

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

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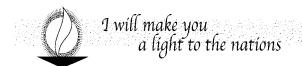
STREET

CITY

STATE/ZIP

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, January 17 5:00 p.m.	Mass	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, January 18	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass	January 18, 2026
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)	How precious is the Chalice that quenches my thirst!
Monday, January 19	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	
	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Tuesday, January 20	..... 7:30 a.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY HOLIDAY	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
Wednesday, January 21	..... 7:30 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
Thursday, January 22	..... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>	
Friday, January 23	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	No Morning Mass	
	..... 6:30 p.m.	Mass - Respect for Life	
 7-7:30 p.m.	Eucharist Adoration - Rosary for Life	
Saturday, January 24 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:8:23-9:3: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of gloom now have joy, for the yoke that burdened them God has smashed

1 Cor:1:10-13, 17: Paul wrote to the people of Corinth: let “there be no divisions among you... be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.” I have heard “that there are rivalries among you... Is Christ divided?”

Mt:4:12-23: Jesus said to Simon Peter and Andrew, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they followed him. Jesus began to proclaim: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

January 23: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin—USA

In 1883, now the Mother Provincial of her order, Mother Marianne received a request from the Hawaiian government asking her to send sisters to care for those suffering from the dreaded disease of leprosy. More than fifty religious orders had already turned down the same request. With joy and enthusiasm she responded “Yes!” “I am hungry for the work...” Mother Marianne responded in haste, going herself with six of her sisters. She would spend the next thirty-five years exercising the great privilege of caring for the bodies, minds, and souls of God’s precious outcasts with Hansen’s Disease (leprosy).

In Hawaii, Mother Marianne and her sisters went right to work, cooperating with the Church and the government to help those with leprosy live dignified lives—teaching them, having fun with them, praying with them, and caring for their physical needs. Mother Marianne’s administrative skills were of great use opening new homes, establishing a residence and school for the children of those with leprosy, correcting government abuses, and consolidating facilities.

In 1884, Mother Marianne met the future Saint Damien de Veuster who had devoted his life to the care of those with leprosy on the island of Molokai. Two years after their meeting, Father Damien contracted leprosy himself. In 1888, Mother Marianne went to Molokai to care for Father Damien during his last year of life. At his passing, took over the home for boys he had established.

For twenty-seven more years, Mother Marianne cared for the outcasts and their families before her death of natural causes at the age of eighty, never contracting the disease herself. Two days after her death, a Honolulu newspaper wrote of the reverence for Mother Marianne among the Hawaiians: “She impressed everyone as a real ‘mother’ to those who stood so sorely in need of ‘mothering.’”

As we honor Saint Marianne Cope, consider the quality of your affection and sincere concern for society’s “outcasts.” The alcoholic, addict, criminal, impoverished, foreigner, and sinner are all images of Jesus waiting for your love. Allow this holy woman to inspire you to see it as a privilege to love those most in need.

Saint Marianne, you laid down your life for those in need of your love and affection, embracing the outcast wholeheartedly with joy and gratitude. Please pray for me, that I may seek out the outcasts and help them come to know the love and mercy of our glorious God. Saint Marianne, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

AMERICA: Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Many in Latin America and the Caribbean find that a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.iGiveCatholic

COLLECTION FOR BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION

MISSION: Next week will also take up the Collection for the Black and Indian Mission, helps local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities through the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real & pressing needs on the ground.

WORD OF LIFE: *“Even with the overturning of Roe v. Wade in June 2022, a decision that returns the abortion issue to the electorate, many states continue not to recognize children in their mothers’ wombs as persons warranting protection under the law. Federal laws in our country fail to protect the lives of unborn children, and many political leaders at the state and federal level, work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Priorities at the Polls”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 18 Sun: The Baptism of the Lord

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

Jan 19 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:15:18-22; Ps:50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mk:2:18-22

Jan 20 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:16:1-13; Ps: 89: 20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk:2:23-28

Jan 21 Wed: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

1 Sm:17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps:144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk:3:1-6

Jan 22 Thur: Day of Prayer for the Legal

Protection of Unborn Children

1 Sm: 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps:56: 2-3, 9--10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk:3:7-12

Jan 23 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:24:3-21; Ps:57:2, 3-4, 6 & 11; Mk:3:13-19

Jan 24 Sat: Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Sm:1:1-4, 11-12; 19, 23-27; Ps:80: 2-3, 5-7; Mk:3:20-21

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

As the prophet Isaiah proclaims in the first reading, the Lord continues to remind us that we are his servants. Imagine the Lord speaking these words to you personally” “You are my servant. Through you I show my glory. I formed you as my servant from your mother’s womb. I will make you a light so that you may shine the light of my salvation everywhere you go, and reveal my glory to everyone you encounter. I will give you confidence. Heed my words, for I have spoken to you. “What would your response be to the Lord? Would it be different from the response you give the Lord now? International Catholic Stewardship Council

