



St. Rita Catholic Church

**89-318 Farrington Hwy.
Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792**

**Parish Office: (808) 668-7833
Website: <http://www.stritananakuli.org>**

Pastor: Rev. Paulo Kosaka, OFM Cap
Deacon: Deacon Harold S. Levy, Jr.
Office Manager: Mele Ahuna
Bookkeeper: Lalla Andres
Religious Education: Karen Victor
O. C. I. A.: Don Gerry
Youth Minister: Ivan Okuda
Knights of Columbus: Bill Kozak
Outreach Coordinator: Carlin Ujimori-Kaeo
Outreach/Facsimile/Prayer-line

808-672-5437
860-908-5954
808-3086261
609-381-1193
808-668-7833
808-668-7716

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at **5:00 PM**

Sunday at **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM**

Confessions: Saturday from 3:15 to 4:00 PM **at the church** or by appointment

Infant Baptism: Contact Parish Office

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact the Pastor 6 months before the wedding date for an appointment.

Funerals: Contact the Pastor before going to the Mortuary

We, the people of God of St. Rita Parish in Nanakuli, are united in our belief and in our commitment to Jesus Christ. In the spirit of aloha we respond to Christ's mission of love and freedom with our care, concern and communal action. This is expressed in the stewardship of our treasure through tithing and in the gift of our time and talents through shared ministries.

As a fast growing rural parish with a large Hawaiian population we feel a special calling to stand together in truth and justice for indigenous people of this land. As part of the universal Church, our outreach extends beyond our boundaries to the global community and we affirm the human dignity of all peoples. As a parish family we enthusiastically participate in bringing about God's reign of peace. We continue to evangelize, welcome and invite all of God's people to St. Rita Parish.

IF YOU ☐ ARE NEW TO THE PARISH ☐ HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER
☐ HAVE A NEW ADDRESS ☐ NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

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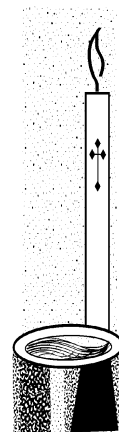
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

Give comfort to my people,
says your God!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, January 10	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, January 11	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Decoration Removal
Monday, January 12	..... 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, January 13	..... 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, January 14	..... 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, January 15	..... 8:00 a.m	Communion Service
Friday, January 16	..... 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
 8:00 a. m	Mass
Saturday, January 17 8:00 a. m	Mass
 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
 5:00 p.m.	Mass



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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:49:3, 5-6: The Lord said, "You are my servant, /Israel, through whom I show my glory./...I will make you a light to the nations, /that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

1 Cor:1:1-3: "Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," greeted the holy people of the Corinthian church with God's grace and peace.

Jn:1:29-34: John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." He continued, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove. . . . I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."



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alguerreroecchawaii.org OR 8085853342

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 RED MASS: Every year, the church prays to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance for public servants in what is known as the Red Mass. The liturgy, a tradition in the islands for decades, is timed to precede the opening of the state Legislature, which occurs in January. The Diocese of Honolulu invites all to attend the 2026 Red Mass, scheduled for **9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa.** Bishop Larry Silva will celebrate the Mass; the keynote speaker is Connie Mitchell, executive director of the Institute for Human Services. Mitchell's topic is "Radical Justice in Tumultuous Times." Her talk will explore how each generation presents unique challenges to people of faith as they strive to heed God's call to "do justice, while loving mercy and walking humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). Parking at the co-cathedral is free. For special accommodations for persons with disabilities, call (808) 585-3347. Those who are unable to attend in person can watch a livestream of the Red Mass at honolulucathedral.org/redmass. Please consider attending the Red Mass and joining the church in praying for our elected leaders and public servants. Mahalo!

WORD OF LIFE: "Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own. Help us to recognize the gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying. Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.." **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "A Prayer for Hope"**

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 11 Sun: The Baptism of the Lord

Isa:42:1-4, 6-7; Ps:29; Acts:10:34-38; Mt:3:13-17

Jan 12 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:1:1-8; Ps:116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mk:1:14-20

Jan 13 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:1:9-20; 1 Sm:2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk:1:21-28

Jan 14 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:3:1-10, 19-20; Ps:40:2 & 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk:1:40-45

Jan 15 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm: 4:1-11; Ps:44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk:1:40-45

Jan 16 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps:89:16-17, 18-19; Mk:2:1-12

Jan 17 Sat: Saint Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm:9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps:21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk:2:13-17

