

St. Rita Catholic Church

**89-318 Farrington Hwy.
Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792**

**Parish Office: (808) 668-7833
Website: <http://www.stritananakuli.org>**

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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
 HAVE A NEW ADDRESS NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

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Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

“I will give you a new Spirit,”
says the Lord.

PARISH CALENDAR

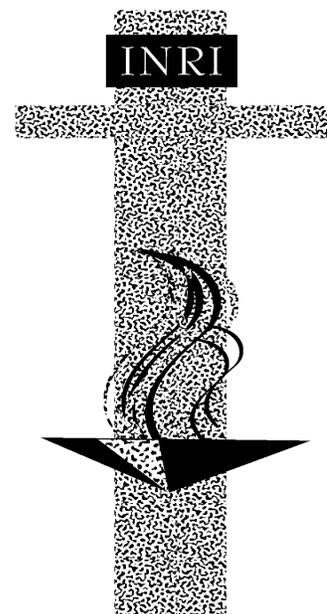
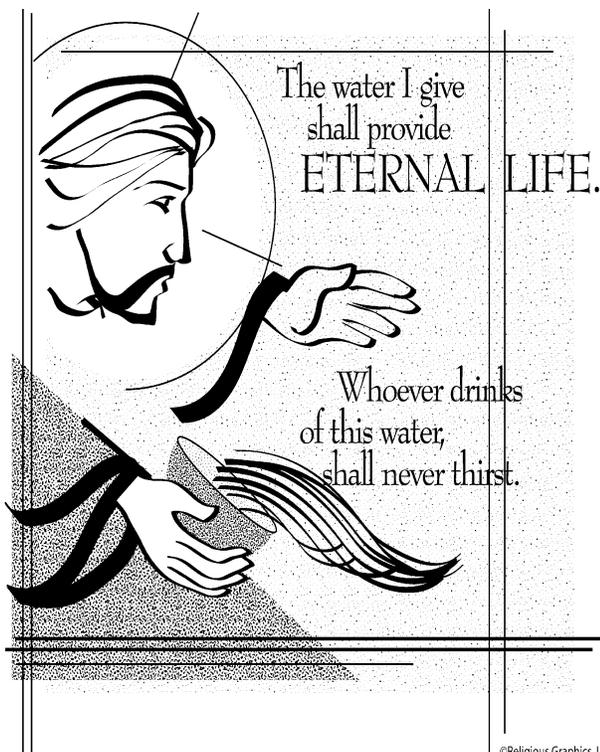
Saturday, March 7	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 8	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 9	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, March 10	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Reconciliation Service
Wednesday, March 11	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>
Friday, March 13	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Station of the Cross - Eucharistic Minister
Saturday, March 14	9:00 a.m- 12:30 p.m.	Lenten Day of Recollection
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Sm:16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a: *The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where Samuel was to anoint the new king of Israel. After Jesse presented each of his sons, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint the youngest David.*

Ep:5:8-14: *Live as children of light in goodness, justice, and truth. “Awake, O sleeper,/and arise from the dead./and Christ will give you light.”*

Jn:9:1-41: *Jesus cured a man born blind. The Pharisees became upset because he did this on the sabbath. After the Pharisees rejected the man’s story, he met Jesus again Jesus, “Son of Man, “explained how the blind will see, but those who hold on to sin will remain in darkness.*



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRS RICE BOWL: NOURISHING FUTURES IN

GUATEMALA: In Guatemala, nutrition classes and savings programs give mothers and families better opportunities to improve their health, nutrition and financial well-being. Visit www.csricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Jesus asks the woman at the well for a drink, but then offers her "living water" so she will never thirst again. In marriage, we often look to our spouses to satisfy thirsts that only God can fill, or we stop "watering" our relationship. Come drink from the well of better communication and deeper and intimacy. **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is a non-residential weekend, April 24-26, on Oahu.** Two other weekend experiences are scheduled in Hawaii this year. To apply or for more information, visit www.hawaiiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (808) 276-5721. Space is limited.

