

Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church’s liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions” that are suited to these observances (*Ordo* #5, *GIRM* 368–378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for “Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father” on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn’t just a one-day event; it’s meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11–19.) People who don’t take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, “thy daily bread,” and the Eucharist—a word that means “thanksgiving.”

“Become what you pray”—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24	November 26	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Weekday	Weekday	First Sunday of Advent
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20	Dn 2:31–45	Dn 5:1–6, 13–14, 16–17, 23–28	Sir 50:22–24	Dn 7:2–14	Dn 7:15–27	Is 2:1–5
Lk 21:1–4	Lk 21:5–11	Lk 21:12–19	1 Cor 1:3–9	Lk 21:29–33	Lk 21:34–36	Rom 13:11–14
			Lk 17:11–19			Mt 24:37–44



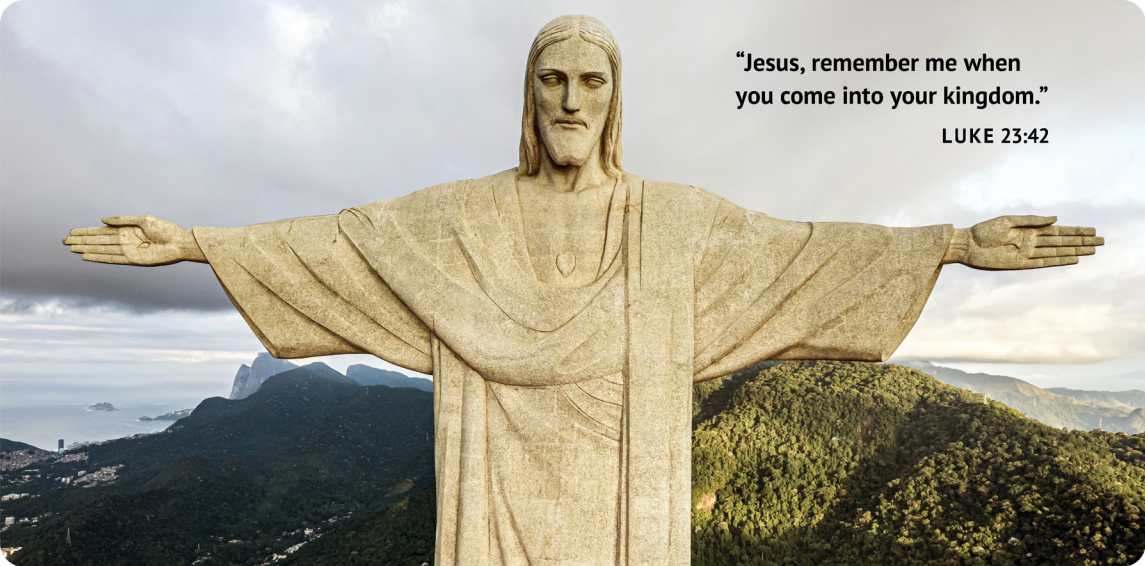
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Listen to [Christ’s] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 23, 2025
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C)
2 Samuel 5:1–3 / Colossians 1:12–20 / Luke 23:35–43



“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
LUKE 23:42

The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it’s a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to “myth,” as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero’s own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

Editor’s note: This is Fr. Josphe Juknialis’ final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

Reflect

What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?



Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea

St. Theresa Parish

Established January 21, 1941
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



Vision / Mission Statement
To make St. Theresa Parish
a dynamic Christian community
of worship & service

Let us go rejoicing
to the house
of the Lord.

Parish Directory

Clergy



Reverend Edwin D. Conselva, MS,
Pastor 808-337-1784
Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018
Deacon Jim Bostick, retired 808-337-1124

Parish Office

Mass Intentions / Hospital or Homebound
Communion / Weddings / Marriage
Convalidations / Baptisms / Funerals
Dee Young, Parish Secretary 808-337-1548
M-F, 8am-noon sttheresac@yahoo.com

PPC Raynette Newall
Worship / HI Catholic Herald parish articles
Chantal Duarte 808-634-0403

Bulletin / Website Betsy Jones 907-347-6618

Evangelization Commission

Director of Religious Education
Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P. 808-337-1548

OCIA Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018

Youth Coordinators
Blu & Rena Ulanday 808-635-2701

Social Services Commission

Respect Life call parish office 808-337-1548
Agency on Elderly Affairs 808-241-4470

St. Theresa School

Wendy Souza, Principal
808-337-1351 sttheresakauai.com
Office hours M-F, 7:30am-3pm
HCH school articles

Solemnity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 23, 2025

...giving thanks to the
Father, who has made
you fit to share in the
inheritance of the holy
ones in light. Colossians 1:12

God wants us to be happy!
Instead of looking at the Ten
Commandments as being
restrictive and telling us
what we can't do, look at
them as guides for living a
joy-filled and peaceful life.

Most of our problems arise
when we put our own needs
first or we spend time trying
to acquire more stuff.

Instead, try putting
God first in all things.
We were made for God.

Open your heart
and let Him in!

~Archdiocese of St. Louis



St. Theresa Church – Kekaha

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 7:45am Rosary
8:30am Mass

Mon-Thu 6:30am Mass

Fri 8:10am School Mass

Weekday Masses subject to change.

Wed 6pm Rosary to Our Lady
of Fatima & Novena to
OLPH

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm
with Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament &
Benediction

Confessions 4:30pm Saturday
(or call the parish office
for an appointment)



Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Church – Waimea

Sun 7am Mass

First Saturday Devotion to
the BVM 8-9am

View the bulletin online:
kekahacatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

✠ Mahalo for being as generous as your
means allow. God bless you! ✠

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$ 1,979
Waimea 1,017

Other Donations

All Souls Day \$ 40
Archdiocese of the
Military Services 85
Candles 21
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development 1,292
Cross We Share 555
Maintenance Fund 120
Mass Intentions 5
Thanksgiving 100



Advent begins
Nov 30th
Are you ready?

ST. THERESA CHURCH OFFICE
will be closed Nov 27 and 28
in observance of Thanksgiving.

ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

We hope you enjoyed the
Kekaha Home Sweet Home Festival!
Mahalo for all your support!

Nov 27-28 No School (Thanksgiving break)

MINISTRY NEWS

Religious Education classes are held every Thursday at 6:30pm at St. Theresa School.
Youth Ministry (grades 6-12) meets every 1st & 3rd Sunday after 8:30am Mass at the Parish Hall.
Choir practice is held Thursdays from 4:30 to 6pm at STC. Musicians and vocalists are welcome.

Thank you for your generous support of
last week's second collection!
25% of funds collected by our parish for the
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
will remain in our Diocese to fund local
antipoverty projects.

What are YOU Thankful For?



Thanksgiving
Day Mass
9am at
St. Theresa
Church

ETERNAL REST: The Art of Dying Well Final Session #4

Nov 24th from 6-7:30pm at STC

Eternal Rest will be presented again during Lent 2026.
Contact Betsy 907.347.6618



Kauai Vicariate Advent Reconciliation Services

All services begin at 6 p.m.



Mon., Dec. 1 St. Theresa Church
Tues., Dec. 2 Holy Cross Church
Wed., Dec. 3 St. Raphael Church
Thurs., Dec. 4 Immaculate Conception
Tues., Dec. 9 St. Catherine Church



O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the
Expected of nations and their Savior:
Come to save us, O Lord, our God!
Ancient antiphon