

# 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

Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2026

Lead me, guide me  
for the sake of your name, Lord!

Saturday, February 14	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 15	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 16	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
		<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday, February 17	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, February 18	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<b>Mass - Ash Wednesday</b>
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	<b>Food Pantry Open</b>
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Mass - Ash Wednesday</b>
Thursday, February 19	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, February 20	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Station of the Cross - Religious Education</b>
Saturday, February 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent



### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Gen:2:7-9; 3:1-7:** *The Lord God created Adam and Eve and set them in the garden of Eden. They had all they needed, but the serpent tempted them, and they disobeyed God's command.*

**Rm:5:12-19:** *Just as through Adam's disobedience all became sinners, through Christ's obedience all shall become just.*

**Mt:4:1-11:** *After Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the desert, the devil tempted him in three ways. Through all these, Jesus resisted temptation and remained faithful to the Lord God. When the devil left, angels came and ministered to Jesus.*

### Diocese of Honolulu 2026 Lenten Regulations

#### FASTING:

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To fast means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on days of fasting.

#### ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT:

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#### EASTER DUTY:

All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Trinity Sunday (May 31, 2026)

#### LENTEN PRACTICES:

The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,  
and what has not entered the human heart,  
what God has prepared for those who love him.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION:

### MAKE A STUDENT SMILE - GIVE THE GIFT OF

CATHOLIC EDUCATION - Mahalo nui loa to our parish and parishioners from the Augustine Educational Foundation for your generous and continued support of the **Make a Student Smile – Give the Gift of Catholic Education Campaign** 2026 Second Collection. Your support makes a difference in hundreds of students' lives. **MAHALO!**

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** On this Valentine's weekend, the Gospel challenges us to seek reconciliation and not let anger simmer. Jesus says, "Go first and be reconciled with your brother." How much more does this apply to your spouse? Give your marriage the best Valentine's gift possible – the gift of your time and attention. **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is a non-residential weekend, April 24-26, on Oahu.** Rediscover your romance without the stress of overnight travel. 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:** "We often assume parenthood happens easily after "I do," but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility. . . If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with your. . . . God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple." *USCCB, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Seven Considerations While navigating Infertility"* [www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility](http://www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility)

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Feb 15 Sun: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Feb 16 Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

Jas:1:1-11; Ps:119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk:8:11-13

**Feb 17 Tue: Ordinary Weekday**

Jas:1:12-18; Ps:94: 12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk:8:14-21

**Feb 18 Wed: Ash Weekday**

Jl:2:12-18; Ps:51: 2 Cor:5:20-6:2; Mt:6:1-6, 16-18

**Feb 19 Thur: Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

Dt:30:15-20; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk:9:22-25

**Feb 20 Fri: Friday after Ash Wednesday**

Is:58:1-9a; Ps:51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt:9:14-15

**Feb 21 Sat: Saturday After Ash Wednesday**

Is:58:9b-14; Ps:86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk:5:27-32

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*In today's Gospel, part of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does not speak of replacing the law of the Old Testament. He goes beyond it. He obliges his followers to work at being holier than even the strictest of pharisees. But the work is not accomplished by following a religious "law," it requires growing in love for other human beings. Followers of Jesus know they are required to be good stewards of others. In what way will you exercise good stewardship over other people this week?*  
**International Catholic Stewardship Council**

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 3, 590.00</b>
<b>Blessings</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3, 695.00</b>

### RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 840.00</b>
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 860.00</b>

### MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you.

If you trust in God, you too shall live.

He has set before you

fire and water

to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.

