

PARISH CALENDAR

Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023

Forget not, Lord,
the life of the poor!

Saturday, August 12	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 13	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 14	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, August 15	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting - Kamiano Trailer
Wednesday, August 16	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, August 17	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, August 18	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - ADMISSIONS'S DAY HOLIDAY
Saturday, August 19	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:56:1, 6-7: The holy mountain, the temple of the Lord, is "a house of prayer for all people."

Rom:11:13-15, 29-32: God's love and mercy are gratuitous; we are all recipients of the benefits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Mt:15:21-28: The Canaanite woman displayed and extraordinary confidence that Jesus would hear and answer her.

Gospel Reflection

Overcoming The Impossible

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Matthew 14:22-23

Our Gospel today presents us with two different images to ponder. The first one is recorded above, and the second one is the story of Jesus walking on the water. In the second story, the disciples were rowing against the wind and waves in the early morning before the sun rose. Jesus appeared to them walking on the water, and they were frightened. Jesus confronts the fear they experience and calls Peter to walk on the water as a sign of his faith in Him. Peter begins to walk on water, and then in fear, he begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus Who catches Him and then gently rebukes Peter for his lack of faith.

It is helpful to understand the first image in this Gospel passage as the context for the second. In this first image, we see Jesus dismissing the crowds after feeding the five thousand and going up a mountain to pray all alone. Though Jesus was always in perfect union with the Father and, therefore, had no need for prayer, He prayed nonetheless because it was His human expression of the deep union He had with His Father. As He prayed, He also set forth an example to all who would follow Him, teaching them by His example about the importance of private prayer. The primary lesson He taught on this occasion was that prayer is the remote preparation we need so as to overcome all apparent obstacles in life and to confront fear with perfect faith.

First, the obvious "obstacle" Jesus overcame through His prayer was symbolized by His walking on the stormy sea. No one walks on water. It's physically impossible. But that's the point. When we make our life of personal prayer a priority, God will lead us to accomplish that which appears to us to be impossible. It might not be walking on water literally, but His walking on water after spending the night in prayer is symbolic of every apparent impossibility we face in life. The lesson is that if God wills it, nothing is impossible. We will know that if we make personal prayer our first priority.

A second obstacle that Jesus confronts is fear. Fear is paralyzing and results in us "sinking" when life becomes difficult. Again, personal prayer is the necessary preparation for overcoming fear. What's interesting is that we have two witnesses of prayer. First is Jesus' witness. He prayed because it was good and right to pray. The second is Peter. He prayed when he started to sink. He said, "Lord, save me!" This is the prayer of one who failed to have faith and prayed out of a present need rather than out of pure love of God. Too often, Peter exemplifies the prayer life that many Christians have. We often wait to pray until we need help and are sinking. But what if Peter had also spent the night in prayer simply out of love of God? What if he had just finished praying all night when he was invited to walk on water? Perhaps then he would have easily walked to Jesus and would not have given into fear.

Reflect, today, upon making your life of prayer the number-one priority in your life. Maybe you have many responsibilities in life. Nothing is more important than praying—and not only when you feel trapped or feel like you are sinking. Instead, we must all establish an unbreakable habit of prayer to God for the singular reason that it is good and right to do so. The fruit of such a life of prayer is that no matter what obstacle comes our way, we will have the faith we need to follow every command of our Lord, overcoming even that which appears to be impossible.

My prayerful Lord, You spent the night in prayer to Your Father not because You needed help, but because of Your love. Your prayer was an expression of that love and was a natural requirement of it. Please help me to also establish an unbreakable habit of prayer so that my love for You will remain strong and so that I can follow You through every apparent obstacle in life. Jesus, I trust in You.... (My Catholic Life)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

R. C. I. A.: "Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (or RCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's RCIA program will begin **Sept 10, 2023**
- 2) RCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) RCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.
- 4) RCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:
 - a. Rite of Acceptance (beginning of Advent)
 - b. Rite of Election (beginning of Lent)
 - c. RCIA Scrutinies (during Lent)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call or our **RCIA Director (Don Gerry, (808) 489-9529)**"

WORD OF LIFE: "Death is a decisive moment in the human person's encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope. . . . While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people's lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to "remain" at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple remained at the foot of the Cross." (EV86). "USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice"

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 13 Sun: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs:19:9a, 11-13a; Ps:85; Rom:9:1-5; Mt:14:22-33

Aug 14 Mon: Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

Dt:10:12-22; Ps:147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt:17:22-27

Aug 15 Tue: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv:11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps:45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor: 15:20-27; Lk:1:39-56

Aug 16 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Dt:34:1-12; Ps:66:1-3a, 5 & 8 16-17; Mt:18:15-20

Aug 17 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Jos:3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps:114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:18:21-19:1

Aug 18 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Jos:24:1-13 ;Ps:136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 & 24; Mt:19:3-12

Aug 19 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Jos:24:14-29; Ps:16:1-2a & 5, 7-8, 11; Mt:19:13-15

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

Today's Gospel reveals what miraculous things can happen when one embraces a single-minded faith in Jesus Christ. Peter gets out of a wind-tossed boat when the Lord calls him. His faith is tested by his obedience to Jesus who is calling him out onto the water. In the midst of the waves and the wind, Peter gets out of the boat and walks toward Jesus. Good stewards heed Christ's call to them. Sometimes that call directs them to take on seemingly impossible challenges. This week, reflect on how the Lord could be calling you out of the safety of your own "boat" to take on the impossible. **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

ACTS OF GOD

There is a legal term for a natural disaster. It is called an "act of God." It is a little unfair to libel God with deeds of destruction. Even so, when the forces of nature reveal their strength, people become aware of their own weaknesses and meditate on the power of God.

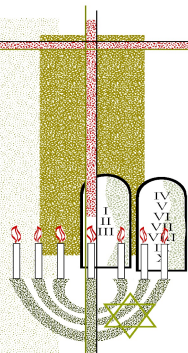
But when people go in search of God, they rarely go to the place of an earthquake, a fire, or a tornado. They go to a quiet place. They watch the sunrise. They pick a wayside chapel. They sit by the ocean. They find God's majestic voice in whispers of peace. When Elijah fled the grasp of the angry and murderous Jezebel, he eventually found himself in a cave on the mountain of God, Horeb. There he witnessed God passing by. Not in the strong wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire did Elijah behold God's presence—but in a tiny whispering sound.

Noise surrounds much of our day. The radio or television breaks the morning silence. Ambient music filters through elevators and grocery stores. Our cars cannot block out the cacophony of traffic.

It may not take an act of God for us to be able to find God. It may just take a quiet space. *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.*



They are Israelites;
theirs the ADOPTION,
the GLORY,
the COVENANTS
the giving of the LAW,
the WORSHIP, and the
PROMISES;
theirs the PATRIARCHS,
and from them,
according to the flesh,
is the CHRIST,
who is over all.



IXΘΥΣ

JESUS CHRIST SON of GOD SAVIOR

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

August 11, 2023

To our Catholic Faithful in Hawaii and Beyond:

Peace be with you!

Today our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the devastating wildfires that have ravaged the island of Maui. As a community of faith, we are called to come together and provide unwavering support to those who are suffering. It is in times like these that our collective love, faith, and compassion can make a tremendous difference.

In 2008, the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF) was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation to support our parish and school communities. We have set up a dedicated webpage for donations to go directly to HCCF to support the relief efforts for our fellow community members affected by the Maui wildfires. This is an opportunity for us to show our solidarity as a Catholic faith community and lend a helping hand to those who have lost so much.

You can make a tax-deductible contribution by visiting the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic>. Every donation, no matter the amount, will play a crucial role in helping to rebuild lives and restore hope.

Let us also remember the power of prayer. In our collective prayers, we ask for strength, resilience, and healing for the fire victims and their families. May we find the grace to rebuild our families, their livelihoods, and the physical structures that were lost. Let our faith guide us as we navigate the challenges ahead, knowing that with the grace of God, all things are possible.

May God bless you all abundantly, and may our efforts bring comfort and hope to those in need. Maria Lanakila (Our Lady of Victory), pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Rev. Msgr. Terrence Watanabe
Vicar Forane of Maui-Lanai