

# 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	808-672-5437
O. C. I. A.	Don Gerry	860-908-5954
Youth Minister:	Ivan Okuda	808-3086261
Knights of Columbus:	Bill Kozak	609-381-1193
Outreach Coordinator:	Carlin Ujimori-Kaeo	808-668-7833
Outreach/Facsimile/Prayer-line		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  
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**PARISH CALENDAR**

Fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026

Bow low before the Lord  
who made us!

Saturday, February 7	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 8	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass ( <i>Live Stream</i> )
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 9	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, February 10	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy Committee Meeting - Kamiano Trailer</b>
Wednesday, February 11	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m	Communion Service
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	<b>Food Pantry Open</b>
	..... <b>.6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Healing Mass</b>
		<b>Eucharist Adoration - Anointing of the Sick</b>
Thursday, February 12	..... 8:00 a.m	Communion Service
Friday, February 13	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m	Mass
Saturday, February 14	..... 8:00 a.m	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

**NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:**

**Sir:15:15-20:** Immense is the Lord’s wisdom. The Lord God sees every created thing and understands every human deed. Human beings have life and death before them, and they receive whichever they choose.

**1 Cor:2:6-10:** Paul wrote that real wisdom is God’s: hidden, mysterious, planned and prepared from the very beginning for the glory of those who love the Lord.”

**Mt:5:17-37:** Jesus said he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He described such fulfillment as a matter not of legal argumentation but of holiness, reconciliation and the obedience of faith.



HAWAII  
Catholic Ministries  
*Annual Appeal*

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Aloha parishioners of **St. Rita Catholic Church.**

I want to inform you that starting on the weekend of **February 21 & 22**, our parish of St. Rita will be participating in the **Annual 2026-2027 - Hawai'i Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal fundraiser of the Diocese of Honolulu.**

All 65 parishes in the Diocese of Honolulu are mandated to participate.

Designated **Hawaii Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal envelopes** will be passed out on the weekend mentioned above. We ask you to reflect prayerfully ahead and consider your support to assist the parish St. Rita to meet its annual goal of **\$13,843.00.** Mahalo and God bless you all!

**Fr. Paulo ofm cap.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: MAKE A STUDENT SMILE - GIVE THE GIFT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Our Catholic schools provide a quality education to students from all ethnic, religious, and financial backgrounds. The Augustine Educational Foundation provides tuition scholarships to students with financial need in our schools. 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. Please take a moment today and help make a difference in a student's life. **MAHALO!**

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** You are the salt of earth. . . You are the light of the world." Don't let the light of your love be hidden under the bushel basket of work, chores and daily stress. A Marriage Encounter weekend helps you let your light shine before your family and community. **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is a non-residential weekend, April 24-26, on Oahu.** Couples go home at the end of each day, offering flexibility for parents. Two other weekend experiences are scheduled in Hawaii this year. To apply or for more information, visit [www.hawaiiwwme.org](http://www.hawaiiwwme.org) or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (808) 276-5721. Space is limited.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together." **USCCB, Married Love and the Gift of Life**

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Feb 08 Sun: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Is:58:7-10; Ps:112; 1 Cor:2:1-5; Mt:5:13-16*

**Feb 09 Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Kgs:8:1-7, 9-13; Ps:132:6-7, 8-10; Mk:6:53-56*

**Feb 10 Tue: Saint Scholastica, Virgin**

*1 Kgs:8:22-23, 27-30; Ps:84: 3, 4, 5, & 10, 11; Mk:7:1-13*

**Feb 11 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Kgs:10:1-10; Ps:37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk:7:14-23*

**Feb 12 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Kgs:11:4-13; Ps:106:3-4, 35-36, 37 & 40; Mk:7:24-30*

**Feb 13 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Kgs:11:29-32; 12:19; Ps:81: 10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15;*

*Mk:7:31-37*

**Feb 14 Sat: Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop**

*1 Kgs:12:26-32, 1333-34; Ps:106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22;*

*Mk:8:1-10*

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*In this weekend's readings and psalm, the prevailing theme is that of light: We are the light of the world; our light breaks forth like the dawn; our light shines in the darkness; our light reflects generosity and justice. Good stewards know they are the lamp, and Christ is the flame that, through them, illuminates the earth. They know that they carry Christ's light in their hearts, and let it shine through their words and deeds. What are we doing to shine Christ's light on the light on the hungry, the homeless and others most in need of God's mercy? How do we exercise good stewardship over the light of Christ that burns within each of us? **International Catholic Stewardship Council***