Before man are

life and death,

good and evil,

whichever he chooses shall be given to him.

from the  
Book of Sirach



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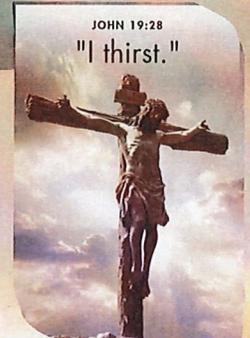
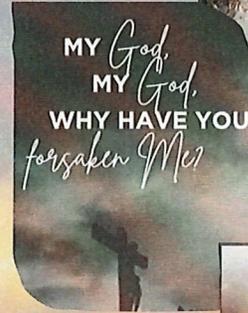
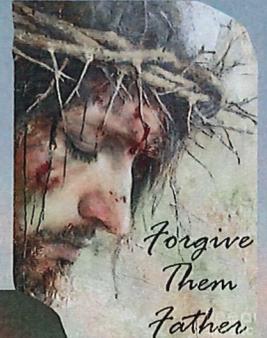
Alissa F. Jose  
Assistant Office  
Manager

Email: [josea@mvfcu.coop](mailto:josea@mvfcu.coop)

# Journey to Calvary with Jesus

## Lenten Recollection

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16*



**St. Rita Catholic Church**  
**Nanakuli, Hawaii**

**Saturday, March 14, 2026**  
**9:00 am - 12:30 pm**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I (We) plan to attend this Lenten Recollection on Saturday, March 14, 2026. (Please sign your name below and lunch count.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Count \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A February 15, 2026

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

**Hawai’i Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal 2026 - 2027** will commence next Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. St. Rita Parish will be part of the 65 parishes in the Diocese of Honolulu to take part in this Diocesan Annual Appeal.

We encourage all parishioners to pray and reflect on your participation in this Annual Diocesan Appeal. **Hawai’i Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal Envelopes** will be passed out next Sunday. Please kokua to help St. Rita Parish reach the Annual Appeal goal of \$13,843.00.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18<sup>th</sup>** the Masses will be at **8:00am and 7:00pm**.

**LENT STATIONS of the CROSS** will be prayed every Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm. Come and participate in prayer and reflections on the path our Lord took for our salvation.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

**Old Testament: Sirach 15:15-20**

**Background Context:** Our first reading is taken from the **Book of Sirach** also known as **Ecclesiasticus**, it was written in Hebrew around **180BC** by a Jewish teacher named **Joshua Ben Eleazar**.

His grandson translated it into Greek, in Alexandria, Egypt in **132BC** so that his fellow Jews, who lived in Egypt and had forgotten their native language (**Hebrew**) could read the Greek text and learn wisdom to help them live according to the **Mosaic Law**. The author lived at the time when many Jews living outside Palestine were influenced by foreign cultures and were tempted to forget or abandon God’s laws.

**Sirach** speaks clearly about human freedom and responsibility. God placed before us **two paths**: life and death, good and evil. We are free to choose either. God does not force us to obey nor does God lead us into sin.

The images of **fire** and **water** help us understand this truth. **Fire** can destroy while **water** can give life. Both are within reach and what we stretch out our hands to take depends on us. In the same way, our words, actions, and decisions can either build life or cause harm.

**Application to Life:** This passage of Sirach reminds us that our choices have lasting consequences, and we have the **freedom – free will** to choose between life or death, good or evil. Unlike any other creatures on earth, we are made in the image of God, “**God**

**created them in His own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27).**

As the image of God, we have received the **gift of freedom - free will** and because of it God will not force us to be loyal and obedient. For if we had not **free - will**, we should be like the animals of the field who can neither honor nor dishonor God. From **“the dumb beast”** God does not expect nor much less demand obedience.

**Sirach** recognized this amazing gift of human beings, **gift of freedom - free will** and thus stated boldly, **“if you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you.” (Sirach 15:15).** God who knows everything we do – God is omniscience; therefore, nothing is hidden from God. Yet this is not meant to frighten us, but to guide us, for God watches over us with love and ceaselessly invites us to choose what is right, just and life giving.

In our daily lives we constantly make choices, how we speak, how we forgive, how we treat others, and how we respond to difficulties. We can choose patience instead of anger, honesty instead of lies, compassion instead of a judgmental mind set, and love instead of hatred, all these acts we make, we are choosing life instead of death.

