

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
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HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER
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NAME _____

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STREET

CITY

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PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 24 5:00 p.m.	Mass	January 25, 2026
Sunday, January 25	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)	Look toward the Lord
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	and be radiant!
Monday, January 26	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Tuesday, January 27	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Wednesday, January 28	..... 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer	
	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open	
Thursday, January 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>	
Friday, January 30	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Saturday, January 31	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church	
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Zep:2:3; 3:12-13: "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth." said Zephaniah the prophet. Do

what is right. "Seek justice." Those who take refuge in the Lord shall pasture their flocks.

1 Cor:1:26-31: The weak of the world are chosen by God. "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.

Mt:5:1-12a: Jesus upset the standards of worldly justice in this charter of the heavenly reign: It belongs not to the rich but to the poor in the spirit, not to the powerful but to the lowly, not to warmongers but to peacemakers.

January 28: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor—Memorial

Given Saint Thomas Aquinas' impact on the development of Church doctrine and our understanding of the faith, he is regarded as the greatest intellectual in Church history. He is a Doctor of the Church and holds the titles Angelic Doctor, Common Doctor, and Universal Doctor.

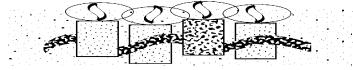
Thomas was born in a grand castle in central Italy near the town of Aquino. He began his studies at the age of five at the famous Benedictine Monastery, Monte Cassino, where his uncle was abbot. At age fourteen, he moved to the University of Naples where he came into contact with members of the Dominican order. Five years later, he would greatly disappoint his family by choosing the Dominicans over the Benedictines, who held a place of honor within Europe's feudal system.

In 1252, at the age of twenty-six, Brother Thomas received the title "Master in Theology" from the pope. For the next twenty-two years, he wrote books, sermons, commentaries on Scripture, and even composed some of our Church's most beautiful hymns, including *Pange Lingua*. He continued as a teacher, preacher, and papal theologian in Paris, Naples, Orvieto, and Rome.

Among his many works, Saint Thomas is best known for the *Summa Theologica*, or "Summary of Theology," which he never completed. After experiencing a vision while celebrating Mass one day, he told his scribe, Brother Reginald, that he could no longer write. When Brother Reginald asked him why, he responded, "Reginald, I cannot, because all that I have written seems like straw to me." Brother Thomas died the next year after a series of illnesses. Despite his brilliance, Saint Thomas was also humble and sincere. A story told by one early biographer relates that as Brother Thomas was praying one morning before the crucifix, he anxiously implored the Lord as to whether or not his writings were correct. Jesus spoke to him saying, "You have written well of Me, Thomas, what shall be your reward?" Thomas replied, "Nothing but You, Lord."

Saint Thomas, you listened to God's voice, pondered all that He revealed, and used your gifts to share these truths with the Church. Please pray for me, that I may open my mind to the many truths that God wants to speak to me so that the Truth Himself will become the center of my mission in life. Saint Thomas, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

*In a land overshadowed by death
a great light has arisen*



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND BLACK

INDIAN MISSIONS: Today's special collection is for the Church in Latin America and the Black and Indian Missions. Our support will go to help fund programs such as evangelization and catechesis for these missions.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: In today's Gospel, Jesus calls the fishermen to drop their nets and follow him to a new life. In your marriage, are you holding onto "nets"—old habits or busy routines—that keep you from fully following the call to love your spouse? Drop your nets and discover a new way to connect. ***The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is a non-residential weekend, April 24-26, on Oahu.*** Couples return home each evening, making it perfect for those with children needs. Two other weekend experiences are scheduled in Hawaii this year. To apply or for more information, visit www.hawaiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (8-8) 276-5721. Space is limited.

