

PARISH CALENDAR

**Thirty-first Sunday
In Ordinary Time**

November 4, 2018

The Lord lives!
Blessed be my rock!

Saturday, November 3	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, <i>Aloha Sunday</i>
Sunday, November 4	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass, <i>Aloha Sunday</i>
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass, <i>Aloha Sunday</i>
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, <i>Aloha Sunday</i>
Monday, November 5	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, November 6	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
		ELECTION DAY - HOLIDAY - PARISH OFFICE CLOSE
Wednesday, November 7	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, November 8	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, November 9	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, November 10 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
 5:00 p.m.	Mass

GOD is
LOVE
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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Kgs:17:10-16: The jar of flour shall not go empty
Heb:9:24-28: Now once, for all, he has appeared for the ages
Mk:12:38-44: She contributed from her poverty

Combined, these readings help us show our love to God. While the Book of Deuteronomy is a book of civil and religious laws, its purpose is to show how to live as God's people. Fearing God is not the same as being afraid. It is more about how we adore and uphold God as a loving parent while we are the loving and obedient children. The Shema prayer of Orthodox Jews is based on the Deuteronomy reading: "Hear, O Israel." The people reciting the prayer every morning profess their love for God, obedience to God, and the call to pass on the love of God to their children. God commanded that these words are not to leave the chosen people even for a moment. They are obliged to pass them on to the next generations.

Jesus came to lead all people to God. He is the chief mediator between the human race and God. His is the ultimate priesthood, the perfect priesthood, since he is both perfect like God and human like us. The ministry of an ordained priest ends with his death, while the ministry of Christ the High Priest continues for all time.

Returning to Deuteronomy, the Gospel reiterates the primary command of Christians to love God. Jesus was asked by a scribe to name the greatest commandment. Some scribes only asked Jesus questions hoping to trick him or entrap him. But many wanted the life Jesus offered. Scholars support the evidence that the scribe of this account genuinely wondered which, of all the laws, Jesus found the most important. As Jesus' answers always proved to be, his response was brilliant, concise, and on the mark. Quoting Deuteronomy, Jesus told the scribe, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30) Neither is it unusual that Jesus would have more to say on the subject. He went on to define the second most important commandment to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Jesus meant more than just the people whose yards adjoin ours. Our neighbors are all other people. When Jesus recognized that the scribe understood all that Jesus told him, he assured the man that if he believed and practiced what Jesus had just said, he was very close to the reign of God.



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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, **Friday, November 2nd** the book of remembrances will be placed in the church where you may place your loved ones' names who have died and the parish will pray for them.

MEN'S DAY OF REFLECTIONS: Due to unforeseen circumstances the Men's Day of Reflection scheduled for this Saturday, November 10th, has been postpone.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: The Religious Education Department will be having their annual Operations Christmas Child **Packing Party, Sunday, November 18th beginning at 9 am.** Come and pack a Shoe-box.

WORD OF LIFE: "Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding." - "USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Catholic Consideration for our Earthly Passing" www.usccb.org/end-of-life-considerations

WEEKLY READINGS

Nov 4 Sun: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt:6:2-6; Ps:18; Heb: 7:23-28; Mk:12: 28b-34

Nov 5 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Phi:2:1-4; Ps:131:1bcde, 2, 3; Lk:14:12-14

Nov 6 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Phi:2:5-11; Ps:22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30e, 31-32; Lk:14:15-24

Nov 7 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Phi:2:12-18; Ps:27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk:14:25-33

Nov 8 Thu: Ordinary Weekday

Phi:3:3-8a; Ps: 105: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; LK:15:1-10

Nov 9 Fri: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ez:47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor: 3:9c-11, 16-17;

Jn:2:13-22

Nov 10 Sat: Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Phi:4: 10-19; Ps:112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9; Lk 16:9-15

Loving God

Most of us have had friends who have faced difficult times. Perhaps one is the sole supporter of the family who recently learned that he or she no longer has a job. Perhaps one is facing a sudden and tragic death of a son or daughter—maybe having already lost a child before this one. We never quite know what to say. There's very little we can do, but we know we have to be there. That's what friends are for—someone to turn to in times of trouble and need.

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LOVE

There is no commandment greater than this

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STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen
(International Catholic Stewardship Council~e-bulletin)

Reflection

The Scriptures often refer to "fear" of God. For some, that conjures up emotions of terror and confinement in relationships. As a result, we sometimes misunderstand the mutual relationship God intended for us. Fear, as it is used in the Deuteronomy reading, is the perception of God's awesomeness. God's magnificence and power strike us with feelings of something we don't understand. Sometimes fear strikes us the same way. We don't understand something, and so we are afraid of it. It is more accurate for us to be amazed by God rather than afraid of God. In our smallness, we are insignificant compared to God.

The laws God gives us are blueprints for how to live. God doesn't want us to obey the laws out of fear. They are given to us in love and built on a relationship of trust. We turn to God because of God's love, not because of fear. Jesus takes the law one step further than the law described in Deuteronomy. He says that we are to love our neighbor. There are no qualifying words that define neighbor or love. The bottom line is this: in order to show our love for God, we must show that love through the way we take care of our neighbors, especially in their most vulnerable moments.
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Hear, O Israel!
The LORD our GOD is one!

You shall
LOVE the LORD
with all your heart
with all your soul
with all your mind
and with all your strength
and you shall
LOVE your NEIGHBOR
as yourself

There is no commandment greater than these.

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