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*Saint Matthew's story of the baptism of Jesus is an appropriate scripture reading to reflect on our own baptism. Jesus' baptism has been understood as a symbol of his death. Baptism is the sacrament by which we die to an old life of sin and enter a new life in the risen Lord and is willing to be guided by the life of Jesus. As this year begins to unfold, reflect on the meaning of your own baptism, and how you might make an even deeper commitment to a new life in Christ Jesus. **International Catholic Stewardship Council***

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 4, 051.00
Candles	45.00
Mary the Holy Mother of God	780.00
Mass Intention	50.00
Outreach	95.00
Total	\$ 5, 021.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 1, 860.00
Repairs & Maintenance	80.00
Total	\$ 1, 940.00

ON-LINE GIVING (DECEMBER)

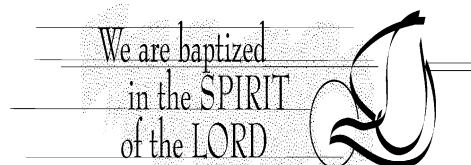
Operation Funds Collection:

General Collection	\$ 6, 975.00
Outreach	995.00
Total	\$ 7, 970.00

Restricted Collection:

Building Fund	\$ 2, 982.50
Repair & Maintenance	445.00
Total	\$ 3, 427.50

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Baptism of the Lord (A) January 11, 2026

Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nui’ia

Congratulations – Ho’omaika’i to our Newly Baptized! **Leilani Yeonhee Lim & Kai Kozak Lim** upon their baptism this Sunday at 9:00am Mass. Also, to the parents Jinki & Jolene Nicole Kozak Lim. The godparents, William Charles Kozak Jr. & Dadia Ellis Kozak.

This Sunday we celebrate **the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. With this feast the Church brings the Christmas Season to close and turns our gaze to the inauguration of the public ministry of Jesus Christ.

On **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, we will renew our own baptismal promises and by doing so we again remind ourselves of who we are, we have been reborn in Spirit as the children of God cleansed from the Original sin and received abundance of God’s sanctifying grace.

We recall we are **coheirs** to God’s Kingdom and that by living out our **Baptismal promises** we truly witness to the world who we are and one day hope to attain the eternal happiness that awaits the faithful!

Baptism is not just a moment or event from our past but a call – vocation and promised made that shaped our identity and our mission. We are to carry out our mission faithfully today as disciples of Jesus Christ!

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Isaiah 42: 1-4. 6-7

Background Context: The reading taken from the book of prophet Isaiah is known as the first servant song. It was written during a difficult time for the people of Israel when many were living in exile and lost hope (**the Temple was destroyed in 587 BC**). The Israelites were longing for freedom, justice and God’s closeness. Through prophet Isaiah God promised **a Servant** who will bring justice, healing and light, not through force but through gentleness and faithfulness.

The **Servant** is described as one chosen and upheld by God, filled with God’s Spirit. The **Servant** does not shout or crush the weak. Instead, he cares for **“the bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench...”** Isaiah 42:3.

This imagery evokes the fragile and broken condition of Israel and yet God tells us that His way is not harsh or violent. The **Servant** is also given a clear mission; to be a light to the nations, open the blind eyes, and to free people trapped in darkness.

Application to Life: Prophet Isaiah's words showed first that God's saving plan is not the rejection of those who are weak, vulnerable or spiritually battered. We can take comfort for we are **"the bruised reed or smoldering wick...God will not quench"**, that we are not crushed or cast aside.

Even in our dimly or faintly burning faith, we can have hope. For whom among us have not been physically or emotionally wounded, spiritually weary or fragile from life's hardships, but still exist and are not entirely broken?

The **Servant** (Jesus Christ) offers tender care, not harsh judgement, to the vulnerable and often marginalized. Most of all that the **Servant** (Jesus Christ) is not only for Israel, but for all people, as Isaiah stated further; **"the coastlands will wait for his teaching."** **Isaiah 42: 4.** That is other nations, that all of us, like Israel, the Gentiles also can wait for God in hope.

How amazing are those words spoken by prophet Isaiah over 500 years (**587 BC**) before the birth of Jesus Christ. We are truly reminded that God embraces all men and women and we are all called to salvation by God.

We are reminded that God desires our freedom not just from our physical chains, but from our fear, sin, injustice, and despair.

As Christians, we clearly recognize that this passage from prophet Isaiah points strongly to Jesus Christ.

Jesus' life, ministry, and by His baptism revealed Jesus as **the Servant** prophet Isaiah spoke prophetically long ago and it is He who brings God's gentle yet powerful justice into the world.