WORD OF LIFE: "Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion" <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion> USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Priorities at the Polls"

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 25 Sun: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa:8:23-9:3; Ps:27; 1 Cor:1:10-13, 17; Mt:4:12-23

Jan 26 Mon: Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

2 Tm:1:1-8; Ps:96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk:3:22-30

Jan 27 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

2 Sm:6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps: 24: 7, 8, 9, 10; Mk:3:31-35

Jan 28 Wed: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

2 Sm:7:4-17; Ps:89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30; Mk:4:1-20

Jan 29 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

2 Sm: 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps:132:1- 2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14;

Mk:4:21-25

Jan 30 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

2 Sm:11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps:51: 3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11; Mk:4:26-34

Jan 31 Sat: Saint John Bosco, Priest

2 Sm:12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps:51:1 2-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mk:4:35-41

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's gospel we hear Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. Following Jesus was a difficult journey for these first disciples. It is difficult for us today. Jesus wants to teach us his way of thinking, acting and encountering the world. But it is not easy for us to embrace his teaching. Good stewards of Jesus' teachings realize they are on a spiritual journey, and must learn from their experiences of being open or resistant to the gospel. They realize the need to be liberated from those actions that keep them from enjoying a closer friendship with Jesus. What is it in our lives that we need to reform? What keeps us from revealing God's glory to others? International Catholic Stewardship Council

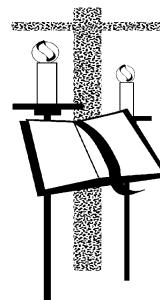
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 7, 141.00
Candles	80.00
Mass Intentions	120.00
Outreach	70.00
Total	\$ 7, 411.10

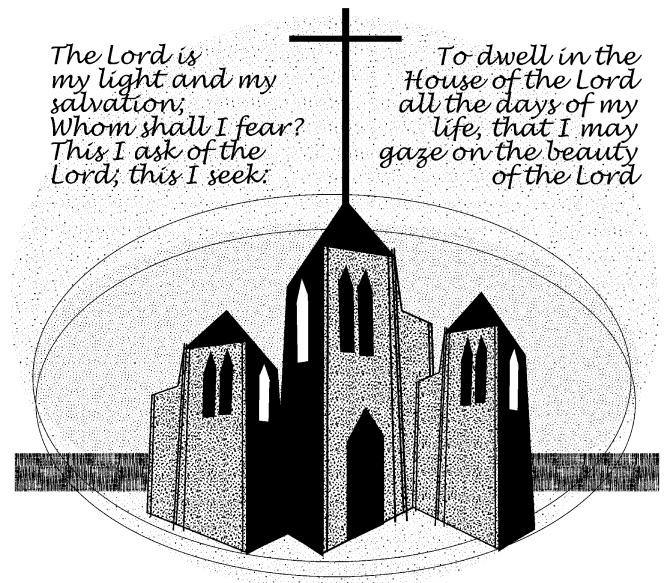
RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 965.00
Repair & Maintenance	80.00
Church in Latin America	10.00
Total	\$ 1, 055.00

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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Whom shall I fear?
This I ask of the Lord; this I seek.



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Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhupā – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nu’ia

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3 Background Context: When, after its long journey through the desert, the people of **Israel (the twelve tribes - the sons of Jacob)** reached the Promised Land. There, Joshua, the leader who succeeded Moses distributed the land among the twelve tribes and the northern most part went to the tribes of **Zebulun and Naphtali**. This was a beautiful and fertile land, but they were exposed to the attacks of the enemies across the border.

Prophet Isaiah (**son of Amoz- Isaiah 1:1**), addressed the people of **Israel (the twelve tribes-sons of Jacob)** at the time when they faced fear, political instability, and powerful foreign invasion from the north.

Tragically the northern regions of **Zebulun** and **Naphtali** were among the first to suffer invasion by the Assyrian empire in **733 BC**. These lands experienced humiliation, loss, and despair. It is into this painful reality that prophet Isaiah announced God’s promise.

Prophet Isaiah did not deny the sufferings of the people, instead, he named them honestly, “**the yoke that burden them, the pole on their shoulder and the rod of the master.**” Yet the message quickly turned toward hope. The prophet declared that the same land once covered in darkness “**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...**” (**Isaiah 9:2**). This light is not just physical brightness but a sign of God’s saving presence returning to His people. Isaiah announced joy like in abundant harvest time or having obtained spoils after a military victory.

Application to Life: These are moments of freedom, celebration and restored dignity attained by the people who suffered humiliation and oppression. To them God promised to break **the yoke** that burdened them, “**the pole**” and “**the rod**” over the people. These were symbols of oppression, fear, anguish and grave injustice. **Their liberation is described as God’s action alone**, reminding Israel that liberation- salvation from such bondage comes **not through their own human power** but through God’s divine mercy.

