

PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-fifth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

September 23, 2018

The Lord upholds my life!



His word is life
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Saturday, September 22 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, September 23 7:00 a.m.	Mass
 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p. m.	R. C. I. A. Class - St. Francis Trailer
Monday, September 24	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, September 25	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
Wednesday, September 26	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, September 27	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 5:30 p.m.	Feeding Menu - Chicken
Friday, September 28	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, September 29	..... 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Nm:11:25-29: Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!

Jas:5:1-6: Come rich, weep and wail

Mk:9:38-43, 45, 47-48: Whoever is not against us is for us

REFLECTION

If you had to make up a curriculum vitae of Jesus' life, what would it look like? Would it be a story of a successful man? His birth and the first thirty years of his life are almost unknown. He was a carpenter, but he chose to be an itinerant preacher for the rest of his short life. He chose followers, most of whom were illiterate and simple working men. He welcomed everyone, but mostly the poor and powerless came to him. The people from his hometown nearly threw him off a cliff, he so upset them with his claims. He couldn't write; he had very little formal education; he owned nothing; bought and sold nothing. Poor people clamored after him for a while, but they mostly abandoned him in the end. His closest followers abandoned him, too. Only one stood by him at his death outside the city. Does this sound like success?

Or you could look at it this way. At his birth, he was welcomed by Mary and Joseph and poor shepherds. It is said that the heavens were filled with angels on that night. He learned his foster father's trade, but he burned with an unusual passion to know about God, whom he called Father. He spent the short years of his ministry announcing the presence of God among us. He chose simple, good-hearted followers. He welcomed everyone, but mostly the poor and powerless came to him in their need. The people from his hometown were outraged at his claim to be God's Messiah. He had no home or possessions. The poor, who clamored after him, mostly abandoned him in the end. Excepting one, his closest followers abandoned him, too. He died almost alone outside the city, asking for God's tenderness, extending forgiveness to a repentant thief, and asking forgiveness for his unwitting executioners. Does this sound like success to you?

And equally important, do those who failed him sound like they succeeded? Do those few who followed him sound like they succeeded? How?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAMIEN & MARIANNE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE: Join us for the 2nd Annual Damien and Marianne Catholic Conference at the Hawaii Convention Center! Friday **October 5, 2018 to Sunday, October 7, 2018.** 1-Day admission is \$75, 3-day is \$150 and Group rate is available for \$75 per person for 5 or more. Visit us at www.dmchawaii.org or give us a call at (808) 635-3622

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY: If anyone prays the rosary before Mass and has a devotion to our Blessed Mother by praying the rosary. I want to invite you to join the Public Square Rosary Rally, on **Saturday, October 13, 2018 starting at 12 noon in front of St. Rita Church.** Please join me in offering reparation for the sins and offense committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to fervently pray for the conversion of the United States. Will you be able to join me and other Catholics on that very important day? If you need more information or want to join contact Rosa Lefu'a @ 861-3747 or email lefua77@yahoo.com.

PRAYER THOUGHTS: Feeling bummed out about life? Things going badly for you? Having trouble with family members, co-workers, neighbors? Feeling a lot of despair? No light at the end of the tunnel, you think. There are many gifts of the Holy Spirit, and when you are feeling down and out and would rather just die and not have to deal with it, sincerely ask for, pray for, the gift of **Peace**. If you are blest enough to receive it, you will be stunned at the power you have now. The gift of **Peace** protects you, like a shield against all attacks of life. They may still be out there, but you no longer are negatively affected, because the cloak of God is definitely there to protect you. **Thank you Lord for this awesome gift that is available to all of us. Amen**

WORD OF LIFE: "We are created to walk with and support one another; we don't need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God's message that resounds throughout time: Don't not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10) **USCCB Pro-Life Activities "What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion"** www.usccb.org/l-o-v-e NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission

WEEKLY READINGS

Sep 23 Sun: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis:2:12, 17-20; Ps:54; Jas: 3:16-4:3; Mk:9: 30-37

Sep 24 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Prov:3: 27-34; Ps:15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Lk:8:16-18

Sep 25 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Prov:21:1-6, 10-13; Ps:119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk:8:19-21

Sep 26 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Prov:30:5-9; Ps:119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk:8:19-21

Sep 27 Thu: Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

Ecc:1:2-11; Ps:90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17bc; Lk: 9:7-9

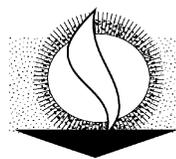
Sep 28 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Ecc:3:1-11; Ps 144: 1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk:9:18-22

Sep 29 Sat: Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

Dan:7:9-10, 13-14; or Rev 12:7-12ab; Ps:138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5;

Jn 1:47-51



Seek
the wisdom
of the LORD

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NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel, we learn that the disciples of Jesus had been discussing among themselves who was the greatest. Jesus is about to turn their idea as well as our society's idea of "greatness" upside down. He embraces a child and tries to help the Twelve understand that to be great is to be focused on something other than themselves. Jesus teaches that true "greatness" lies in being a good steward of those who are not great: welcoming one who is not viewed as great by our society's standards like the child, the innocent the vulnerable, the suffering, those who are outside our comfortable circle of family, friends, companions and colleagues, those who need a welcome. Jesus redefines our notion of greatness. How do we define greatness? Is our notion of greatness consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ? (**International Catholic Stewardship Council~e-bulletin**)

COMMENTARY

The reading from the Book of Wisdom draws our attention to the trials the "just one" must endure. The plotters resent this person who dares point out their mistakes. They wonder aloud if the just one would stand for God and against threats of condemnation and death. As celebrated in today's liturgy, the passage can easily be viewed as a prediction of the Passion, which Jesus himself announces in today's Gospel reading. In Mark's Gospel, this is Jesus' second prediction of his passion.

Placed next to the first reading, the Gospel may seem only to be a prophetic fulfillment, but it is more than that. Jesus makes it clear that his deliverance into the hands of men is not accomplished by humans, as in the first reading, but is part of his mission and part of God's wisdom. But becoming the servant to this wisdom of God will not only overthrow the wisdom of human beings, it will save those very human beings in the bargain.

The beginning of today's Gospel is filled with foreboding. Jesus, who is alone with his closest followers, announces his mission to fulfill God's will in this horrifying way. One can feel the tension in the air. But then the scene quickly deteriorates into an odd comedy. The disciples either don't get it, or they get it and can't face it. So they skirt the issue entirely and bicker among themselves about who is greatest. Jesus persists, however. He will not allow them to get away with their misinterpretation and ensuing childishness. As if to make the point more strongly, Jesus takes a small child by the hand and sets him in plain sight, so they can't miss his intentions. He urges his followers to be childlike, to make themselves open and of service to others. In the end, Jesus rescues the scene by linking his mission to the image and meaning of being a child, that is, a servant. (In Greek, the word for servant and child is the same.)

Success

People who have "come up the hard way" and are now rich or famous or both are successful according to many. Well, maybe so. Jesus has another idea about success, and it's a better one. It's more inclusive, too.

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The harvest of justice
is sown in peace for those
who cultivate peace



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