

# St. Elizabeth Church

## NOVEMBER 8, 2009

### 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*This poor widow has given more than any of the others because she gave from her want while they gave from their surplus.”*  
Mark 12:43

**1**

## Upcoming Events

**NOVEMBER 9-15, 2009**

**9<sup>th</sup> - MONDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
6:00 PM Women's Hula - Hall  
7:00 PM Worship Committee - Hall Mtg Rm 8  
7:00 PM Prayer Group - Conference Room 1-2  
7:00 PM YAM - Young Adult Office (Time/Day Change)

**10<sup>th</sup> - TUESDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
2:45 PM Beginning Hula - Hall  
6:00 PM CCD Retreat Team Mtg - Hall Mtg Room 8  
6:30 PM Samoan Choir - Conference Room 1-2

**11<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY**

**VETERAN'S DAY** (Rectory Closed)

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
7:00 PM Scouts - Meeting House  
8:00 PM AA Group - 4th Grade Classroom

**12<sup>th</sup> - THURSDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
5:00 PM Line Dancing - Hall  
6:30 PM Samoan Choir Practice - Conf Room 1-2  
7:30 PM YCL Choir Practice - Church

**13<sup>th</sup> - FRIDAY**

7:00 AM MASS - Church  
8:15 AM SES Mass - Church  
5:00 PM Adoration / Benediction - Church

**14<sup>th</sup> - SATURDAY**

7:00 AM MASS / Novena / Rosary - Church  
8:30 AM CCD (K-6) - Hall Meeting Rooms  
10:00 AM Hula - Hall  
6:00 PM Mass - Church  
7:30 PM AA - 3rd Grade Classroom  
8:00 PM Al-Anon - 4th Grade Classroom

**15<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY** (Regular Mass Schedule)

9:30 AM RCIA - Conf Room 1-2  
3:00 PM CCD Phase II Sponsor Night  
4:30 PM CCD (7th-HS) - Hall Meeting Rooms



Encourage one another and build up each other....

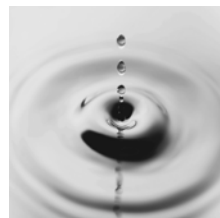
1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

### Today's Readings

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16  
2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28  
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

### Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Daniel 29:11,12,14  
2nd Rdg: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Gospel: Mark 13:24-32



### *A few words for today ...*

How often do we take the time to observe life around us? We have become somewhat self-centered in that way ... our world has become very small and the big picture and what God has to tell us in that larger picture eludes us. What are we missing?

Taking time means that we are forced to chisel quiet time into our day. Day after day. Life is more than our calendar appointments or stock tips or sports schedules. Let's see what Jesus has to tell us about life.

In today's Gospel, Jesus observes the life around him in the temple. He delivers telling observations regarding the scribes who love the obeisance they receive and the power they wield unaware that God's justice will be revealed in their condemnation.

Even more revealing is the widow's seemingly small contribution to the temple tithe. Unlike the rich who very pointedly give large sums because they can afford it, Jesus notes that the widow's two small coins were worth more than gold because it was all she had. She was the true disciple of the Lord, giving of herself and her substance unreservedly. Who would have thought she would be the essence of discipleship?

God has created a world open to infinite possibilities. We used to be more open to discovery and wonder and awe. What happened to that? In the 60's we were like Columbus in rocket ships, exploring the heavens, touching, as it were, the face of God in the heavens.

We used to be eager to go on "mission." The Peace Corps was a dream for most of my generation - to go to other communities and bring knowledge, friendship, and to learn how really one we are with our brothers and sisters. We yearned to do great things - to defeat hunger and misery and provide shelter and compassion.

All of creation and humanity has the potential to reveal what God wants to say to us and come to a new sense of reality for our life. The melting glaciers of Kilimanjaro speak to us of the quickly changing climate of the world and perhaps a renewed sense of urgency and stewardship for the environment. The horrifying statistics of human trafficking must compel us to justice for the victims.

And still, God's gracious hand in the quiet moments of contemplation renew our soul as we observe the small acts of kindness and compassion around us.