These passages speak deeply to our own life’s experiences of darkness, moments of uncertainty, fear, or spiritual dryness-emptiness. The “**yoke that burdens**” may be struggles of caring for our elderly and sickly parents or relatives or even our own illness, the oppressive tugs or chain of addictions to drugs, anger or sexual promiscuity.

“**The pole on our shoulders**” may be liken to being trapped in life’s situations we cannot seem to break out from and “**the rod of the master**” may be “**the beatings we experience**” such as in abusive relationships, gloomy darkness of hatred and the evil habits that we may be attached to, such as in spiritual laziness, being complacent and lacking in concern for eternal life.

Tragically like the people of Isaiah’s time – the Israelites, we often look for quick solutions or in human security, which we know deep within that they cannot attain any lasting freedom or solutions.

Just as prophet Isaiah spoke to the Israelites of old, **God’s Word**, spoken by Isaiah and in every proclamation of the **Word of God** still speaks to us today with great potency if we but open our heart’s ears to hear and do what God commands us! That **true Light** comes from God that can truly heal. That **God alone** can overcome our anguish and dispel the darkness and gloom that overshadow our lives.

We Christians see this promise fulfilled in **Jesus Christ**, who with **His Light** dispelled darkness, addictions, grief, and bondage of sin. When Jesus was raised on the Cross and died for us, He freed us from the bondage to sin.

At the heart of all our misery, gloom and darkness is **sin**. Though the world may offer everything except this truth, about **sin**. Jesus recognized the freedom we need from sin and thus Jesus began His public ministry first with the statement “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**” (**Matthew 4:17**).

By **Jesus’ power**, demons were cast out, dumb spoke, deaf came to hear, the sick were healed. They are not fairy tales, but reality that still happens. The demons that cling to us...dumbness of our spirit, deafness to truth, and illness more than of our physical bodies...the illness of our souls in sin. They can all be healed and begin to be whole...if we **first turn away from sin and repent!**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Penance is “**the second rebirth**” as the saints have often stated. Prophet Isaiah’s words spoken on behalf of God invites us to trust that God is at work even when life feels heavy, burdensome and unclear. That we are to surrender our own human solutions to God’s solution, taught by Jesus Christ. Where there is darkness today, Jesus still promises light, joy, and freedom.

New Testament:1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Background Context: In the second reading taken from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul addressed a serious problem in the early Christian Church in the City of Corinth, the division among them. The Corinthians

were arguing among themselves and forming groups based on which preacher they preferred, **Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter), or even claiming to belong only to Christ.** These divisions were damaging the unity of the Church and distracting believers from the heart of the Gospel.

Paul began with a strong appeal for unity. **“I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (1 Corinthians 1: 10).** Paul urged the Church in Corinth to be **“be united in the same mind and the same purpose.” (1 Corinthians 1:10).** This does not mean that everyone must think exactly alike, but that they must be united in faith and love.

For Paul, division among believers is a contradiction of what it means to belong to Jesus Christ. Paul asked pointed questions: **“Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 10: 12-13).**

These questions reminded the Corinthian Christians that their **faith is centered on Jesus Christ alone**, not on persuasive human leaders. Paul then clarifies his own role, **“for Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 10:14).** He This is not a rejection of baptism, but a reminder that the power of faith come from Jesus Christ and not from rituals alone or personalities of the persons.

Salvation came through the message of the Cross. Paul insisted that the Gospel must not depend on human wisdom, eloquence, or status, because that would empty the Cross of its meaning (true power).

Application to Life: This passage challenges us to examine our own attitudes toward the Church. We too can become divided by preferences, opinions, or loyalty to certain leaders or groups. Often our attractions to certain figures in the Church may come from personalities and even from our own mindset influenced by our preconceived notions. Paul reminds us that unity is not built on personalities or our personal preferences but on truth of Jesus Christ crucified. When we focus more on who is better than on loving and forgiveness of one another, we weaken our witness as Christians.

This reading calls us back to unity and deeper trust born out of our humility in the saving power of the Cross, which alone can bring true life and peace. Let us humbly reexamine our lives and see where we find ourselves treating our precious faith not as Jesus taught but as it fits our lifestyles.

