was an ardent persecutor of Christianity and he himself later confessed to his Galatian church community "**for you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it**" (Galatians 1:13). The truth is Paul was a sinner like anyone of us, but he turned away from the sinful path and upon his conversion sought with all his might to serve God- Jesus Christ. **St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)** stated "**The devil has the past, but we have the future.**" These words encourage us to overcome sin and guilt from our past by focusing on our present and future, which is one of hope and redemption in Jesus Christ. Jesus offered Paul and new beginning, and Paul embraced it with all his might. Let us resolve to get out of the trap of the cunning lies of the devil and embrace the truth taught by Jesus Christ. We often think of Paul as one who had much support from many, yet he too personally experienced betrayals. He held no anger against them but rather compassion and prayer for them. Like Paul even such sad experience of being deserted can lead us to further reaffirmed our trust in Jesus Christ, who would bring our salvation to a happy end. Paul used the imagery of a sacrificial offering his life as being "**poured out**" as a final act of worship to God we too must pour out our lives in daily sacrifices united to the Cross. We must stop rationalizing with excuses why we cannot follow Jesus and His life-giving teachings-commandments. Paul saw his coming death not as a defeat, but as fulfillment of his mission. "**I have competed well**" his life was spiritual battle against sin, falsehood and persecution. "**I have finished the race**" he completed the mission entrusted him by

Jesus Christ. **“I have kept the faith”** despite trials he remained faithful to the Gospel. This verses truly sums up our Christian vocation - call we embraced in our baptism, to our fidelity to Jesus Christ until the end

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14 Background Context: At the time of Jesus, the devout Jews prayed three time a day. The morning, midday and in the afternoon. Their morning and afternoon prayers coincided with the time the daily sacrifice of the lamb was offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. When away from Jerusalem the Jews would turn to the direction of Jerusalem and the Temple to pray. But prayer in the Temple, however, was considered particularly efficacious. The **Book of the Acts of the Apostles** tell us that the first Jewish Christians kept frequenting the Temple for prayer after Pentecost (**Acts 3:1**).

The **Pharisees** also known as **“the separated ones”** were in Jewish society respected religious leaders devoted to the Law of Moses. Their aim was to foster exact observance of the Law of Moses. The Pharisees had come into being more than a hundred years before Jesus was born, at the time when on account of persecution by foreign powers, many Jews had abandoned the religion of their forefathers and started living as pagans- nonbelievers.

The **Pharisees were laymen, not priests** and their aim was to set an example of faithfulness to the Jewish religion; in the course of time, they gradually became the spiritual leaders and teachers of the people. But also, tragically they gradually grew proud and self-righteous and went on adding rule upon rules to the Ten Commandments which God had given to Moses. By the time Jesus began His preaching, the Ten Commandments had become burdened with six hundred and thirteen attached rules- laws and according to the Pharisees all had to be observed in order to enter heaven.

The **tax collectors** on the other hand were Jews who were deeply hated by their fellow Jews for **two reasons**, for being in the service of Roman Empire, which occupied and oppressed their country and many extorted monies from the people they collected taxes- their fellow Jews. The tax collectors were simply called **“sinners”** (people engaged in sinful job), on par with thieves, murderers and prostitutes.

Application to Life: The behavior of **the Pharisee and the tax collector**, that is how they approached God and prayer are both masterfully described by Jesus in today’s parable. The **Pharisee** boasted of fasting not just once a year but twice a week. But notice the spirit in which the Pharisee kept these observances. They chose Monday and Thursday as the fasting days, because, being market days, everyone would know of their fasting, and for that purpose they stood in the marketplace, with their heads covered with ashes, as signs of their fasting. The **Pharisee** started his prayer by praising God, but soon turned the

praises on himself, he praised God not for God's own holiness but his own. The Pharisee listed his virtues, compared himself to others, and sought validation rather than mercy. His thanksgiving is pride disguised as piety. For him everyone else was a sinner; only he and his Pharisee companions at most deserved being considered being holy. **"...that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous – or even like this tax collector" (Luke 18:11).** We are amazed that a person posing as pious could be so proud and full of himself. Yet, Jesus was not exaggerating when he is drawing a picture of Pharisee of His time. The tone of the parable changes drastically when Jesus starts describing the prayer of the tax collector. **"He would not dare even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed" (Luke 18:13).** That is, he did not feel worthy even to look up towards heaven where God was supposed to dwell, and still less of conversing with God. These few words suffice to let us know the idea that the **tax collector** had of himself, he had not a good thing to boast about in front of God. Of God, he considered God not only holy but full of mercy that is why he kept pleading, **"O God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13)** hoping to find it. Of his neighbor, he did not put himself above anyone else, he felt in front of his neighbor as he felt before God's sight a poor sinner.

His prayer, **"O God be merciful to me a sinner"**, anticipates the Jesus Prayer used for centuries by Christian tradition. This is the kind of prayer that **"pierces the clouds"**, as Sirach stated (**Sirach 35:17**). God could not help but listen to his prayer. Jesus concluded the parable by telling us that the **tax collector** left the Temple **"right with God"** that is a friend of God again, filled with peace and joy which God's forgiveness bring, while the **Pharisee** went home further away from God than he came with his pride and his sins as his only companion. Jesus revealed that God's mercy is attracted to humility not perfection and repulse by pride. This final saying **"all who exalt themselves will be humbled"**, echoes the thought of **Luke 1: 52; 14:11** and expresses a key gospel paradox, **humility opens the door to grace, the tax collector's prayer was heard because of his humility.** This parable only found in Luke and addressed to **the Pharisees** fits perfectly with Luke's theological vision, which encouraged constant prayer but done in humility and faith. In this parable Jesus presented **a Pharisee and a tax collector praying at the Temple at the same time.** Jesus could not have put together two people more apart from one other in their presence and most of all in the presence of God!

LOOKING AHEAD: November is the **Month of POOR SOULS**. Next Sunday is the FEAST of All SOULS. **Poor Souls Novena Prayers** will be prayed **30 minutes before every mass.** **All Masses are offered for the intentions of POOR SOULS.** Let us pray for our loved ones who have gone before us and in need of our prayers, throughout the month of November. Information to follow in the next bulletin. **Have a blessed week in the Lord!**