Perhaps we can understand why the author of Sirach translated the original book written in Hebrew into Greek. It was the concern he had that Jews living far away from their homeland, no longer speaking Hebrew but Greek, and growing up without **“the protective Jewish culture”** may drift away or worse abandon their Jewish faith and cultural practices that anchored them as the people of God by the Covenant.

This human sentiment is no different today than over 2,500 years ago, how often parents worry about their sons and daughters who are leaving their home – the nest where they grew up and head on to college, or jobs especially if it meant far away in the mainland.

Often the best that they can hope for is that their sons and daughters have internalized many of the good values they have been taught and remember their dignity as baptized Christians and live the gospel values even as they find themselves far away from their ohana and Christian environment.

Several parents have shared and expressed to me, how they fear their children though now adults being far away may get trapped in alcohol binges, drugs and promiscuous sexual licentiousness in the secularized world that they now are living in.

**The book of Sirach** reminded the Jews of old and to us that faith is not just about knowing God’s law but about living it, that is to internalize it. For doing so would make us choose to

strive and recall our baptisms, and the words, good examples of the parents, relatives and friends who taught and gave good guidance and examples.

Then no matter where they may be living, far or near, they would wisely build character, honor God, and inspire others. God places life and good before us each day. May we have the wisdom and courage to choose life and good, reject evil and death!

### **New Testament: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10**

**Background Context:** Today's second reading is continuation of last Sunday's in which Paul impressed on his converts in Corinth that Christian faith they had received were not through any oratorical gifts of Paul nor by any earthly wisdom or philosophy, but by the grace and power of God.

Here Paul speaks about **two kinds of wisdom**, the **wisdom of this age**, and the **wisdom of God- mysterious hidden**. We see that the wisdom of God transcends the human understanding.

The **wisdom of this age-world's wisdom** though it may be admired by rulers and leaders, Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth and us that this kind of wisdom does not last. It passes away with time. For the **wisdom of this age** – the rulers are based on power, status and human success and these rulers of this age are passing away.

Paul then spoke of **God's wisdom**, which is very different. **God's wisdom is mysterious and hidden**, not because God wants to keep it secret, but because it cannot be understood by human intelligence – wisdom of this age alone.

It is revealed to only those who are obedient to God, for Paul stated this **“wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age.” (1 Corinthians 2: 6)**. This wisdom was part of God's plan from the beginning, long before the world existed. Paul pointed out that the rulers who condemned Jesus did not understand this wisdom. If they had, they would not have crucified the **“Lord of glory.”**

**Application to Life:** This showed how human understanding often fails to see God's ways. What looks like weakness or failure in God's plan is actually the path to fuller life and salvation. It reminds us that God's plans are far greater than anything we can imagine. God prepares blessings beyond human understanding for those who obey - love God.

Let us recall the amazing words of Paul when we find that striving for faithfulness becomes difficult, **“What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not**

**entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2: 9).**

These are not only words of future rewards in heaven but also the deep peace and hope, God gives us now, being assured that we have a deep purpose and meaning in this life we live. This passage invites us to trust God even when we do not fully understand God’s ways. Paul invites us to daily seek a deeper union – relationship with God.

In moments of confusion, suffering or uncertainty, we may face and often feel lost and beaten. Paul reminds us that God is at work beyond what we can see through the Holy Spirit, God revealed His love and truth to our hearts by the life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is God who predetermined before the ages for our glory who we are, in the hidden wisdom and mystery.

Strive to remain faithful to God in prayer and humility, strive to we to understand life **not with worldly wisdom** but **with God’s wisdom** which leads to deeper and true life.

#### **Gospel: Matthew: 5:17-37**

**Story:** A country dentist once looked at his patient and asked, “**do you brush your teeth every day?**” The patient replied, “**yes doc, twice a day.**” “**Good**” said the dentist. “**Do you brush only the front teeth or also the inside?**” The patient hesitated looked at him and said, “**Mostly the front, those are the ones the people see.**”

The dentist grin and said, “**that’s the problem. The real damage has happened on the inside.**” This simple conversation may help us understand today’s Gospel from Matthew.

**Background Context:** Jesus told us that he has not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He is not removing the Ten Commandments; He is taking us deeper. Just like brushing only the outside of the teeth is not enough, following God’s Law only on the outside is not enough Jesus challenges us to go beyond the practice of the Pharisees and the Scribes.

**Application to Life:** We too can be like the Pharisee and Scribe who followed the law – the commandments, perfectly, every time and in every detail. Like them also many times, we too can focus only on what people could see. Jesus commanded us to go further, to clean the inside of our hearts.

In this gospel from Matthew, Jesus clearly teachers us to look at the **three areas** of our life; **how** we treat others, **how** we guard our hearts and **how** we live with integrity.

**First** Jesus speaks about relationships, “**whoever breaks the one of the least and teaches others to do so...will be called least...but whoever obeys and teaches these**

**commandments will be called greatest...**” That Jesus made it clear that unless our righteousness surpasses that of scribes and the Pharisees, we cannot enter heaven.

Jesus followed with the statement **“You shall not kill”** and immediately speaks about anger, harsh cursive words – **“raqa”** and broken relationships. Anger and resentment can destroy ourselves and others.

Tragically we hear adults, politicians, movie stars, sports athletes and even parents use foul and cursive words as though they are commonly spoken language. Worst the name of Jesus and God are injected into such conversation with no regard for the sacredness.

More importantly Jesus taught that necessity of forgiveness and reconciliation are so important that prayers and worship cannot be acceptable before God if we harbor anger and hatred to another. We cannot claim to love God and refuse to forgive brother or sister. **Second**, Jesus speaks about purity of heart. When Jesus speaks about adultery, He made it clear that sin of adultery does not begin with the actions only but begins first within our thoughts and hearts. Jesus’ extreme statement, **“if your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out...if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off...it is better to lose one of your members than to have the whole body cast into Gehenna.” (Matthew 5:29).**

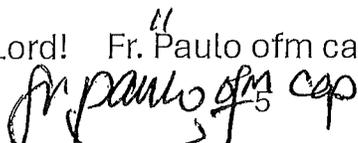
These words used as metaphors even as they sound extreme and excessive, yet Jesus made such extreme statements so to shake us up and to awaken us from our moral complacency to sin or remain in sin and if we persist in sin we may fall into Gehenna - hell.

**Finally**, Jesus speaks about integrity. On divorce, Jesus reminds us that marriage is sacred and not meant to be broken, when things become difficult. Love demands faithfulness and commitment. Jesus invites us to practice modesty of the eyes and purity of heart respecting others not as objects but as persons and this applies to media, phone, our styles – our dress and our social habits. Jesus also speaks about oaths; the point is that a truthful person does not need to swear, a simple **“yes”** or **“no”** should be enough.

Truthful life speaks louder than words. We often get lost in rules and forget the spirit behind them. A simple question perhaps could be a great guide for us. We can ask, **“does this affect my relationship with God, with others, or with myself in destructive manner?”** If it does, then it is sin. Jesus invites us to clean-purify not only the outside – our external behavior but inside too, our thoughts and hearts.

To live with life, in honesty, in forgiveness and in integrity. As we come to the altar today let us ask one honest question, **“what inside of me – my heart needs cleaning - purifying?”**

Have a blessed week in the Lord! Fr. Paulo ofm cap.



## DIOCESE of HONOLULU 2026 LENTEN REGULATIONS

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- To **take part in public and private exercises of piety**, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor.
- To **practice voluntary self-denial**, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intention of the Holy Father.

**St. Rita Parish** will have the **Stations of the Cross** prayed every Fridays of the Lent at **7:00pm**. Do make it a point this year 2026 to take the spiritual opportunity to participate in this venerable Catholic tradition to honor our **Lord Jesus Christ**. Let us walk in spirit beside Him in His sorrowful path that led to His death on the Cross for our salvation.