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23 Background Context: Many of us may have experienced this when someone suggested a new way of doing a familiar task. Our first reaction is

resistance or distraction. Most of us are often comfortable with “**the old way**”. Often there is a fear of uncertainty or attachment to control or retain comfort, and we end up stating “**This is how we have always done it, why change?**”

We are not against improvement; we are simply comfortable where we are. Familiar routines make us feel safe, even when they might limit us. In the gospel taken from Matthew, Jesus began His public ministry after hearing that John the Baptist has been arrested. Instead of withdrawing in fear or sorrow at the loss of his cousin, Jesus moved forward trusting God.

Jesus went to Galilee, area looked down upon by leaders of Israel as mostly gentiles. Matthew reminds us that this fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy: “**the people who lived in darkness have seen a great light.**” Jesus brought God’s Light not to the powerful centers like in Jerusalem but to those living on the margins, “**the region of Zebulun and Naphtali...beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles...**” (**Matthew 4: 15**).

Jesus’ first message is simple yet challenging: “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near**” (**Matthew 5:17**). Repentance here means a change of direction, turning away from old ways - sin and opening one’s life to God. Only then Jesus called his first disciples. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, who were ordinary fishermen.

Application to Life: Jesus forced no one, He invited them, “**Come after me, and I will make you fishermen of men**” (**Matthew 4: 18**). Jesus sought human cooperation, but He did not impose His power. Jesus’ call is gentle, but it is radical for following Jesus required letting go, of security, comfort, and often even relationships or dreams that define us.

Jesus’ call is costly, but it opens the door to a greater good than anything we can imagined. The men were fishing for survival, Jesus called them to fish for men - people, to actively participate in God’s work of bringing life, hope, and salvation. His call is no different in our lives. Jesus then traveled throughout Galilee teaching, preaching, and healing. His ministry revealed a God who did not stay distant but walked among people, touched wounds and restored dignity.

We find that the fishermen were comfortable with their routine, casting nets, mending boats, and knowing what each day would bring. We too are often comfortable in our set routines of life and into this comfort Jesus’ calls to follow Him. Thus, not when we say, “**I am ready**” but often in our inconvenient time the call may come.

Just as when Jesus invited them to follow Him and offered something new and unfamiliar, it is no different when He calls us. Their decision to follow Jesus required courage; leaving

what was familiar for something uncertain, trusting that God's vision was greater than their own. It is also no different for each one of us if we are to respond to His call.

Gospel challenges us to ask, what are the "**nets**" we cling to? Lifestyle set in comfort? Fear of drastic change, to leave behind sinful routine? Or control? God does not force us, but God invites us into something bigger than ourselves. When we dare to trust God, we may lose what feels safe, what may be pleasurable and acceptable by the world, but we will always discover a deeper purpose, one that no other human being or the world can give. When Jesus Christ passes "**our shores – our life**". He does not force us, Jesus simply invites us, may we have the courage to leave "**the nets and what is not of God**" behind and follow the **Light – Jesus Christ** who desires to give us greater joy than what the world can give!

St. Rita Respect Life Ministry: Mahalo Nui Loa to all who took part in our Parish Respect Life Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Novena Rosay for Life! Let us continue to pray for Life, from the moment of conception to natural death.

Coming February 11th : World Day of the Sick.

Late pope St. John Paul II instituted **World Day of the Sick** back in 1992 and designated the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – February 11th** for the occasion to celebrate World Day of the Sick. **St. Rita Respect Life** will have Nine Day Novena starting February 3rd – February 11th 30 minutes before every mass.

On the **Feast Day, Wednesday, February 11th - 6:30pm Healing Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Anointing of the Sick.** All parishioners are invited, especially those who are ill, physically, emotionally or spiritually for the healing mass and the Anointing of the Sick. **Those who cannot be present** do place the **Prayer Intention** available below. **Print the name of the Sick person clearly cut** drop the sheet in the collection basket. **All names will be placed in the "Prayer Bowl" in the front by the sanctuary!** Have a blessed week in the Lord!

fr paulo fm cap

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World Day of Prayer for the Sick Novena Prayers - Wednesday, February 3rd - 11th

Clearly Print Name(s) below and return the sheet: (Drop it into collection basket)