

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, August 22

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

2nd Collection for Catholic Charities Hawaii

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Monday, August 23

Monday of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after Mass

Tuesday, August 24

Tuesday of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, August 25

Wednesday of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Thursday, August 26

Thursday of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Friday, August 27

Memorial of St. Bernard, abbot, doctor of the church

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Saturday, August 28

Memorial of St. Pius X, pope

Mass at 7:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Live-Streamed Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Sunday, August 29

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Scripture Reflection

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15)

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

8/2 – 8/8

Sunday Offering	\$ 3,642.42
Weekday Offering	\$ 756.42
Online Giving	\$ 2,024.53
Other Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 679.00
Total Offertory	\$ 7,102.37

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 958.88
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 20.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, etc.)	\$ 2,286.00
Total	\$ 10,367.25

Living the Liturgy

- If you are married, discuss with your spouse the verse: “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother/ and be joined to his wife / and the two shall become one flesh” (Ephesians 5:31). Then discuss ways you each might better submit to and love one another.
- Make a sign or purchase a small plaque of Joshua’s “As for me and my household . . .” declaration (24:15). Instead of hanging it by your door, put it in your car to remind you that your “household” is everywhere you go and interact with others.
- Add the refrain from today’s Psalm 34 to your mealtime prayer. Just prior to saying Grace before Meals, invite one family member to begin with the words: “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

Sharing the Faith

- What do you think is harder: being subordinate to someone, or loving someone the self-sacrificial way Christ loved the Church?
- Do you know anyone who left the faith because they found some teachings too hard, or impossible to accept?
- From children’s sports that compete with Sunday Mass and formation programs to television shows that ignore traditional morality, modern families are being asked to choose which god they will serve. How can you teach your family to respond, like Joshua’s assembly, that the Lord is our God?

Saint of the Week

Whenever we cover our brother's sin, God will cover ours; whenever we tell people about our brother's guilt, God will do the same about ours. - St. Poemen (340-450), Monk, Desert Father, Feast Day August 27.

Aug. 22, 2021 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b | Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21 | Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 | John 6:60-69

Some commitments require everything, and it's no use trying to pretend otherwise. Jesus knew that and so he doesn't pull punches. He gives own disciples cause to murmur against him. Of course, he knew his request that they eat his flesh and drink his blood would shock them. But it's those words that would separate "groupies" from true disciples. Many of his followers left that day, but the Twelve remained. Where else would they go? Unlike those who left, the chosen Twelve understood that, though Jesus' words confused them, they were "the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

Like Jesus, Joshua was smart enough to place a tough choice before the twelve tribes. He doesn't coax or beg, he just states the options — the pagan gods of their ancestors and their neighbors, or the Lord. All he adds is his own decision — a bold declaration that is now one of scripture's classic lines. Remembering the mercies and mighty works of God, the people cast their lot with the Lord. The demands Paul places on spouses are no less demanding than what we hear from Joshua and Jesus. Love requires everything — submission to one another, loving in the same sacrificial way as Christ, loving your spouse so much that the love binds you together as one and love of the other becomes indistinguishable from love of self.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time"

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 | Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 | James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

"The Words of Eternal Life!"

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

We come to the last part of the Bread of Life Discourse of Jesus. After all the desires of the people to come closer to Jesus because He provides food for them to the point where He explains about the true bread from heaven, many of His disciples return to their former way of life. They make the decision of leaving Him since it is difficult to accept what Jesus presents to them, that is, He is the Bread that came down from heaven, His flesh to be real food and His blood to be real drink. Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks the question if they want to leave as well. Peter responds, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Those who left had a hard time believing in Jesus. His testimonies and teachings were so difficult for them to grasp because His words were not at all appealing to their hearing. It was incomprehensible and absurd as they understood. These were their reactions because they did not see in Him the truth of His word as being the Son of God. They could not understand that He came down from heaven, His flesh to be real food and His blood to be real drink. Their eyes were totally shut because they did not have faith in Him. Their hearts were hardened that they only see in Him as an ordinary man like anybody else. The doors of their minds and hearts were closed that whatever He would teach them about His Father, Heaven, Bread, Blood and Him being the Son of God they would not grasp at all.

If we are to reflect on their reactions to Jesus, we often do not realize as well that their reactions are ours. Our lack of faith in Him results in not accepting the truth of His teachings. We, like those who left, only want to believe what we want to believe, not according to His truth but according to our own truth. Thus, resulting in relativism like, "that is your truth, not mine." If the Bread of Life Discourse of Jesus had impacted such difficulties to His listeners, it could also influence us in our understanding of who He really is.

Although many abandoned Him, there were His disciples who were left behind to continue to follow Him, NO MATTER WHAT! They were there for their Master because they have accepted Jesus in their hearts. They continued on to testify to the Truth as He had commanded them, to teach everything what He taught them.

If we are to ponder on our own faith and response to all Jesus' teachings, do we have the spirit of Peter and His disciples truly convinced and continue to follow Him? Are we like them ready to profess our faith, in words and deeds? Let us take a moment to re-examine the kind of discipleship we manifest. If we find difficulty understanding, let us open our hearts and minds to know Him well and listen to what He taught. We pray that the Lord will increase our faith to open ourselves to the Truth.

Your friend in Jesus,
Fr. Pascual