



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	
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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.) _____

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PARISH CALENDAR

My LORD and my GOD!


Second Sunday
of Easter
Divine Mercy

April 12, 2026

Give thanks to God,
for His mercy endures!

Saturday, April 11	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 12	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 13	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>
Tuesday, April 14	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Liturgy Meeting - Kamiano Trailer
Wednesday, April 15	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	<i>Communion Service</i>
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Pastoral Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer
Thursday, April 16	..... 8:00 a.m	<i>Communion Service</i>
Friday, April 17	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
Saturday, April 18	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

They devoted themselves to the teachings of the Apostles and to the breaking of bread.



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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:


Acts:2:14, 22-33: Peter proclaimed that Jesus came with miracles, wonders, and signs so that people could know of God's love.

1 Pt:1:17-21: The blood of Christ, as of the sinless, unblemished lamb, delivered believers.

Lk:24:13-35: Two disciples bound for Emmaus were joined by Jesus, whom they did not recognize. They discussed the death of Jesus and the disappearance of his body from the tomb. Jesus explained to them through the Scriptures of the meaning of the events that had taken place..



Put your finger here
and see my hands
bring your hand
and put it into my side.
Do not be unbelieving
but Believe!



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL:

Progress Report as March 31, 2026., St. Rita Collected \$4,832.00 of our \$13, 843 which is 35% of our goal. Mahalo for all those who have contributed!

CRS RICE BOWL: THANK YOU!: Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl! **THANK YOU** a for being part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl if you have not done so. Visit www.crsricebowl.org/give .

WORD OF LIFE: "If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

WEEKLY READINGS

Apr 12 Sun: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts:2:42-47; Ps:118; 1 Pt:1:3-9; Jn:20:19-31

Apr 13 : Mon: Easter Weekday

Acts:4:23-31; Ps:2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn:3:1-8

Apr 14 : Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:4:32-37; Ps:93: 1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn:3:7b-15

Apr 15: Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:5:17-26; Ps:34; 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:3:16-21

Apr 16 Thur: Easter Weekday

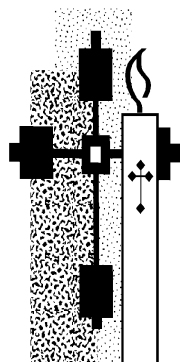
Acts:5:27-33; Ps:34: 2 & 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn:3:31-36

Apr 17 Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts:5:34-42; Ps:27: 1, 4, 13-14; Jn:6:1-15

Apr 18 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts 6:1-7; Ps:33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn:6:16-21



ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA

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A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship, while the most common expression of fellowship in the New Testament was that of sharing financial resources—giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that gave evidence of God's active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise stewardship in our own parish families.
International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,331.00
Easter	5,388.00
Baptism	10.00
Candles	10.00
Confirmation	80.00
Mass Intentions	30.00
Outreach	140.00
Total	\$ 6,989.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 200.00
Holy Land	686.00
Operation Rice Bowl	527.50
Total	\$ 1,413.50

ON-LINE GIVING (MARCH)

Operation Funds Collection:

General Collection	\$ 6,335.00
Outreach	1,290.00
Total	\$ 7,625.00

Restricted Collection:

Building Fund	\$ 4,267.50
Repair & Maintenance	545.00
Total	\$ 4,812.50

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

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who have not seen
and have believed!

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Divine Mercy Sunday/Second Sunday of Easter A

April 12, 2026

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

Today we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Easter, also Divine Mercy Sunday. Today’s readings invite us to experience the **Risen Jesus** in a deeper way through church community, hope and His gift of peace. As we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**, we are empowered to move from fear to hope, doubt to faith, to trust and life of love in the Risen Lord.

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Brief Historical Background: The image of **Divine Mercy of Jesus** was revealed in the vision to St. Faustina on February 22, 1931. She wrote in her diary: **“In the evening, when I was in my cell (room) I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside from the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale...After a while, Jesus said to me, paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesu I Trust in You.”** (Diary, 47).

“I want this image...to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Divine Mercy.” (Diary, 49).

The content of this **image of Jesus** is closely related to the **Liturgy** of this **Second Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday**. On this day, the Church reads the Gospel according to St. John about the **Risen Christ** appearing in the Upper Room where the disciples hid for the fear of the Jews behind locked doors.

“...Peace be with you. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side...Jesus said to them again ‘Peace be with you’. As the Father has sent me so I send you...and when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retained are retained.” (John 20: 19 -29).