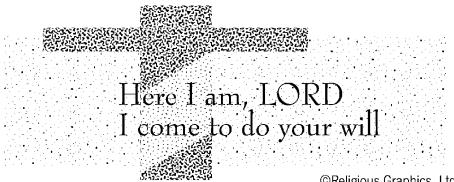
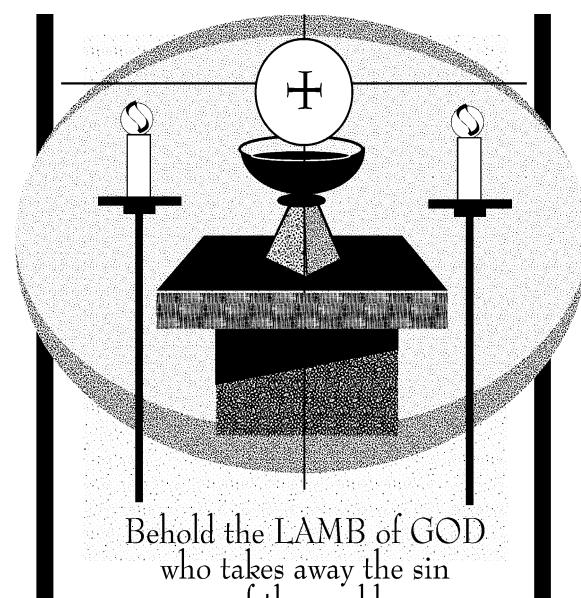
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 867.10
Baptism	75.00
Candles	95.00
Mary the Holy Mother of God	20.00
Outreach	45.00
 Total	 \$ 4, 102.10

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 325.00
 Total	 \$ 325.00

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Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa - Aloha 'Ohana Aloha Nui'ia

Ordinary Time A: We now enter the **Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year (A)** right after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The **Ordinary Time** is illustrated by **the color Green** used at the altar, priest's, deacon's vestments, altar servers' cinctures and all that relates to worship.

Though it is called the **Ordinary Time**, in no way is it just another season of ordinary worship. Like every cycle of life, nothing is simply ordinary, especially relating to what is spiritual. In life we encounter something unexpected and what seemed ordinary may turn out to be extraordinary. In cycle of our **Liturgical Worship**, the Church continues to invite us to worship attentively and to reflectively enter the **mystery of our Faith** at every **Holy Mass**.

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 Background Context: The 1st reading from prophet Isaiah is set during the exile in Babylon (597BC-538 BC). The people of Israel were in despair having lost their Temple in Jerusalem, the land of Judah and felt estranged – ripped away from God. In that dire crisis, prophet Isaiah sent by God spoke words of hope. That God would send a **Servant** who will do justice.

In the **Book of Prophet Isaiah**, in chapters 40 – 55 we find **four servant songs or poems**. The **Servant** mentioned is “**God's agent**” (Jesus Christ) who will do God's Will. The **Servant's** mission is not only to restore Israel but to be a **light to the nations**, so that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth through Israel.

We find that it is totally of God's initiative as we hear the prophet's words “**now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb.**” (Isaiah 49:5, Jeremiah 1:5).

The early New Testament writers drew a connection to Jesus Christ who emerged as **the ultimate Suffering Servant** who through the sacrifice on the Cross brought healing and salvation to all.

Some interpretations view that the **Servant** could be understood as referring to the entire people of Israel who as Covenant People were chosen to fulfilled God's original intention – plan for them to be a blessing and to be the instrument to all the nations, to the ends of the earth. “**I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.**” (Isaiah 49:6).

Application to Life: What an amazing mercy and enduring love God has for His people Israel and that same mercy and love apply to each one of us today! Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, still Israel was the chosen instrument, a light casting rays on the nations of the world. Just so despite our own frailties and unfaithfulness, God does not cease to call us back to be His servant, to be a disciple and to be a light to others.

Here we recall our baptism and the promises we had made. We became co-heirs and children of God. That we have been chosen to be the light to the nations, "**you are the light of the world...**" (**Matthew 5:14**) and have received the call to be instruments – servants for God's glory.

The life of the exiled Israelites was not easy, it was arduous and our lives on earth in our journey to heaven is not easy too, often strenuous and uphill. Like the Israelites of old, prophet Isaiah's words lift our burdens because we too are promised that the **Servant** (Jesus) will assist us. But as Christians we know He bears our burdens with us. We know Isaiah's words were fulfilled in Jesus Christ who has equipped us all with all that we need to journey to heaven.

Jesus' word spoken now proclaimed in our midst on the **Lord's Day** enters our hearts through our hearing. His Body and Blood our sustenance, our spiritual food fed to us in the Eucharist and all the necessary assistance are found in other Sacraments and the Bible.

Who of us can ever say I did not know or did not have the means to follow the Lord and walk the path to eternal life? None of us can plead ignorance for clearly God has revealed in **His Servant, Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and Life for us!**

An important part of our discipleship this call is God's intimate involvement in the life of each one of us. Most of all God called the **Servant** by name while in his mother's womb and it is God's presence that will make the **Servant** do great things.

