Dear Padre,

What happens to the sacred treasures in a deconsecrated Catholic church?


LUIS SANTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

When a diocesan bishop deconsecrates a church, he issues a decree that removes a church's dedication and relegates it to "profane but not sordid use" when it "cannot be used in any way for divine worship and there is no possibility of repairing it" (*Code of Canon Law*, 1222). The impossibility of repairing a badly damaged church doesn't mean only an architectural impossibility. Inadequate finances to maintain the church properly, an insufficient number of parishioners to foster ecclesiastical vitality, and a shortage of priests are also grave causes for a church's closure. Decorative appointments and sacred treasures in these relegated churches often find new homes in other churches and religious institutions.

This traditional custom of dissemination is a sign of solidarity with the broader Church and in continuity with its rich heritage. It honors the faith and sacrifices of the charter members when the church was built and the generations that followed. Remaining religious items in a relegated church, such as an unmovable altar, "lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part, or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact" (*CCL* 1238). Stained glass windows, mosaics, and other sacred art that remain in a repurposed church don't lose their aesthetic beauty and evocative power, however. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," wrote the poet John Keats. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday
November 9
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12
1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17
Jn 2:13–22

Tuesday
November 10
St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Ti 2:1–8, 11–14
Lk 17:7–10

Wednesday
November 11
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Ti 3:1–7
Lk 17:11–19

Thursday
November 12
St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Phlm 7–20
Lk 17:20–25

Friday
November 13
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
2 Jn 4–9
Lk 17:26–37

Saturday
November 14
Weekday
3 Jn 5–8
Lk 18:1–8

Sunday
November 15
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prv 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31
1 Thes 5:1–6
Mt 25:14–30
or 25:14–15, 19–21

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.


FABRIZIO MAFFEI

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship; they do not turn their back on those who are in need; and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust, and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus himself gives to us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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Keep Your Light Burning Bright

ANN M. GARRIDO



We have entered that time of year when the readings turn our attention toward the "end of time"—that moment we await in which all of God's dreams for us will be realized. The "kingdom of God come." Jesus, like prophets before him, compared this moment to a wedding feast. In Jesus' time, marriage was the most decisive event of one's life, and the wedding feast was the greatest feast families ever celebrated. There was nothing better than a good wedding party—and nothing more embarrassing than a bad one. So much at stake!

In the parable in today's gospel, Jesus focuses on the role of the bridesmaids in making the wedding feast a spectacular event—or not. They are trusted to provide a parade of light to greet the groom as he arrives at his family's home with the bride, but it turns out that not all have prepared adequately.

The parable forces us to consider our own commitment to the Christian life. In baptism, we, too, were given a special role to serve the coming kingdom of God. We, too, were entrusted with a light and told to "keep it burning bright" until that time in which we "come out to greet him." At the beginning of our faith journey, we often embrace this role with much fervor. But we forget that the Christian life takes a good bit of endurance and involves a lot of waiting. We will need oil to keep that light burning bright—the oil of prayer, participation in the sacraments, time spent in study and renewal. No one else can nourish your relationship with God for you. It is something you will need to do yourself. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

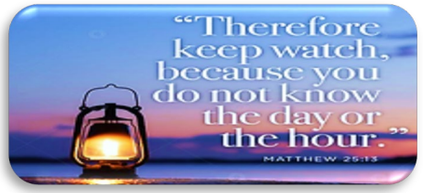
Reflect

What are you doing to keep your light of faith burning bright right now?

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Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary at Waimea



St. Theresa Parish

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



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



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



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
Jeianna & Chris Iguchi 808-651-8786

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov 8, 2026

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Mt 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy.

We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time."

Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith.

Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances.

How is God calling you to use your gifts today?

Don't delay.

None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

~Archdiocese of St. Louis

✝

St. Theresa Church

8343 Kaumualii Hwy
Kekaha HI 96752

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 and Mary Church

9496 Kaumualii Hwy
Waimea HI 96796

Sun 7am Mass
First Saturday Devotion to the BVM 8-9am

kekahacatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha	$ 1,745
Waimea	774

Other Donations

All Souls Day	$ 2,615
Candles	20
Cross We Share	460
Donation	30
Flowers	324
Home Rosary Donation	50
Maintenance Fund	35
Mass Intentions	60
World Mission Sunday	5

✝ *God bless you!* ✝

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

"The bishops of the United States founded the CCHD to fight poverty by empowering members of local communities, rather than by offering top-down solutions.

Using this approach, CCHD-funded organizations identify the most pressing issues and develop creative solutions that lead to lasting positive changes in the community. They address poverty at its roots."

Our Parish Ministries need YOU!

Consider making a one-year commitment to volunteer for a church ministry. Contact the parish office or Deacon Ron for details about these ministries and more … Music, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Youth, Maintenance, Church Cleaning …

Let us serve others and spread the message of Jesus Christ.

In this weekend's Gospel, the wise bridesmaids are prepared for the bridegroom's arrival. Couples can set aside time for their marriage before daily demands crowd it out. **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**, recognized by the Vatican, invites couples to step away from work, bills and chores and focus on each other. Join WWME Hawai'i for a residential weekend Feb. 19-21, 2027, at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley, O'ahu. Priests are also welcome to renew their vocation and strengthen parish relationships. Apply at www.hawaiiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (808) 276-5721 or brian.claudine.perry@wwme.org.

Wed Nov 11	**Veterans Day** – school & parish offices closed; 6pm **Patriotic Rosary** at STC
Nov 21-22	**Ministry Commitment Weekend** at all Masses
Thu Nov 26	9am **Thanksgiving Day Mass** at STC
Nov 26-27	No school; offices closed for **Thanksgiving**

Adult Faith Formation

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Mondays • 6:00–7:30 pm

Nov 16 – Dec 14

Hosted at the home of Dcn Ron & Betsy Jones

4526B Alae Rd, Kekaha

To register: Call or text Betsy at **907-347-6618**

Sessions are offered at no cost.

All are welcome to learn, share, and grow in faith.

