

The Church's Calendar This Week

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

Monday, August 30

Monday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after Mass

Tuesday, August 31

Tuesday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time

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

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, September 1

Wednesday of the 22nd 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, September 2

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, September 3

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, September 4

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, September 5

23rd 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

“This people honor me with their lips, / but their hearts are far from me” (Mark 7:6)

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

8/16 – 8/22

Sunday Offering	\$ 4,799.34
Weekday Offering	\$ 773.09
Online Giving	\$ 3,938.30
Other Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 245.00
Total Offertory	\$ 9,755.73

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 40.00
Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$ 1,352.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, etc.)	\$ 583.00
Total	\$ 11,730.73

Living the Liturgy

- Discuss the notion of law with a young person. Ask them what value they find in laws and what constitutes a “just” law.
- Brainstorm with family members some of the “traditions of the elders” observed in your family and see if you can discover the origins and meaning of those traditions. If you have no traditions in your family, start one.
- Purchase a small sturdy gift bag or help your family to decorate a small canvas bag. Help your family members write or draw reminders of prayers and loving actions throughout the week, and place these in the gift bag. Any token that represents a spiritual offering may be placed in the bag. Remind your family members to take the bag to Mass as a physical reminder of the connection between how we pray our liturgy and how we live our lives.

Sharing the Faith

- In what direction does your spirituality lean: personal piety or social action? Do you recognize the need for both in your life?
- What is your relationship with laws? Do you find yourself resisting and resenting some laws, or do you find them more a source of comfort and security?
- It's easy to criticize the behavior of others — the way they drive or dress, their work habits, parenting skills, faith practices, and so on. How critical are you of others? How hard is it for you to look at yourself honestly?

Saint of the Week

There are in truth three states of the converted: the beginning, the middle, and the perfection. In the beginning they experience the charms of sweetness; in the middle the contests of temptation; and in the end the fullness of perfection. - St. Gregory the Great (540-604) Pope, Doctor of the Church, Feast Day September 3.

Aug. 29, 2021 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

We take it for granted that life is governed by laws, but we can't take for granted the rightness of the laws that rule us. Moses reminds the Israelites that the law God gave them stands out from among the laws of the nations. He boasts of the law because he understands its freeing power. Law enables us to live in harmony. It doesn't limit possibilities; it opens them up. When you don't have to worry about someone speeding through an intersection or stealing your wallet, you are free to think about other things that you wouldn't have the luxury to think about in a chaotic world void of laws. But if this is true, why does Jesus box the ears of the Pharisees, calling them hypocrites and ridiculing aspects of the law they hold sacred?

This is because Jesus, too, knows the true purpose of law. He respects the law and even says in Matthew 5:18 that no part of the law will pass away. Then what is he doing here? He is delineating the difference between human law and God's law. God's law, being perfectly just, won't pass away, but oppressive laws invented by narrow-minded humans make no real claim on us. Jesus doesn't abide the hypocrisy of the Pharisees who pay God lip service but withhold their hearts. They worry about what people eat and how often they wash their hands — saying God requires it — but ignore the more urgent matter of keeping their hearts open to God's love. Jesus leaves no room for hypocrisy, and neither should we.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time"

Isaiah 35:4-7a / Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 / James 2:1-5 / Mark 7:31-37

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Worshipping the Lord with Sincerity!

After reflecting for five Sundays on the Bread of Life Discourse of Jesus with the inclusion of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are back to the Gospel of Mark. I hope that the Discourses on the Bread of Life of Jesus brings us to a deeper appreciation of our Catholic Faith as it is celebrated in the Eucharist and Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

The eating of the Body of Christ and drinking of His blood in the Eucharist are acts of receiving the Lord in our lives. To truly receive Him, we also need to reflect our disposition. Our disposition entails how we carry our faith, religion, commitment, and love for the Lord. Whenever we receive Christ, do we intend that Christ will clean our soul, or should we not make ourselves clean first to receive the Lord wholeheartedly? Purification of the soul makes us appreciate the wonder and power of the Eucharist. To realize how to purify our minds and hearts, we need to observe the precepts of the Lord.

The Gospel that we read and hear this Sunday tells us that the teachers of the law in Israel had twisted the commandment of God. They regard the law on external purification to be observed severely. But merely observing these external purification laws makes a person defiled, corrupt, and unworthy of eternal life. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Scribes about their sense of purification. Not only the observance of purification that Jesus admonished His adversaries but their whole sense of what gives honor and worship to God. Jesus made it clear to them that what defiles is from within and not from the outside.

Jesus calls us to understand that what we have to do is purify our hearts. We need to amend our wrongdoings and live rightly and justly. We need to set our relationships right. We need to respond to His teachings. It helps us guide our ways to be true to whatever we do, say, and think. Abiding by it will truly give honor to God. Jesus teaches us to watch our inner dispositions, especially if we receive Him in our lives and the Eucharist. This is the reason why He instituted the Sacrament of Confession so that through sorrow, confession, and remuneration of our sins, our souls are washed clean. Through God's grace, we then can live righteously and give true and meaningful worship.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual