

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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(WK.) _____

ADDRESS _____

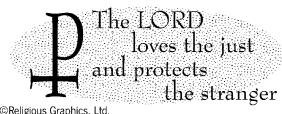
STREET

CITY

STATE/ZIP

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, January 31 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday	Save us, O Lord our God!
Sunday, February 1	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday	
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream), Aloha Sunday	
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday	
Monday, February 2	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Tuesday, February 3	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Wednesday, February 4	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open	
Thursday, February 05	..... 7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer	
Friday, February 06	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service	
	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	First Friday Mass	
	9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m	First Friday Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday, February 07	..... 8:00 a.m.	First Saturday Mass	
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church	
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isa:58:7-10: Isaiah prophesied: *Share bread with the hungry. Shelter the homeless. Clothe the naked. Do not turn away from our own. "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn."*

1 Cor:2:1-5: Paul's teaching did not come from himself but from the convincing power of the Spirit. So the faith he passed on rests "not on human wisdom but on the power of God."

Mt:5:13-16: Jesus called his disciples the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." He cautioned them not to let the salt lose its flavor and not to put a over on the light but to let it shine. "Your light most shine before others... and glorify your heavenly Father."

February 2: Presentation of the Lord—Feast

As faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph performed two ritual acts that the law prescribed after the birth of the firstborn son—Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' dedication. The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce Mary's Immaculate Heart. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the ritual acts in the Temple, Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

We are invited to participate in Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption. Each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven, yet we are invited to do so in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to God's will that opened the door of God's grace to us all. By allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts by grace, we spiritually become Jesus' "mother." With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

In presenting Jesus in the Temple, Saint Joseph also redeems us by presenting to the Father all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law. In that offering, our souls are purified and offered to Your Father. May my soul always radiate Your light from within me. Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION:

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC

EDUCATION IN HAWAII - There are nearly 6,000 students in Hawaii catholic Schools. Become our partner in Catholic education, support the Augustine Educational Foundation's Tuition Scholarship Program on February 7th & 8th. Money raised in this collection will go to support our parish and vicariate families with tuition assistance for the upcoming school year. You may visit the Augustine Educational Foundation online to make a gift or include your check in our parish's offertory. Join the Augustine Educational Foundation's campaign **Make a Student Smile - Give the Gift of Catholic Education** by making a gift! Mahalo!

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Jesus teaches the Beatitudes today, reminding us that "Blessed are the peacemakers. "Peace in a marriage isn't just the absence of conflict; it is the presence of understanding and empathy. Learn the tools to become a peacemaker in your own home. **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is a non-residential**

weekend, April 24-26, on Oahu. This format allows you to experience the weekend during the day and sleep in the comfort of our own home at night. 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 (808) 276-5721. Space is limited.

WORD OF LIFE: "A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned." **Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021 © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.**

WEEKLY READINGS

Feb 01 Sun: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zep:2:3; 3:12-13; Ps:146; 1 Cor:1:26-31 Mt:5:1-12a

Feb 02 Mon: The Presentation of the Lord

Mal:3:1-4; Ps:24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hb:2:14-18; Lk:2:22-40

Feb 03 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

2 Sm:18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Ps:86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk:5:21-43

Feb 04 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

2 Sm:24:2, 9-17; Ps:32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk:6:1-6

Feb 05 Thur: Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

1 Kgs:2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr:29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk:6:7-13

Feb 06 Fri: Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Sir:47:2-11; Ps:18: 31, 47 & 50, 51; Mk:6:14-29

Feb 07 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

1 Kgs:3:4-13; Ps:119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk:6:30-34

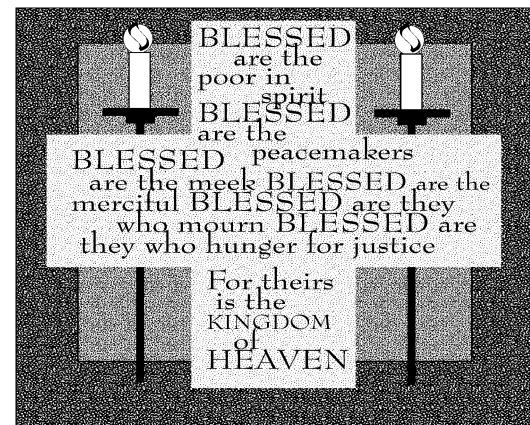
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 4, 288.55
Candles	57.00
Outreach	455.00
Total	\$ 4, 800.55

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 1, 870.00
Latin America/Black & Indian Mission	135.00
Total	\$ 2, 005.00

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Event Schedule:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
5pm - 6:20pm: Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet
6:30pm - 7:30pm: Installation of the First Class of St. Faustina
Main celebrant: Bishop Larry Silva
Homily: Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC
7:30pm - 7:45pm: Veneration of the First Class Relic
7:45pm - 9:00pm: Dinner and fellowship

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
7am - 7:30am: Morning Mass celebrated by Fr. Kaz
8am - 9am: Confession to follow with Fr. Kaz
9am - 9:45am: Talk by Fr. Kaz - "The Eucharist and Divine Mercy"
10:15am - 11am: Talk by Fr. Kaz - "Divine Mercy and the Sacred Heart"
11:15am - 11:45am: Witness Talk | Confession to follow with Fr. Kaz
3:30pm: Closing
6pm - 7pm: Vigil Mass celebrated by Fr. Kaz

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
10am - 11am: Mass celebrated by Fr. Kaz
12pm - 1pm: Mass celebrated by Fr. Kaz
1:30pm: Talk by Fr. Kaz - "St. Faustina - Future Doctor of the Church"

CONTACT: Lumi Fernandez (808) 782-1854 Rose Aceret (808) 256-0725 mikmikbolog@gmail.com

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

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 Background Context: Our 1st reading is taken from prophet Zephaniah who lived during the reign of King Josiah of Judah, (c. 640 – 609 B.C.), a time when the people had drifted away from God. Although there were religious reforms that King Josiah strove to bring about, yet many hearts were still filled with pride, injustice and false worship.

Prophet Zephaniah warned of the coming “**the day of the Lord’s anger**” (Zephaniah 3: 12), a time of judgment, but he also spoke words of hope for those who sincerely sought renewal and returned to God, “**the remnant of Israel, they shall do no wrong and speak no lies...**” (Zephaniah 3:12).

In the first part of the reading the prophet Zephaniah urgently called the people to “**seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth,**” words which we will again hear in the gospel narrative of the Beatitudes.

Application to Life: The invitation to seek the Lord, “...**humble of the earth,**” showed that God’s desire is not to destroy, but to save. To “**seek the Lord**” meant more than performing outward religious duties, it meant to turn our hearts away from sin and toward God with sincerity and trust. To “**seek justice**” called us to choose what is right, “**do no wrong and speak no lies.**” (Zephaniah 3:13).

To “**seek humility**” reminds us that we depend completely on God and not on our strength or status. God’s judgment is real, but God’s compassion remains open to those who repent. In the latter part of the reading the tone of prophet Zephaniah turns from warning to promise, “**shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.**” (Zephaniah 3: 13).

God spoke of “**a humble of the earth, who will be the remnant of the people**” who would trust in God alone and not in wealth or human power. These people do not lie or act unjustly. They live in peace and free from fear because God Himself protects them.

When we strive to live our Christian discipleship no matter how insignificant we may think we still bear witness to the world, for we become **the remnant** of the earth. This **remnant - we represent a renewed people** shaped not by power or pride but by faithfulness and truth. In our anxious world where conflict flares from internal strife and upheaval as in

China, to Russian aggression and evil in Ukraine, the unrest in our nation fueled by good intent yet in conflict with overzealous enforcement. Some are caught up in anguish and common sense thrown out. The nation and the world marked by conflict and wars by men and women of power and money who ceaselessly manipulate. Yet God still invites us to come with our humbled hearts to surrender our ways and to place our trust in His ways!

May our words and actions be truthful and just. Let us choose humility and trust in God, for doing so we become part of **the remnant – the people** in whom God delights and to whom God gives peace.

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Background Context: In the 2nd reading taken from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds the Christian disciples in Corinth to look honestly at themselves and remember how God called them. He reminded them that many of them were not wise by human standards. Rather God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise. God turned the world's standard upside down and this was not an accident.

Paul wants them to understand that God's way of choosing is very different from the world's way. The world values success, intelligence, strength, and status. People often measure their worth by achievements, titles, or recognition.

But God looks at the heart. God choose what the world call "**weak, foolish and lowly**" to reveal His power and wisdom. By doing this, God showed that salvation is not something we earn by our own human abilities, it is a gift of grace from God.

Paul further states that in Christ Jesus, God has become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. This meant that everything we truly need comes from Christ Jesus, not from ourselves. We need to trust God and remain united with Christ.

Application to Life: This message is both comforting and challenging. It comforts us because it tells us that our weaknesses do not disqualify us from God's love or God's plan. Even when we feel ordinary, inadequate or unnoticed, God can work powerfully through us. All the same time, it challenges us to let go of our pride for everything we have is a gift from God.

Our joy and our confidence should come not from who we are in human status or what we have done but from who God is and what God has done for us. This passage invites us to humility, gratitude and trust in God's ways. If we are to boast, we must boast in the Lord who has done all good things for us!