This reading from prophet Isaiah speaks to us personally too for through our own baptism, we share in Jesus Christ's mission - vocation. We are called to be **servant just like Jesus Christ**, not loud or demanding, but like the **Servant** (Jesus) gentle, faithful and compassionate.

In a world full of noise, conflict, and injustice, God calls us to be His **servants** who heal rather than harm, who lift others rather than crush them, extend forgiveness instead of bitterness. God does not ask us to be loud or perfect but, but to be **faithful servants** who bring hope where it is most needed, in our own families, church community, society, state, nation and the world. Wherever we are sent, that is where we are to be as husband, wife, single, young or old, like **the Servant, Jesus Christ**.

New Testament: Acts 10: 34-38

Background Context: The 2nd reading taken from the Acts of the Apostles records a turning point in the early church. Peter is speaking in the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and a Gentile. Until this moment many Jewish Christians believed that God's promises were meant mainly for their own people.

Through this encounter, Peter comes to a new and powerful understanding, **"God shows no partiality."** God does not favor one race culture, or nation over another. Anyone who fears God and does what is right is welcome by Him. Peter then summarizes the heart of the Gospel. He speaks about Jesus of Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power.

This connects closely with Jesus' baptism. When the Spirit came upon Him, and His public mission began. From that moment, Jesus went about doing good, healing the sick, restoring the broken, and freeing those oppressed by evil. His actions revealed that God's love in a visible way.

Application to Life: This passage reminds us that faith is not only about beliefs but about how God's love reaches people through actions. Jesus did not stay distant or selective. He crossed boundaries, spoke to outsiders, touched the untouchables, and welcomed those who were excluded. His life shows that God's kingdom is open to us all.

For us today, this message is both comforting and challenging. It comforts us because it assures us that God accepts us as we are, regardless of our background or status. At the same time, it challenges us to reflect God's impartial love. We are called to move beyond prejudice, division and narrow thinking.

Like Jesus, we are invited to go about doing good. In our own daily lives, through kindness, honesty, compassion and service. Our baptism calls us to be signs of God's inclusive love, bringing healing and hope to a world that still longs for justice, peace and unity.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

Background Context: A child asked an old priest during a baptismal ceremony, what changes after the water is poured. The old priest replied, **"Nothing you can see immediately, but everything that truly matters."** That simple answer captures the deep meaning of baptism that today's gospel taken from Matthew invites us to reflect on. **The baptism of Jesus is not about repentance from sin, it is about identity, mission, and belonging.** By choosing to be baptized, Jesus steps fully into human life. Jesus does not remain distant or separate but enters the same waters as everyone else.

Baptism becomes a sign of solidarity, God choosing to stand with humanity, especially with those who feel broken, guilty, or unworthy. At the heart of baptism is identity when the voice from heaven declared Jesus as the beloved Son. **It revealed a truth that applies to all who are baptized.**

Application to Life: **Baptism tells us** who we are before it tells us what we must do. We are not defined first by our successes, failures, or social roles, but by God's love. In a world that measures worth by performance and approval, **baptism reminds us** that we are already accepted and loved.

Baptism is also about God's presence. The descent or the Spirit shows that **baptism is not just a symbolic washing, but an encounter with God who dwells within us.** The Spirit empowers us, guides, and strengthens us for life's challenges. We are never sent alone; God walks with us.

At the same time, **baptism is a calling.** Just as Jesus emerges from the waters, ready to serve, heal, and proclaim God's kingdom, our **baptism commits us to live differently.** It calls us to choose justice over indifference, compassion over judgement, and service over selfishness. **Baptism is not a private event;** it is a public commitment to reflect Jesus Christ in the world.

Finally, **baptism gives us hope.** Even when we fail, even when life become uneasy, **baptism assures us that God does not withdraw His love.** The waters remind us that God continues to cleanse, renew, and call us again.

The **Baptism of the Lord** invites us to remember **our own baptism**, not as a past ritual, but as a living reality that shapes who we are and how we live each day. We are baptized not for comfort, but for service, chosen by God to be light and hope in the lives of others.

St. Rita Respect Life Ministry

January 22nd is a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The **Islandwide Respect Life Rally - March for Life** will be held on **Friday, January 23rd 2:00pm – 5:00pm at the State Capitol.**

St. Rita Parish Respect Life Ministry will hold a Respect Life Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary for life, **Friday, January 23rd 6:30pm (Mass) 7:pm - 7:30pm (Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary).** Rosary for Life for **Sat. 17th & Sun. 18th 30min before mass.**

St. Marianne Cope Feast Day. Through love, prayer, and fasting let us affirm a Culture of Life and witness the Gospel in the public square.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

fr. Paulo ofm cap