It is God's initiative that the **Servant** serves. Therefore, just like the **Servant (Jesus)** each one of us have been called from our mother's womb (**Jeremiah 1:5**) and God knew us. "**Before I formed you in the womb I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.**" (**Psalm 139:13-18**), these words are also spoken to us as baptized Christians.

Though prophet Isaiah's prophetic words were spoken over **500BC**, we Christians clearly recognized who **the Servant** spoken about is, it is **Jesus, our Savior** and we too have been chosen as His disciples to carried out our call-mission, be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (**Matthew 14:15**).

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Background Context: We observe Paul who fearlessly declared his apostolic credentials. In the face of divisions in the Church of Corinth, Paul told them just what kind of an apostle he is, that he is called apostle by God. He emphasized that he is an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, not the will of any man or woman. **“Sosthenes our brother”**, mentioned by Paul became his scribe and who was known to the Corinthian Christians mentioned in **Acts 18:17**. He was formerly the head of the Jewish synagogue and suffered at the hand of the Jews for converting and assisting Paul. **Corinth** was one of the great port cities of the ancient Mediterranean world. It was a bustling and cosmopolitan Roman seaport, prosperous and growing. Yet it was hedonistic, materialistic and known for life of self-indulgence in pleasure.

Application to Life: In describing the Corinthian Christians, Paul addressed them as **“sanctified in Christ”** to communicate to them the truth that they the Christians in **Corinth** are being set apart from the world – **“called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”** the life of Christian in Corinth is not of ease and pleasure but of living witness as disciple for the glory of God.

Just as the **Corinthian Christians** were called **“sanctified in Christ”** and this is not exclusive to them, for it is also applied to us, we too who are baptized into Jesus Christ. They were called to be **“holy”** that is set apart and different than those who were not believers who refused God, we too must be **“holy”** and live a life of **witness in the world** but **not of the world**. Let us together with all who are baptized and disciple of Jesus Christ in every circumstance of our lives, strive to be worthy of that **Name, Jesus Christ our Lord!** Let our lives be one of faithfulness as discipleships united in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 1: 29-34 Background Context: We witnessed the interaction between John the Baptist and Jesus. John the Baptist sees Jesus and testifies about his identity loudly proclaiming to those around him, **“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”** At the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus was greeted with words declaring His destiny, that of His sacrificial agony and death on the cross for the sin of humankind.

Two interesting things to note in this narrative. **First**, we see that **the text does not mention the plural sins, but the singular sin**, with the sense that the entire guilt of humanity was collected into one and placed upon Jesus. The **sacrifice of this Lamb of God** (Jesus Christ) has all the capacity to forgive every sin and cleanse every sinner.

The **Second point** is regarding the significance of the term **“Lamb of God”**. The phrase **“Lamb of God”** is connected with the **Paschal or Passover Lamb**, whose blood saved the Israelites from death and paved the way for their liberation - freedom from Egypt. For us

Christians, Jesus is the **Paschal Lamb** whose blood shed as an atonement for sin on the Cross was not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Application to Life: The readings of today have common themes of “**being chosen and called for service and the universality of this call.**” Isn’t it strange that God calls us to reach out to others even when we ourselves are in difficulty, but precisely so, because we all share in the redeeming Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is easy for us to become overly concerned with our own struggles for survival. We develop an inward-looking mentality that tends to focus just on me, my family and my people often at the cost of others. Perhaps the real challenge for us as disciples is to accept our own vulnerability – frailty yet by our faithfulness we strive to find ways to be a source of comfort and consolation but most of all to be like John the Baptist to point out to others, loudly by our lives of witness, “**Behold the Lamb of God!**” The challenge as disciples is not to restrict ourselves based on religion, language, region or culture in relation to others, rather to strive to see all human beings as sons and daughters of God who deserve our prayers, attention and compassion. It may mean standing with those who are hurting and working towards overcoming the chains of injustice and prejudice that enslave them.

Just as the Israelites in exile were **called to be a light to the nations.** God continues to call each one of us as His disciples **to be a light to all people.** We are called to build a society where we all have less judgmental attitude, more forgiveness and greater concern to assist one another. Where regardless of our own trials and tribulations, we seek to serve one another and give a listening ear and provide “**a shoulder to cry on to**” to all whom we share **the Word of God** and lead them to Jesus Christ!

St. Rita Respect Life Ministry

Parishioners are invited to participate in **our St. Rita Respect Life Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary Prayers on Friday, January 23rd.** The Mass will start at 6:30pm followed by Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm – 7:30pm in reparation for all the sins of abortion - the unborn Children, abuse of children and euthanasia.

Rosary for Life will be prayed during the time of the Adoration. Come let us pray that all abortions cease in our State and Nation. **That All Life**, from the moment of conception to natural death may be upheld! **Come and join us** in prayers of reparations. “**If my people, called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

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