# Sunday Reflection

Fr. Jon Cabico

November 08, 2009: **Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16**

The setting for this reading from the first book of Kings is in the northern kingdom of Israel, during King Ahab's reign. Ahab was not a good king for the Jews, because he even started to worship Baal and built a temple to this false god. Elijah had earlier prophesied to King Ahab that there was going to be a drought in Israel because he displeased God so much. Because of his prophesy, Elijah had to flee and hide from Ahab's anger, eventually coming to the area of Zarephath, where the people worshiped Baal, as King Ahab did. There he met the widow in today's reading, so it is worth noting that the widow refers to God as Elijah's God. (She says, "As the Lord, *your* God, lives . . .") Thus, this story is written not so much to teach us that Elijah was a great miracle-worker, but instead it teaches us that (1) Elijah was a true prophet of God, and (2) that Elijah's God is the *true* God. It is a clear example of how we are mistaken if we believe that even people who worship pagan gods are in effect worshipping the same true God we Christians worship alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10**

Psalm 146 tells us of how God cares without fail for all who are in need: the hungry, the disabled, the bowed down, the widowed. Notice how this Psalm is reflected in the Gospel passage that we heard last Sunday, where Jesus teaches the Beatitudes to his disciples. Connecting this Psalm to Jesus' own public ministry serves to highlight his example of living a life of faith, concluding with an acclamation towards His glorious reign over all God's Kingdom.

**Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28**

The author of Hebrews was writing to a Jewish audience who would have been very familiar with the Jewish high priest's role during the yearly liturgical celebrations on the Day of Atonement, when the high priest would make "sin offerings" to God in order to atone (i.e. reconcile or make reparations) for the sins of the people of Israel. The high priest would enter the sanctuary of the Temple in Jerusalem - built by the people of Israel - carrying the blood of animals sacrificed on an altar to God. Jesus, the true and eternal High Priest of God, entered instead the sanctuary of heaven itself, offering not the blood of animals sacrificed on an altar, but offering His own blood poured out on the cross. Because of this, we can call Jesus the "Lamb of God," whose own blood sacrifice is sufficient to atone for the sins of all Creation for all eternity. Jesus' one sacrifice on the cross need never be repeated, because it is forever being offered up to God the Father in the Heavenly Eucharist taking place in the Heavenly Jerusalem, forever taking away "the sins of the world."

**Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44**

The long form of today's Gospel reading from Mark has two halves. In the first half, Jesus teaches the *crowds* following him to be wary about the Jewish scribes, who had roles similar to today's lawyers. But the scribes' roles went beyond interpreting the Mosaic Law; they also were given the responsibility of seeing that the Mosaic Law was applied and followed by the people of Israel. As a result, the scribes often had leadership roles in the Sanhedrin, or Jewish court. Occasionally, some scribes were also given responsibility over other people's affairs and would be paid a percentage of their client's estate. Thus, Jesus condemns those scribes who use their religious authority to gain honor for themselves, all the while hypocritically exploiting the poor over whom they have authority and responsibility (e.g. "devouring the houses of widows").

In the second half of today's reading, Jesus specifically calls his *disciples* to him in order to teach them about the main principle behind the practice of alms-giving: the principle of sacrifice. Jesus points out that, while the rich gave from their surplus wealth, the poor widow gave everything she had, even what she needed to sustain herself. But the principle of sacrifice Jesus is highlighting by this episode goes beyond the idea of giving generously according to the gifts given by God; by giving everything she had, the widow demonstrates not only her acknowledgment of God's gifts to her, but also her complete dependence and trust in God to continue providing all her needs. Earlier in Mark's Gospel (Mark 6:7-9), Jesus had forced his disciples to put their faith and trust in God by sending them out two by two on missions of preaching, exorcising, and healing. He sent them out into different villages with "nothing for the journey but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts." Later, in this episode in the Temple, Jesus uses the poor widow to again instruct his disciples that their complete trust and faith in God's providence and care must be put into practice.