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2, 677.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>70.00</b>
<b>Mass Intention</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>Prayers for the Sick</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2, 847.00</b>

### **RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS**

<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 609.00</b>
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>230.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 839.00</b>

### **ON-LINE GIVING (JANUARY)**

#### **Operation Funds Collection:**

<b>General Collection</b>	<b>\$ 3, 995.00</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>1, 040.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5, 035.00</b>

#### **Restricted Collection:**

<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 2, 605.00</b>
<b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>445.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3, 050.00</b>

### MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

*You prepare a table for me, O Lord*



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not on human wisdom  
but on the power  
of GOD

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A February 8, 2026

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

### **Scripture Reflections**

Old Testament: Isaiah 58: 7-10

Background Context: The Israelites returned to their homeland in 538BC after many years of Babylonian exile. They experienced deep joy despite the daunting struggles that lay ahead to rebuild their beloved Jerusalem and its Temple. Led by devout civil and religious leaders, they entered a period of spiritual fervor, rejoicing in their renewed faithfulness to the Lord.

But tragically not long after they fell into complacency and their religious fervor waned. Spiritual collapse and corruption crept in, and with it came the oppression of the poor and the weak among them. In this gradual deterioration affected their worship in their newly rebuilt Temple, their worship became an empty ritual act in the sight of God.

Prophet Isaiah rebuked the religious leaders and the people that their Temple worship of God and their oppression of the poor and the weak were incompatible. He reminded them that there is only one path that leads to God’s heart in worship, and it is mercy and justice for the poor and the weak among them.

**God was to be found not in ceremonial worship but in acts of their genuine concern and deeds.**

“Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and homeless, clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own” (Isaiah 58:7).

**This defined true fasting and prayer as concrete acts of mercy. That each action, feeding, sheltering, and clothing echoed their covenant law and traditions. (Deuteronomy 15, Leviticus 19).**

Application to Life: Prophet Isaiah’s words spoken on behalf of God “Share your bread” implied personal sacrifice, not simply surplus charity. Also, by his statement, “on your own” which emphasized the kinship and solidarity we have with the poor and the weak. They are not outsiders, but members of the same covenantal family.

Living in Hawai’i many of us encounter the poor and the weak of our society. They can be found not only at homeless encampments but at street corners and parking lots. Of course, some are drug addicts or with mental illness that need professional assistance, more than we can provide with our money we may share. But also among them are genuine brothers and sisters who are struggling.

It can become moral conundrum – difficult problem in many circumstances. But one thing is sure, instead of harboring disdainful or attitudes of detachment, we can lift up a compassionate heart within us, instead of judgmental look, a silent prayer that when opportunity comes to assist, we do so as we can.

Our Christian religion is defined in relational and embodied, that is rather than neatly spiritual ritualistic and ceremonial acts, it involves our personal physical concern and acts for others in

**need – Corporal Works of Mercy.** “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such save him?” James 2:14.

**It is interesting to note “conditional or consequential promises” of divine blessings. This is indicated by adjective “then” before three important statements of divine blessings.**

**First, Isaiah stated** “then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly, be healed...” **Second, Isaiah stated** “then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and God will say here I am.” **Third,** “then, the light shall rise before you in the darkness...”

**These verses introduced conditional or consequential divine promises; ethical – a just obedience to God that leads to amazing divine blessings.**

**Light symbolized restoration, divine favor, and renewed identity while healing suggested both personal and communal repair. Most of all when we shall call, God answers and in our cry for help God responds “here I am.”**

**Thus like the Israelites who were called to act justly and mercifully before any formal ritual and worship. That light, God’s presence will be made within our hearts, always we shall become a light to those around us. We shall be the light of the world in the measure in which we live discipleship of mercy, compassion, forgiveness just as we live justly.**

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

Background Context: **The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Christians in Corinth. Paul asserts that he did not come to the Corinthians with lofty words but with the simple powerful message of Jesus Christ crucified.**

**The learned and clever people among the Greeks liked to discuss for hours on various topics, always in a refined language. Paul told his Corinthian Christians that when he came to preach the Gospel to them, he had made use of simple and clear language, and that the topics of the sermons had been always the same, Jesus Christ.**

**“When I came to you brothers and sisters proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.” Paul deliberately distances himself from rhetorical showmanship. “Sublimity of words” evoked public oratory meant to impress.**

**But the “Mystery of God” referred to salvific plan now revealed in Jesus Christ, not secret philosophy accessible only to elites and the powerful.**

Application to Life: **How often we encounter moments when it seems that our words are inadequate, or we feel unable to respond to others who may challenge or question us on our Catholic Christian faith and what they mean? Paul reminds us that we do not need eloquence or fancy persuasive words to explain our faith.**

**Paul reminds simply that we need to know our faith by living the central truth, live our faith centered on Jesus Christ who died on the cross to save us and rose.**

Like Paul's preaching which was marked by simplicity, not ignorance, to keep the focus on God's revelation, we too need simply first know the basic truths of faith. Do we take time during our busy week to spend a little time to read about our Catholic Faith?

