

PARISH CALENDAR

Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 23, 2017

The Lord is gracious and merciful!



Saturday, July 22	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, July 23	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, July 22	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, July 25	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, July 26	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 27	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 5:30 p. m.	Feeding Menu - Spaghetti
Friday, July 28	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, July 29	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Kgs:3:5, 7-12: Solomon asks for, and is granted, a wise heart.
Rom:8:28-30: "All things work for good for those who love God."
Mt:13:44-52: Jesus offers more parables about the kingdom of heaven.

Living Catholic in the 808 **Confirmation is Not a Passage into Adulthood**

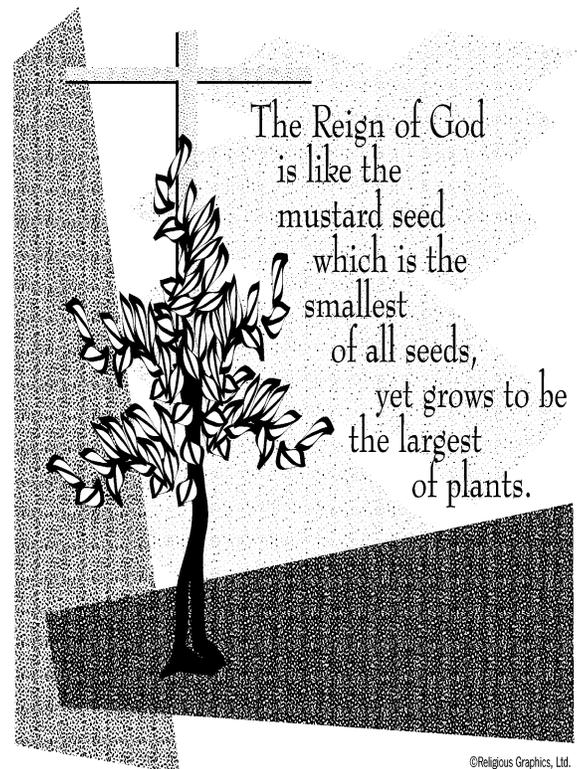
Many Catholic Christians see Confirmation as a rite of passage into Adulthood. Yet Confirmation is a sacrament of beginning, of initiation. It is not a sacrament of transition, of becoming an adult.

The Catechism states, "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," one must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth. . . . Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood one can attain spiritual maturity." (no. 1308)

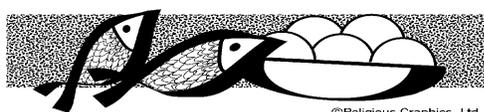
In the Easter Catholic Churches, infants are routinely confirmed ("Chrismation" in the eastern traditions). In the Roman Catholic Church, young children in danger of death are confirmed. At the other end of the age spectrum, if an elderly person is baptized, then he or she is immediately confirmed. The fact that infants, children, teenagers, young adults and elderly can all be confirmed shows that Confirmation is not about becoming an adult. It is about being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Soon, seven year-olds who were baptized as infants will complete their sacraments initiation in this original order. (When this will happed depends on your parish plan.) Specifically, children will be confirmed prior to receiving First Communion. They will not "transition" into adulthood. They will be fully initiated into our faith.

Reflections on the Original Order
 Diocese of Honolulu
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEMINARY EDUCATION FUND: Special Collection today! Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Seminary Education Fund. With costs of education being over \$320,000 per year for each seminarian over his nine years of studies, the Office of Vocation historically operates at a deficit budget of over \$200,00 in the recent years. Your support greatly impacts the formation and education of the future priests of our diocese. Your support greatly impacts the formation and education of the future priests of our diocese. Your gift will help in ways that are simply immeasurable! Donate Online at: <http://catholichawaii.org/seminarian-fund>.

RESPECT LIFE: Fertility awareness or **Natural Family Planning** is a method of birth control that does not use any drugs or devices. It combines the calendar/rhythm method, the basal body temperature method, and the cervical mucus method. It is a Catholic Church approved method for planning pregnancy. For free assistance with NFP, contact Teresa Fredericks, R. N. At 224-2765 or by email at teresa1955@hawaaiantel.et.

WORD OF LIFE: "A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying." **Pope John Paul II, "Address to the New Ambassador of New Zealand to the Holy See."** © 2000 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. <https://goo.gl/sUqzbc>

WEEKLY READINGS

Jul 23 Sun: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis:12:13, 16-19; Ps 86; Rom:8:26-27; Mt: 13:24-43

Jul 24 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:14:5-18; Ex:15: 1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:12:38-42

Jul 25 Tue: St. James, apostle

2 Cor:4: 7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt:20: 20-28

Jul 26 Wed: Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex: 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78: 18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt:13:1-9

Jul 27 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dan 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Mt: 13:10-17

Jul 28 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:20: 1-17; Ps:19: 8, 9, 10, 11; Mt: 13:18-23

Jul 29 Sat: Memorial of St. Martha

Ex:24: 3-8; Ps 50: 1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Jn: 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading, Saint Paul bids us to take comfort in knowing that when God invites us to pray to him, he knows our true needs, even if we do not. The Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us even if we can't come up with appropriate words; even when we don't have a clue what to ask for. We are not left alone. Good stewards know that prayer is an important part of living a life in Christ. The important thing is to make space for God. Do we make room for the Holy Spirit to pray within us? **(International Catholic Stewardship Council e-Bulletin)**



Lord, you are good and forgiving,
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you

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Aloha St. Rita Ohana,

In an effort to raise fund for the St. Rita Building Fund. I have started a Go Fund Me campaign for the church which can be accessed here: www.gofunme.com/stritachurch

Funds donated to this site are directly deposited into the building fund account. Donors can donate directly via credit/debit card from anywhere in the world.

Please forward the link, via text, email or word of mouth, to people you know who would be interested in donating to our building fund. You may even forward it to people who may know other people who would be interested in donating. If you are in touch with visitors in the past, please forward the link to them also. My cousin and his family joined us for Easter service and was very happy to donate when I forwarded the link to him.

The more we forward the link, the more likely it can become viral and hopefully, we can receive more donations to our building fund.

Thank you for all your help and God bless you and your family always.

Allan Alvarez
St. Rita Parishioner

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE . . .

Jesus speaks in several parables today about the reign of God, including images from several groups of people in order to make his message clear to all who hear. The kingdom of God is like a man who sows good seed. The kingdom of God is like a person who plants a mustard seed. The kingdom of God is like a woman who adds yeast to her flour. All of these very human activities bring home the fact that the reign of God is already among us, working in small ways to bring about mysterious but very great results.

Good and evil are allowed to grow together until the end, lest the good be destroyed with the evil. There is a lesson for us here. It is not that we shouldn't oppose evil when we see it, but that in our zeal to make our world perfect by human force, we must be careful not to destroy the work that God is doing. It is not for us, but for God to judge what is to be kept and what destroyed, and even though we think we know the difference, we must be cautious not to disturb God's carefully planted goodness in others. Violence can never be the means of justice.

SMALL YET POWERFUL

Likewise, the reign of God is like something very small, almost unnoticeable until we begin to see the results. The tiny mustard seed, which can be planted by any person (even a child), grows to be a large tree, amazing to all. A tiny amount of yeast, when added to flour, becomes invisible until it begins to make the whole dough rise, doubling or tripling its volume, and becoming bread in the oven's heat.

Let us not judge what we see, but trust that God's work in the world is gentle and quiet, the results known only in the final chapter. We seek, in humility, to watch for the Spirit working in the ordinary activities of our lives.