## Readings for the Week

Monday, November 9

Tuesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 11

Thursday, November 12

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22

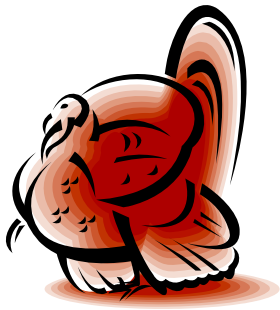
Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10

Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19

Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:20-25

Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37

Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8



## Thanksgiving Day Food Drive – Nov. 26

Generosity is a hallmark of St. Elizabeth Parish. This is a heads-up re the **Annual Thanksgiving Day food donations drive**. The food will benefit the needy families frequenting Our Lady of Good Counsel food pantry. Across the board, more and more families are in need so we ask you to be generous and share the goods that you have or wish to contribute. As always, the most requested items are canned meats, powdered milk, rice, and other canned goods and vegetables and non-perishable food items. Last year, one question concerned cereal. Boxed cereal is welcome and is reserved for the families.

This year, the Good Counsel Food Pantry is not requesting an early pickup so please bring your donations either on Thanksgiving Day or the day before. The CCD Confirmation students are preparing six large decorated cardboard boxes ready to receive your donations. *One caution, turkey fixings are not needed as part of this drive. The Thanksgiving baskets with those items will already have been prepared and delivered.*

*Have a truly blessed and happy Thanksgiving by sharing what you have with others.*

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

Colossians 4:2



*With Grateful Hearts*

### St. Elizabeth Reaches Goal

Commitment Weekend was a tremendous success with pledges totaling to-date **\$1.2 million!** That's 125% of Goal.....great job everyone! We thank you for your support and for the success of this campaign. We will continue to accept pledges and will update you accordingly. Again, mahalo to all for supporting our community and raising our goal!



### ALOHA SUNDAY is November 22...

Gather with fellow parishioners & enjoy light refreshments...in the hall after the 6, 8 & 10am Masses. Our hosts:

- 6am - Select Members
- 8am - Pastoral Council
- 10am - Samoan Community & Choir

As noted above, the Daughter's of St. Paul will also be here with a display of various religious articles for purchase.

See you there!



### DAUGHTER'S OF ST. PAUL BOOK FAIR

There will be a Pauline Book Fair at St. Elizabeth's the weekend of November 21-

22. The Daughters of St. Paul will be present with a display of books, Bibles, St. Damien items, music, DVDs and other materials for sale. All are welcome to stop by the tables after Mass to see the election of religious media, appropriate for all age that can accompany and enrich your spiritual journey. If you have special requests, please call Sister Gioan Linh at 753-0867.

### Young Christian Life



YCL is for youth between the Ages of 14 & 18 years old who want to grow in their faith and relationship with God. Come, see what we are all about, join us for:

*Basketball Freeplay, Wed., 5:30 pm*  
*Prayer Meetings, Wed., 7-8:30 pm in the hall*  
*Youth Mass, Sundays, at 6pm*

Need more information?  
 Call Davis or Carolyn Savea, Youth Directors, at (808) 630-9757. God's blessings to all!





**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Last Week's Collection .....	\$ 12,321.00
Building Fund .....	\$ 1,320.00
Energy .....	\$ 426.00
All Souls .....	\$ 1,559.00
<b>Total Collection for 10/31-11/1/09 .....</b>	<b>\$ 15,626.00</b>
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i> .....	\$ 95.00
<i>Capuchin Appeal</i> .....	\$ 6,465.00

Every year, the Diocese approves a list of second collections and provides envelopes for this purpose. In November, the collection is for: Catholic Campaign for Human Development (Nov. 21-22, 2009). To assist with this, St. Elizabeth's will donate 10% of the 4th Sunday's collection in November.



Oooooops! We didn't want to honor Fr. Tom and Fr. Jon on Halloween ... so, we're choosing Nov. 14/15 as our very own Priesthood Sunday. On that weekend, you will be given a prayer card and we'll have the opportunity to give THEM a blessing before the close of Mass. Get ready

**NOV. 14/15**



**I.H.S. UPDATE**

from Ron Nagasawa, Ministry Coordinator

For the October 28 service ~ Hard to believe it's already October. Because of some schedule confusion, the St. Elizabeth School Kindergarten class brought desserts in a week early. Thanks to Lori Almeida who volunteered to come in and deliver them to IHS and to Bernie Teson for coordinating that and turning the generous Kindergarten donation into a special treat for the IHS women and children's shelter. This serves as a reminder to all who make dessert donations, that St. Elizabeth church does this on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

This month we served 160 men, women and children, according to parishioner Bob who got the final count after serving at the men's shelter as he does every month.