WORD OF LIFE: "We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the "culture of death" and the "culture of life. We find ourselves not only "faced with" but necessarily" in the midst of this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life" (*The Gospel of Life 28*)

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 08 Sun: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Ex:17:3-7; Ps:95; Rm:5:1-2, 5-8; Jn:4:5-42

Mar 09 Mon: Lenten Weekday

2 Kgs:5:1-15ab; Ps:42:2, 3; 43: 3, 4; Lk:4:24-30

Mar 10 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Dn:3:25, 34-43; Ps:25: 4-5ab, 6 & 4bx, 8-9; Mt:18:21-35

Mar 11 Wed: Lenten Weekday

Dt:4:1, 5-9; Ps:147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt:5:17-19

Mar 12 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Jer:7;23-28; Ps:95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk:11:14-23

Mar 13 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Hos:14:2-10; Ps:81: 6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17;

Mk:12:28-34

Mar 14 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Hos:6:1-6; Ps:51: 3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk:18:9-14

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jesus' longest-recorded conversation with anyone is the one he has with the Samaritan woman at the well. She discovers she can be honest with Jesus and goes and tells others about him. She gives witness. She's not the most certain, thorough or even convincing witness. But her witness is enough. It is inviting, humble, non-judgmental and sincere. What is the quality of our witness? How do our words and actions give daily testimony on behalf of Christ? During this season of Lent, how might we do a better job at proclaiming the risen Lord in word and deed?
International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 566.00
Blessings	50.00
Candles	65.00
Mass Intentions	195.00
Outreach	45.00
Total	\$ 3, 921.60

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 620.00
Repairs & Maintenance	80.00
Operation Rice Bowl	50.00
Total	\$ 750.00

ON-LINE GIVING (FEBRUARY)

Operation Funds Collection:

General Collection	\$ 4, 739.00
Outreach	1, 325.00
Total	\$ 6, 064.00

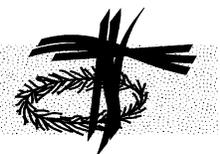
Restricted Collection:

Building Fund	\$ 4, 342.50
Repair & Maintenance	740.00
Total	\$ 5, 082.50

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



Lord,
by your cross
you have saved
the world



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3rd Sunday of Lent A March 8, 2026

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

We call forth our **Elect** to their **First Scrutiny: Alexia Kahalekai, Angela Sibiezki, Peyton Dean, Royal Dean, Zerek Dean – Verdadero, Shanda Lee Rabacal, Ohelia Lynn and Jay Soto.**

First Scrutiny: This 1st Scrutiny is Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) celebrated beginning on the 3rd Sunday of Lent.

What is the purpose of the Scrutiny? Scrutiny Rite **focuses on spiritual conversion and self-examination** by the **Elect** who are now preparing for the Easter Sacraments on Easter Vigil, Saturday, 8:00pm April 4, 2026.

This 3rd Sunday of Lent, the Gospel featured the **Samaritan Woman** at Jacob’s Well, **emphasizing conversion of life and Jesus as the source of living water and healing.** The **Elect**, will be called forth by the **Parish of St. Rita** total of 3 times (**3 Scrutiny**) as we near the Solemn Feast of Easter to a life of conversion and to leave their past lives – sin so that the **Sanctifying Graces** given by the **Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Communion)** may truly be received and be effective in their lives and not simply as an external acts.

Scrutiny is the spiritual journey to uncover and heal what is weak or sinful in the hearts of the **Elect** and strengthen their resolve to follow Jesus Christ ever more faithfully.

The Rite: Special prayers of **intercession and exorcism** (liberation from sin). It is to purify and spiritually prepare for the Easter Vigil.

ST. RITA PARSIH LENTEN CONFESSIONS – TUESDAY, MARCH 10th at 7:00pm.

Eight priests - Confessors from our Leeward Vicariate will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take the grace time of **Lent** to reconcile with God, others and self by the **Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confessions.** Celebrate the Solemn Feast of Easter with a heart made pure by the Sanctifying Grace God bestows through the Sacrament.

ST. RITA FRIDAY STATIONS of the CROSS will be prayed, Friday, 14th at 7:00pm

ST. RITA PARISH LENTEN RECOLLECTION - SATURDAY, MARCH 14th 9:00am – 12:30pm

Take the opportunity to “**come away and spent a little time with the Lord.**”

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Exodus 17:3-7

Background Context: The whole of Old Testament is a story of God's love for humanity and humanity's continuous rejection of it. This rejection becomes especially shocking throughout the history of the people of Israel whom God had chosen to be His own "**God designated Israel as holy, chosen people, set apart as His peculiarly His own**" (Deuteronomy 7:6).

Through the series of wonders God had set the Israelites free from the slavery of Pharaoh, helped them cross the Red Sea dry-shod, and provided them with the manna when the food ran short in the long journey through the arid and barren Sinai Desert.

After such conclusive proofs of God's love, the least that anyone would have expected from the Israelites would have been that they should have grown to trust God, but when **water - wai** became scarce at Rephidim, the arid and barren desert became a place of testing not only of physical endurance but of faith and trust in God.

They grumbled against Moses threatening his very life and boldly even questioning God's concern and accusing God "**is the Lord in our midst or not?**" (Exodus 17:7). **Moses had even cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me?"** (Deuteronomy 7:4).

Application to Life: At first glance we who live in Nanakuli – Waianae may feel compelled to empathize with the Israelites who are out in the arid and barren desert with the little possibility of finding any source of **water – wai** to quench their thirst.

It is easy to judge the Israelites for their panic and their constant grumbling, yet we must admit we too have stood at the same place. Though we may condemn the Israelites of old for their total lack of trust and faith in God, truly there were many moments in our own lives when we had grumbled against God, against His presence or lack of in feeling abandoned in times of our sufferings.

Like the Israelites we had often forgotten God's past faithfulness to us when we are overwhelmed by our present difficulties. When our prayers seemed unanswered, when we become dry and find it difficult our trust weakens and we easily fall into sin.

Yet the most striking part of the passage is not the Israelites' failure-grumbling, but rather God's responses. God did not punish the Israelites for their grumbling, instead God

commanded Moses to strike the rock and the water flowed abundantly to slake their thirst.

It is amazing too how God's response was one of calm and directive, contrasting with human panic (Israelites'). God did not punish the Israelites for their grumbling, instead God assured Moses, **"I will stand there in front of the rock at Horeb" (Exodus 17:6).**

This verse is theologically (religiously) crucial, God had placed Himself at the site of the miracle and **the rock, the symbol of bareness**, became the source of life. This miraculous event revealed God who is faithful, patient, compassionate and merciful, God who meets us, who is ever present before us even in our doubt, frustrations and failures.

The **core question** of the passage, **"Is the Lord in our midst or not?" (Exodus 17: 7)**, is not a mere doubt it is a crisis of trust by the Israelites. Israel tested God despite repeated signs of God's faithfulness. We too have many times failed to trust God despite the many signs of God's love and faithfulness we had experienced.

As we journey through **Lent** let us recognize our own spiritual thirst. We thirst for peace, healing, meaning and hope. **Lent** encourages us to move from grumbling to faith, from accusation to surrender, trusting that **"Lord is truly in our midst"** in all our life's struggles on our pilgrim journey, yes even in our arid and barren deserts.

Lent is a graceful time to root out the lingering temptations of looking back to what we have left behind - the sins of the past. Like the Israelites when we face the crucible – trials, we are often tempted to **"look back at our Egypt."**

Lent is the time to uproot them through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. **Lent** is a time of gratefully accepting God's love and mercy, the condition God puts to save us!

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Background Context: In today's passage **Paul** reminded the Christians of Rome of an amazing proof that God declared the believer – faithful are made righteous; not based on any works but faith. **(Hebrews 2:4, Galatians 2:16)**. This is most of all because of God's enduring love for us through Jesus Christ His Son.

Application to Life: **Paul** assures us that through faith in Jesus Christ, we have peace with God. This faith is not based or built on our strong human resolve, but rather on God's astounding love for us, demonstrated through Jesus Christ, who died while we were still sinners. We are truly reminded that we are not alone in our struggles; God's love exceeds all our fears and failures.

The peace **Paul** speaks about is not simply the absence of conflict but rather; it denotes a restored relationship and reconciliation. We are not to assume that peace means no struggle or conflict. Rather we face them through the power of Jesus Christ crucified and rose victoriously! It is an assurance that God is on our side even when life is difficult. That is why **Paul** highlighted our relational intimacy; we the faithful - believers now have and stand secure in God's favor in Jesus Christ.

Yet **Paul** acknowledged the painful truth that life includes suffering. But more importantly sufferings do not have the final word. For God's love has been poured into our hearts. Even in our hardship we are reminded that God is present within us and give strength, hope and endurance.

Countless times in my ministry to the homebound or in the hospital visits I have been edified by men and women of all ages, who in their illness showed the power of Christ crucified witnessed in their lives, despite their sufferings.

They bear in their bodies weighted with the burden of illness, yet their faith and hope in promise of Jesus Christ brightly shine like a lit candle and their life faithfully lived bears transformative power of God working within them.

And hope they hold onto do not disappoint them because God's love has been poured into their hearts in the **Name of Jesus Christ**, through the power of the **Holy Spirit** at the **Sacrament of Anointing** bear witness. God's gift of Hope I witness were not uncertain optimism of the world, but confident expectation rooted in God's faithfulness and love poured into their hearts.

The transformation in their lives though unseen to the eyes of the world without faith can be witnessed in them. How comforting and assuring are the words spoken by **Paul**, "**God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us**" (**Romans 5: 8**). While we were powerless or still sinners, God in His immeasurable mercy and love, independent of our human merits, initiated the salvation for each one of us in Jesus Christ.

The only way to respond to Jesus' enduring love is to live for Him. **Lent** is the time to start doing so in earnest.

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Background Context: There is something interesting about us human beings, we all long to be fully known and loved, but at the same time we fear being rejected. We all want someone to understand us fully, but we do not want to be judged.

The Gospel story about the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well; it is about how God meets our human brokenness with mercy.

Application to Life: **Jesus** chose to pass through Samaria, a region avoided by the Jews and this is traced to the long historical animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans.

But went where others refused to go, for **Jesus** sought those who were ignored, marginalized, misunderstood or written off. The Samaritan woman came to the well in the midday alone carrying her water jar to draw water.

The Samaritan woman though carried a simple water jar was carrying much more, she carried the heavy burden of failures, shame and even being ostracized by her own community.

This is revealed by the fact that she traveled alone to the well, for it was customary that women of that time never traveled alone. Most of all to come to the well at midday, the worst time to be outdoors in the desert regions of Samaria. Everyone tried to do their work outdoors early in the day or late to avoid the scorching afternoon sun.

There at the well she encountered **Jesus** who sat at the well alone and meeting her **Jesus** asked; **“give me a drink.”** The Samaritan woman is surprised at such a request for Jews and Samaritans had nothing to do with each other, they were not only historically at odds with each other but even attacked each other, thus Jews avoiding Samaria which was located between Galilee in the north to Jerusalem in the south.

Yet **Jesus'** request for a drink, and doing so **Jesus** initiates a conversation with her, disarming her fear by needing her assistance. Once **His** request is heard **Jesus** offers a drink that quenches all thirst, a **“living water. – wai ola”**

Amazingly once **Jesus** enters the conversation and speaking of a **“living water – wai ola”**, **He** addresses her deepest thirst not her physical one alone. This deep thirst is the human thirst for dignity, meaning, love and acceptance. Like the Samaritan woman we often try to satisfy this deep thirst with things or persons that never truly lasts.

The turning point of the encounter comes when **Jesus** revealed to the Samaritan woman who **He** is and that **He** knows everything she has done. **Jesus** does not discover her past; **Jesus** already knew it. Yet **Jesus** still spoke to her, still listen and still offered her **“living water – wai ola”**

What might have been the source of shame became the foundation of the Samaritan woman's witness to others.

That is why **Jesus** earlier had told her **“Go call your husband and come back”** and upon her truthful answer **“I do not have a husband”** Jesus affirmed her honesty, **“you are right in saying you do not have a husband, you had five husbands and the one you have now is not your husband.”**

For the Samaritan woman who is fully known does not lead to rejection but to freedom, for we witness her words later stating to others, **“come and see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he be the Christ?”**

We are reminded that God’s knowledge of our failures and sins do not push God away from us, rather they draw God closer in mercy. Countless times we would encounter Jesus seeking the lost – sinners in the gospels. **(Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:4-7, Luke 15:8-10).**

The encounter of the Samaritan woman with **Jesus** also leaves something profound about worship and faith. **Jesus** told her that true worship is not about place or ritual alone, but it is about worshipping in spirit and truth. God desires our honest hearts, not perfect ones but sincere hearts.

One of the greatest Gift **Jesus** has given to the Church, His apostles and to us is the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession, right after His resurrection. **“Jesus breath on them and said, “receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven them...” (John 20: 22-23).**

No wonder may early Church Fathers, state that **“Sacrament of Confession is like the second baptism.” (Shepherd of Hermas & Origen).**

This **Lent** let us ask ourselves, do **“I worship in spirit and in truth?”** Accepting the mercy of Jesus to acknowledge my sins and confess them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? To pray sincerely to overcome my sin, not rationalizing that **“everyone is doing it, or the society accepts them.”** but rather echo the voice of Jesus, **“if you love Me keep My Commandments”** and to seek to see as God sees us and not as man sees? **(1 Samuel 16:7).**

Like the Samaritan woman, we are sent forth no longer burden with sin, but to be living as witness to the **“living water – wai ola”** that fully satisfies.

On **Ash Wednesday**, prophet Joel spoke out, **“Even now says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart...Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord your God.” (Joel 2: 12).**

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

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