To open the bible or reflect on the Scripture readings of the Sunday? Let us learn more of what we hold as central to our faith...baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Holy Mass? Our Blessed Mother and saints.

Just as Paul recalled his own human fragility, possibly his own limited physical health, we too realize that we are in so many ways fragile human beings yet like Paul, not simply excuse ourselves.

When Paul stated, "I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling" he echoed Old Testament prophetic humility before God. Yet this weakness is not a failure that is God works through what is humanly inadequate to show that it is God who is truly at work.

Our efforts though frail by human standard, yet by our faithfulness we make a great difference.

"My message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and power..." Paul had announced about Jesus Christ to the people of Corinth stressing a particular point Jesus had died on the cross to save us all.

To those in the world who pursue pleasure, power and wealth, Jesus' death on the cross would be utter foolishness, but in our discipleship to faithfully embrace Jesus Christ and His teachings – Gospel, in God's sight it meant wisdom and love of the highest order.

Thus, the cross of Jesus Christ we embrace though fragile and weak we are, become for everyone who we encounter it is the clear sign that God loves us. It becomes like a torch held high, showing the way to God. As disciples we ought to raise the cross high through striving to live a genuine Christian life, helping non-Christians to discover Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Background Context: Salt in the ancient world was essential for preservation, flavoring and sometimes purification. You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?" Jesus addresses the disciples directly.

In ancient Israel, cities were often built on hills and were visible landmarks especially in the northern regions. These images of salt and light would have been immediately intelligible to Jesus' listeners. Salt is essential to preserve, and light symbolizes divine presence, revelation, and life (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

Application to Life: Similarly, just as the salt preserved, the disciples must resist moral and spiritual decay. Salt also gives flavor and similarly as disciples we are to give meaning and direction to human life.

"Losing taste" refers not to chemical changes but to salt mixed with impurity, destroying the quality-saltiness a common occurrence when sand mixed into salt.

As Christian and disciple of Jesus Christ, we ought to make our own life tasty – salty, that is meaningful and helpful to those around seeking to live the true meaning in their lives.

If our lives are without living faith it is like food without any taste – no flavor or lacking salt and mixed with worthless elements. If our lives have no taste – no flavor, then we have no meaning and purpose and Jesus warned; “but if salt loses its taste, it is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Jesus’ warning is stark, to such life of a so-called Christian discipleship that lost its distinctive character – belonging to Jesus Christ, it becomes useless, to the point of being cast out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Light in biblical tradition signified God’s revelation and His saving presence. In Isaiah, Israel is called to be “a light to the nations” here, Jesus transferred this call - vocation to each of His disciples, to us who having been baptized have laid claimed to be heirs to God’s kingdom.

Jesus went on further to make an obvious point, “Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket...” A lamp is meant to illuminate – to shine the light, not to be concealed. Why must the light not be hidden? Because the light must reveal our deeds – lives, lived with good deeds that glorify God.

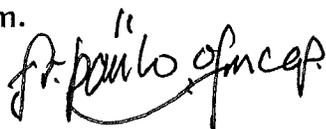
The mentioning of setting the light on a lampstand suggests purposeful placement. That we Christians are “placed on lampstands” - with the sole purpose to lead others to God. The household imagery underscores the ordinary witness we must bear in the midst of our own ohana-siblings and relatives, our kindred.

Our discipleship is not about self-display but functional and intentional visibility, no need to be extraordinary but on every ordinary day be the light that exists to serve others, especially where we count the most, at home, in the domestic church among our own ohana - siblings.

What light does in nature, that is what a Christian, we are called to do in life; our faith in Jesus Christ ought to turn our daily life into a shining light.

As the lamp we best help those around to discover truth and to walk toward God. What an amazing call we have received in our baptism.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!



Mahalo Nui Loa to all who spend an hour this past First Friday, at our Monthly Eucharistic Adoration in prayer. God bless you as we lift one another and the parish in our prayers!

LOOKING AHEAD: World Day of the Sick, Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. 6:30pm Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Anointing of the Sick.

LENT 2026 begins on ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00am and 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Masses.

Parish Stations of the Cross prayed every Lent Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm