



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
 HAVE A NEW ADDRESS NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

NAME _____ PHONE(HM) _____ (WK.) _____

ADDRESS _____
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March 22, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

From His holy temple,
the Lord has heard my voice!

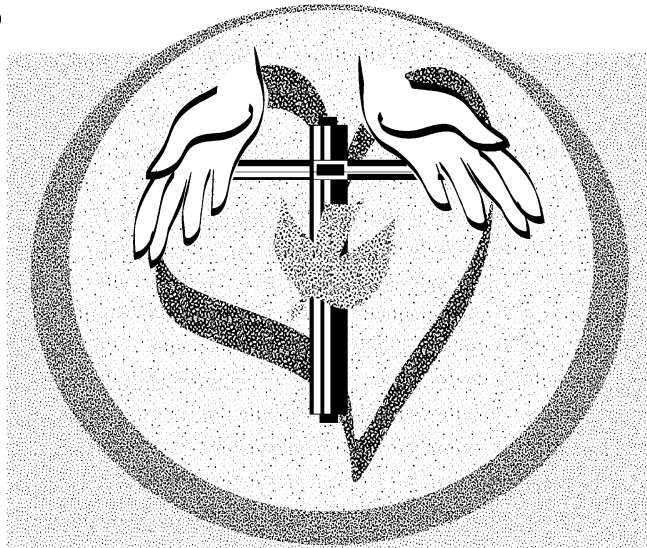
Saturday, March 21	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, March 22	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, March 23	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Tuesday, March 24	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, March 25	..... 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 26	..... 8:00 a.m	<i>Communion Service</i>
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - KUHIO DAY HOLIDAY
Friday, March 27	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Station of the Cross - R. E. -Faith Formation
Saturday, March 28	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:50:4-7: *The servant of the Lord god was rebuffed but did not turn back; he was beaten and spat upon. The sufferings one knew the Lord God was with him.*

Phil:2:8-9: *Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

Mt:26:14:27:66: *The passion and death of Jesus includes accounts of his betrayal, trial, condemnation, suffering, crucifixion, and burial.*



If the SPIRIT of GOD
who raised JESUS from the dead
dwells in you, GOD will give life
to your mortal body also,
through his SPIRIT dwelling in you



HAWAII
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Annual Appeal



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRS RICE BOWL: EMBRACING GOD'S LOVE,

UNITED GENEROSITY: God created man and woman in his image, reminding us that every person is sacred and reflects God's love. Each of us has a purpose, woven into God's plan. Our support of CRS Rice Bowl provides hope and opportunity to families around the world. Let's reflect on how our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving can help our sisters and brothers fulfill their potential. Visit www.crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's. Story of Hope.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD: Healing the Pain of

Abortion...One Weekend at a time: If you or a friend are hurting from a past abortion and are searching for a confidential, non-judgmental, safe place of healing and support to express and reconcile painful emotions and begin the healing process, look no further, and come join us? Both women and men are impacted by abortion and greatly benefit from the retreats. Singles, couples and family members of aborted children have come to Rachel Vineyard for peace and inner healing. You are not alone. Retreat are held at a private retreat center for 3 days and 2 nights. See flyer and brochure at the front of church for more information.

WORD OF LIFE: *"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life. . . . Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those "brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family with out reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves" . . . We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (The Gospel of Life 85)*

WEEKLY READINGS

Mar 22 Sun: 5th Sunday of Lent

Ez:37:12-14; Ps:130; Rm:8:8-11; Jn:11:1-45

Mar 23 Mon: Lenten Weekday

Dn:13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps:23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn:8:1-11

Mar 24 Tue: Lenten Weekday

Nm:21:4-9; Ps:102: 2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn:8:21-30

Mar 25 Wed: The Annunciation of the Lord

Is:7:10-14; 8:10; Ps:40: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hb: 10: 4-10; Lk:1:26-38

Mar 26 Thur: Lenten Weekday

Gn:17:3-9; Ps:105: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:8:51-59

Mar 27 Fri: Lenten Weekday

Jer:20:10-13; Ps:18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn:10:31-42

Mar 28 Sat: Lenten Weekday

Ez:37:21-28; Jer:31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn:11:45-56

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*Jesus called to his friend from the dead, "Lazarus, come out!" It is the same call our Lord makes to us unceasingly: "Come out!" Jesus calls us from our tomb of doubt and unbelief, from the darkness of our fear and anxieties; from the depths of our weaknesses and lac of hope. Christian stewards pray for an open heart so that they may hear the voice of the Lord, heed the continuous call to come away from their former way living and reprioritize their lives in the light of the of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do we believe Christ has the power to transform our lives? Do we take time to listen for his call? **International Catholic Stewardship Council***

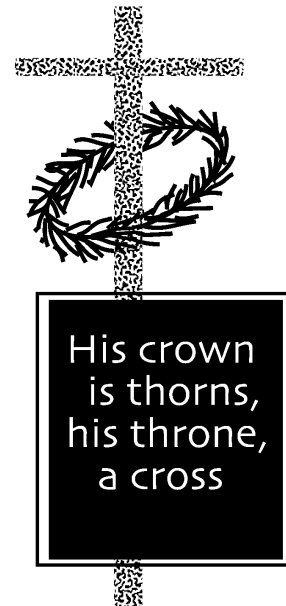
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 2, 320.05
Candles	65.00
Mass Intentions	90.00
Outreach	15.00
Total	\$ 2, 490.05

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 2, 060.00
Catholic Relief Service	145.00
Total	\$ 2, 205.00

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5th Sunday of Lent A March 22, 2026

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

Today we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Lent A – Also our Third Scrutiny for Our Elect – **Jay (Micheal the Archangel) Soto, Shanda Lee (Sr. Therese of Lisieux) Rabacal, Ophelia (Sr. Teresa of Kolkata) Lynn, Payton (Peter the apostle) Dean, Royal (Joseph husband of Mary) Dean, Zarek (Michael the Archangel) Dean – Verdedero, Angela (Elizabeth cousin of Mary) Szablicki and Alexia (Anne, mother of Mary) Kahalekai.**

The **Elect** will be handed **The Lord’s Prayer – Our Father** and the prayer of exorcism will be prayed over them.

The **Elect** is reminded of their spiritual journey of conversion they are embarking throughout **Lent** toward the Easter Vigil Celebration!

We also pray for **Philip (John the Baptist) Maugaotega** and **Sani (Louis IX, King of France) Iaea** and **Christopher (Michael the Archangel) B.K. Awa** will receive **the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation** at the Easter Vigil. God bless you all!

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37:12 – 14

Background Context: **Prophet Ezekiel** lived among the people of Israel and He spoke to them during the time of their **Babylonian Exile (6th Century BC)**. Life in exile could not be more discouraging for the Israelites because Jerusalem was utterly destroyed and the Temple was gone. The Israelites felt abandoned, hopeless and cut off from God in a faraway foreign land.

There seemed no hope of ever returning home, and what was worse, some Jews in exile went on forgetting their religion and began to live the pagan way, for the people felt they were as good as dead.

In this dire time God showed **prophet Ezekiel** a valley full of human bones, arm-bones, rib-bones, skulls all scattered in a valley and brought them back to life. **(Ezekiel 37: 1 - 11)**. Those dry bones were symbolic of the Israelites in exile as they described themselves as dry bones, lifeless and without future.

In this dark and hopeless moment God spoke through **prophet Ezekiel** the amazing words of promise of restoration. **“O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them and bring you back to the land of Israel.” (Ezekiel 37:12).**

In this reading God promised and opened the graves of His people and brought them back to life. This is not about individual resurrection alone but about the restoration of Israel as a community- nation. God assured them that their **exile in Babylon** is not the end.

By placing His Spirit within them God will give them a new life and bring them back to their own land.

Applications to Life: An important and yet encouraging lesson is taught to us. That is what seemed dead and impossible to us humans are never beyond God's power. What no human power could achieve God can restore what seemed totally destroyed.

As we approach **Holy Week** these readings fits with **the spirit of Lent**. In life many of us have experienced moments of dryness, spiritual fatigue, loss of hope, broken relationships, or deep disappointments.

Like Israelites we may feel buried under fear or failures. **Prophet Ezekiel's** words spoken reminds us that God is a God who never abandon us. In our darkest moments, we must not lose hope and give into despair. Let us turn to God when we encounter what seems hopeless in prayer.

Lent calls us to trust that God can breathes new life into what seem dead within us because of our weakness and sin. The church offered her children remedy for our spiritual death, by the **Sacrament of Confession** to heal and give life, prayer and discipline to overcome our spiritual complacency.

Just as God raised Israel from despair, in **Lent** God prepares us for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ where death, our weakness and sin does not have the final word.

As we journey toward Easter, **prophet Ezekiel** invites us to believe again that God's Spirit is still at work, restoring hope and renewing our faith and leading us from death -sin to life, the promise of resurrection.

New Testament: Romans 8:8 – 11

Background Context: In the 2nd reading from **St. Paul to the Romans**, Paul speaks about **two ways of living, 1.) Life according to the flesh** and **2.) Life according to the Spirit**.

By "**flesh.**" Paul does not simply mean our body, he means a way of life that is centered only in selfish desires of the flesh – sinfulness and therefore living without reference to God as our guide - light.

Application to Life: Such a life of flesh, Paul warned cannot please God because it shuts our hearts to God's grace – His presence. In contrast, those who **live according to the**

Spirit allow God to guide their thoughts, choices and actions. **Paul** reminds us as disciples of Jesus; the Spirit of God already lives in us all we need to do is to listen and obey God who guides us in the right path.

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead already lives in us through our Baptism, therefore let us strive to recall our promises made in Baptism and to live out daily that promise, **“to renounce Satan and all his works.”**

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now gives life to us. Even though our human body is weak and subject to death, God’s Spirit brings inner life, peace and righteousness.

Paul’s message is one of great hope. That our Christian life is not about human effort alone but the power of God who guides and protect us in our spiritual journey. It is about God’s Spirit at work within us, quietly, patiently helping us live more like Christ.

The divine presence of God is a powerful reminder that through Jesus Christ, we are made a new and that the Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is at work in us, enabling us to overcome the trials and the tribulations we face.

Lent invites us to examine what truly guides our lives. Are we driven only by comfort, success and self-interest? Or are we open to the quiet guidance of God’s Spirit we encounter in faithfulness to prayer? Living by the Spirit does not mean we are perfect or free from struggle.

It means choosing each day to **let God shape our attitudes – our hearts, to be forgiven as we too forgive others’ failures.** Our hearts are ceaselessly renewed by God’s Spirit.

When we feel weak or discouraged, **Paul** reminds us that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us for by our baptism we too have died to sin and we too shall rise by the power of the Risen Lord.

That Spirit gives us **strength** to change what we know needs to be change into the image of Jesus, the **courage** to hope despite our weakness, and **faith** in the promise of life beyond sin and death, eternal life. Paul encourages us to trust not in our weakness, but in God’s lifegiving Spirit working within us.

Gospel: John 11: 1 – 45

Background Context: The **Gospel of John** presents a journey of love, struggle and deeper meaning of life in the story of **Lazarus**. Jesus received the news that **Lazarus** whom he loved is seriously ill for **Martha and Mary** had sent word to Jesus, **“... Master, the one you**

love is ill” (John 11:3). Yet, upon receiving this urgent message, surprisingly Jesus delayed and he remained for two days more where he was. When Jesus finally arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

Upon arriving in Bethany, **Jesus** met each sister separately. With **Martha** who once heard Jesus was coming, went out to meet him, while Mary sat at home. Upon encountering **Jesus, Martha** was invited to a deeper faith as she would be asked if she believed in what Jesus boldly claimed.