Bettelynn Smith did her usual dessert arrangement at the women and children's shelter and both services were well staffed by volunteers from our church. There seems to be an outpouring of good people who want to help and is only matched by the generosity of dessert donations from the people of our church and school.

Next month, November, will be particularly special as YCL, headed by Carolyn and Davis Savea, will be doing the complete service at both the men, women & children's shelters. They will look forward to delivering your generous dessert donations which actually falls on the day before Thanksgiving, November 25.

*Worship Committee ~ Celebrating the Holy One*



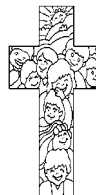
Committee is meeting this com-  
ay, **November 9 2009 at 7pm.**  
should be Room 8 in the Hall.  
number to bring your copy of  
da. Many thanks to all for your  
leadership in making our liturgical cele-  
brations beautiful and reverent.

*See you there!*



A sincere mahalo to  
all who participated in  
Foodland's Annual  
Community Matching

Gifts Program ~ **Give Aloha.** Your donations,  
together with Foodland & Western Union's  
matching gifts, totaled \$1,016.95.



**St. Elizabeth School**

Caring Coins: Saint Elizabeth School  
Students collected over \$1500.00 for  
world wide disaster victims. We appreci-  
ate their generosity. Mahalo.

## **A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

**ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL, a Catholic School for Young Women & Men**, is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Admissions Open House will be held on Sunday, Nov., 15, 2009 from 1-3 pm. An informational session will begin promptly at 1 pm.

**ST. THERESA SCHOOL** is having a **Garage Sale**, Sat., Nov. 14 from 8:30 am – to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Items on sale include but not limited to: small furniture items, assorted new and used kitchen items, such as, flatware, china, glasses, knickknacks, vintage jewelry and other items. Proceeds to benefit St. Theresa School and the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent at St. Theresa's.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** a peer ministry support group for the widowed, divorced and permanently separated. We invite people of all faiths to join us. Call Arlene 949-3387 or Linda 294-8571 for more information.

**Marriage Help – RETROUVAILLE** (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information call 625-7430 or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

**FREE MINISTRY** For nationwide Mass times & locations, call: 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or check on-line at [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).

**REMEMBER HIS WILL IN YOURS** - You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest in your Will. Simply include the following statement in your Will - *"I leave to the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, St. Elizabeth Church, 99-312 Moanalua Road, Aiea, Hawaii 96701, \$\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate (choose one). My gift may be used for general purposes (or specify for school, building fund, Diocese, etc.)"*. For more information see your Pastor or contact Robert J. Stillwell, Ed.D., Director of Development, at 203-6723.



## ***United States Conference of Catholic Bishops***

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### **USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT**

#### **Tell Congress: Remove Abortion Funding & Mandates from Needed Health Care Reform**

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation on the House and Senate floors. Genuine health care reform should protect the life and dignity of all people from the moment of conception until natural death. The U.S. bishops' conference has concluded that all committee-approved bills are seriously deficient on the issues of abortion and conscience, and do not provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bills will have to change or the bishops have pledged to oppose them.

Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come. None of the bills retains longstanding current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, and none fully protects conscience rights in health care.

As the U.S. bishops' letter of October 8 states:

“No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential that the legislation clearly apply to this new program longstanding and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding and mandates, and protections for rights of conscience. No current bill meets this test.... If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously.”

For the full text of this letter and more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit: [www.usccb.org/healthcare](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare).

Congressional leaders are attempting to put together final bills for floor consideration. Please contact your Representative and Senators today and urge them to fix these bills with the pro-life amendments noted below. Otherwise much needed health care reform will have to be opposed. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

**ACTION:** Contact Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) & [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

**MESSAGE to SENATE:**

“During floor debate on the health care reform bill, please support an amendment to incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed.”

**MESSAGE to HOUSE:**

“Please support the Stupak Amendment that addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed.”

**WHEN:** Both House and Senate are preparing for floor votes now. **Act today! Thank you!**