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12 Background Context: A young woman once spent a Sunday afternoon volunteering at a home for the aged. She helped serve meals, listened to stories that were repeated many times, and sat quietly with an elderly woman who had no visitors. When she left, she was tired and had missed time with her friends at the coffee shop. In reality nothing extraordinary happened. No one applauded her, and there was no reward or certificate. Yet as she walked home, she felt a deep sense of peace and fulfillment.

For the few hours that she had spent there she received something she could not measure, a feeling that life had meaning. This is the kind of fulfillment Jesus speaks about in the **Beatitudes** in the gospel according to Matthew.

It is not excitement or success as the world understands it. It is the quiet joy of knowing that we have loved, served and made time for others. In the **Beatitudes**, Jesus completely changes our idea of what it means to live **a blessed** and true successful life. Jesus went up the mountain and taught His disciples and the crowd. But instead of giving them laws, Jesus gives “**attitudes - orientation of our hearts for life; the Beatitudes**”.

The Greek word “**Makarios**” which translates as “**blessed**” does not mean “**holy**” and neither does it mean “**happy**” in the sense of being in a good mood. Rather it refers to a fortunate state of life. Jesus is saying that those who are poor in spirit are fortunate. “**Blessed**” is honorific language, it can be translated as “**how honorable**”, or “**how full of honor**.”

Jesus called **blessed** the **poor in spirit**, the **meek**, those who **mourn**, the **merciful**, the **pure of heart**, and those who work for **peace**. According to the world these people look weak or unsuccessful. Yet Jesus says they are **truly blessed** because God lives in them.

Application to Life: The rewards Jesus promised, God’s kingdom, comfort and fullness of life are not mainly for this world. They point to the life to come. So, an important question arises; if the rewards are for the next life, what about life now?

The **Beatitudes** answer this clearly. They show us who a Christian is here and now. They describe the way a disciple of Jesus lives in everyday situations. A Christian is someone who trusts God rather than power and wealth, shows mercy rather than revenge, is pure of heart, seeks peace rather than conflict, and remains faithful even in suffering and trial.

The **Beatitudes** are not rules to earn heaven. They are signs of a heart that already belongs to God. When we live these “**attitudes- orientation of our hearts**”, we become witnesses

to God's kingdom in the present world. Our lives quietly proclaim that God's values are different from the world's values.

Do choices we make daily reflect the **Beatitudes**? Are we shaped more by human success, status and comfort or by humility, compassion and justice, the values of God's kingdom? Jesus reminded us that the Christian life may not look impressive in the eyes of the world, for it turns the very value of the world upside down, but it is deeply meaningful, for it is life lived in the values of the kingdom of God.

In living the **Beatitudes**, we begin to experience God's kingdom now, while journeying toward its fullness in the eternal life. This week let us try to live just one **Beatitude** consciously, intentionally and trustingly that God is already at work in us.

Month of February Eucharistic Adoration

Our monthly Eucharistic Adoration, **First Friday, February 6th** . 8:00am Mass followed by **Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00am – 7:00pm**. (Closing with Benediction at 7:00pm).

Jesus Christ is our Good Physician why not spend an hour or even half an hour (30 min) in His presence...away from our hectic and busy life. To simply be present in faith. **“Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart.” (Matthew 11: 28-30).**

St. Rita Respect Life Ministry News: Novena Prayers for **World Day of the Sick** starts (Tuesday, February 3rd – February 11th). On the Feast Day, February 11th with 6:30pm – Healing Mass & Anointing and 7:30pm - Eucharist Adoration. Please drop your **World Day of Prayer** slip with the printed names of the sick into the collection basket. **World Day of the Prayer** slips are still available at the front of the church. Let us pray for the sick, lifting them all in our prayers.

Donations Received by St. Rita Parish Food Pantry: **Mahalo Nui Loa** to the Parishioners of **Resurrection of the Lord, Waikiki - Fr. Peter Miti** and to the **Parishioners of Holy Trinity, Kuli'ou'ou - Fr. Michel Dalton OFM Cap** for their generous donations of can goods and other food bank donations. Both parishes have continuously donated to our parish Pantry Ministry. We also extend our Mahalo Nui Loa to the **Secular Order of Franciscan Fraternity of St. Mother Marianne Cope (\$125.)** and **St. Clare – Korean Fraternity (\$200.00)** for their thoughtful monetary donations to St. Rita Parish Pantry-Food Bank Ministry in January 2026! Our **St. Rita Parish Food Pantry** has been blessed also by our own parishioners who have continuously donated canned goods and monetary donations!

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

Fr. paulo ofm cap