“I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11: 25-26).

But with **Mary**, Jesus did not explain but Jesus revealed the depth of His humanity. **“When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, Jesus became perturbed and deeply troubled, and asked; where have you laid him? (John 11: 33 - 34).** Here Jesus entered fully into human grief, showing that God is not distant from our pain.

Coming to the tomb Jesus commanded **“take away the stone”** and **Martha** told Jesus, **“Lord by now there will be a stench.”** Truly all hope seemed lost for **Martha and Mary** as they both had state the same painful words to Jesus, **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21).**

Their words expressed deep faith, yet human disappointment and deep sorrow of human loss. They believed in Jesus’ power, yet they cannot understand why God did not protect them from deep suffering of loss of their beloved brother **Lazarus** and that Jesus had delayed his arrival for two days.

Then Jesus stands before the tomb and called **Lazarus** out, **“Lazarus come out!”** Then to everyone’s astonishment Lazarus still wrapped in his burial clothe steps out. This amazing miracle – sign tells us something important, that is our human suffering is not the final word. Death is not the final word. As Jesus explained earlier, this suffering happened so that the glory of God may be revealed.

Through Lazarus many came to believe. **“Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what He had done began to believe in Him.” (John 11: 45).**

Application to Life: On this **5th Sunday of Lent** the Church invites us to look honestly at **“our tombs – our places of fear, loss, sin, or hopelessness.”** Most of all to trustingly

place them before our Lord who would summons us, like Lazarus whom he loved,
“Lazarus come out!”

We no longer need to be entombed by our fear, loss, sin or hopelessness we may feel. We must hold to our faith that the Risen Lord has overcome death and evil has been conquered. Our heavy anguish and sorrow are lifted up when we reflect how Jesus witnessing Mary who wept and the Jews with her weeping was Himself perturbed and deeply troubled and Jesus Himself wept.

Those who witness this said, **“see how he loved him.”** Like **Martha** and **Mary**, we may wonder **“why God did not act sooner in those times of our grief and loss?”** Yet by witnessing Jesus Himself who wept we know that God Himself did enter the depth of our human sorrow, loss and anguish.

Jesus Second Person of the Blessed Trinity became man- **in the mystery of Incarnation**, God took upon Himself all that meant to be human except sin. No anguish, heartaches, hunger, loneliness or anything that was human was spared from Jesus.

The Gospel clearly reminds us that God is not distant from us and in our discipleship let us always recall Jesus’ personal love and concern for our salvation.

The truth is that **God’s delays are not God’s absence**. Even when we do not understand we know Jesus is present, that glory of God may be revealed despite our sorrow and disappointments for Jesus brings always life.

We are invited to trust that in Jesus Christ every one of our **“tomb”** can become a place of resurrection. Let us bring **“the dead areas”** of our life to prayer this week. What **“stones”** blocks our way that Jesus calls us to roll away this **Lent and come out?**

LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm - Passion Sunday – Vigil Mass Saturday, **March 28**, 5:pm and Sunday, **March 29**, 7:am & 9:am. **Monday, March 30th** No morning mass – 10:am St. Jude Funeral & 7:pm Evening Lectors’ rehearsal. **Tuesday, March 31st**. 8:am mass & **Chrism Mass** 7:pm (St. Teresa Co-Cathedral) **Wednesday, April 1st**. 8am mass & 7:pm Rehearsal for all Elect.

Holy Thursday, April 2nd – 7:00pm Mass – **the Lord’s Supper**

Good Friday, April 3rd – 3:pm & 7: pm.

Saturday, April 4th EASTER VIGIL – 8:00pm, **April 5th EASTER SUNDAY** – 8:am & 10:am

NO Easter Sunday Evening Mass.

*Have a blessed week in the Lord.
of yours in Christ*