Consequently, the image of **Divine Mercy**, represents the **Savior Risen** from the dead who brings peace to people by means of the forgiveness of sins at the price of His Passion and Death on the Cross. In the **Image of the Divine Mercy** we see the **Risen Jesus** clothed in white garment with **His right hand** raised in blessing and **His left hand** touching His garment near **His Heart** from where **two rays** come forth; **One red** (symbolizing the blood

which is the source of Life) and the other **the pale white** (symbolizing the baptismal water that made us children of God; cleansed of our sins).

The **Divine Mercy Novena** is prayed 30 minutes before mass, and you may also pick up one of the **Divine Mercy Novena Prayer Pamphlets** (red color) at the front of the church for you to pray at home. The heart of the message is **“Jesus I Trust in You.”** We are to always utter these words and to strive to place our complete trust in Jesus **Who is Mercy itself**. Take the opportune **Feast of Divine Mercy** to spiritually enrich your life in prayer and reflect on the unfathomable **Mercy of God** on this **Solemn Feast Day of Divine Mercy!**

Scripture Reflections

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 42 – 47

Background Context: Our 1st reading gives us a beautiful illustration of the early Christian Church just after Pentecost. Historically this was the time when the Church was just beginning in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles, and many people were moved by the powerful preaching and the witnesses they saw and came to believe in Jesus.

These new believers did not just follow Jesus individually; they formed a strong united **church-community**. The passage tells us **4 important things** they were devoted to, **1)** The Apostles’ teachings handed on to them by Jesus, **2)** Fellowship- genuine concern for the neighbor, **3)** Eucharist - Breaking of Bread, and **4)** Reverential Prayer. This showed that their faith was both spiritual and practical.

They listen to **God’s Word** with reverence and stayed connected to one another, shared meals and including Eucharist and prayed regularly. One striking feature is their generosity. How they shared what they had so that no one was in need. This did not mean that everyone had the same but that they cared for each other ‘s wellbeing deeply.

Their love of Risen Jesus was visible in action, faith was not something they just believed, it was something they experienced - lived. Another important point is their joy and simplicity. They met in Church and at home, ate together and praised God with sincerity of hearts. Because of this more people were drawn to the Church – community every day.

Application to Life: For us today, this passage is both inspiring and challenging. It reminds us that being a Christian is not just about personal prayer life but also about the Church-community. We are to strive actively and participate in the Lord’s Day, setting priority to worship our God. We are to make time to participate in devotional prayers that

unite the church. We are to reach out to other members of the church community that go unnoticed.

The early Church – community grew not because of big programs but because the authentic living the members strive and lived. When people see and witness love, unity, and faith in action they are naturally drawn into it.

We are encouraged to build Church communities where faith is lived, shared and celebrated together and our Christian life reflect joy and simplicity.

For us today this passage is a challenge and invitation. It asks whether our churches are places of worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, and care for the needy. A healthy church is not perfect, but it is a place where people grow together, serve one another and make room for others and learn to forgive one another. When a Church-community lives like this it becomes a powerful witness to God's Mercy and Love.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9

Background Context: In the 2nd reading taken from 1st Letter of Peter, Peter began by praising God the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ who in His great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope and to new life. Peter reminds us that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are given **“a living hope”**. This hope is not temporary, rather it is strong, lasting and rooted in God. Even when life is difficult this hope keeps us sustains us.

Peter also speaks about **“inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading kept for us in heaven.”** This means that what God has prepared for us will never fade or be taken away. While everything in this world can change or be lost. God's promise remains secure. This gives us confidence and abiding peace.

At the same time Peter is realistic about suffering. Peter acknowledged that believers may go through trials and hardships, **“now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials”**, but Peter explained that these struggles can strengthen and bring about the genuineness of our faith, just as fire purifies gold that is perishable.

Application to Life: How beautifully Peter reminds us that our difficult moments and our trials are not meaningless. They help us grow deeper and strengthen us in trust and love for God as gold is purified by fire.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful parts of this passage is the statement **“although you have not seen him, yet you love him.”** Most of all that we rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy. That we attain the goal of our faith, our salvation.

We profess that our faith is based on trust, not in physical sight and this faith brings deep inner joy, a joy that is not dependent on circumstances we face in life.

For us today this message is very relevant, as life brings many challenges, uncertainties and struggles as we strive to live a faithful Christian faith. How often Christians today may feel overwhelmed. But Peter reminds us to hold on to hope, trust in God's promises and to remain always faithful.

How are we to accomplish this? Like any bond and trust that endure, we need to spend time with the one we must grow to trust and be faithful. Here it is God, and it is so vital that prayer be part of our daily life and prioritizing the Lord's Day as center of our week. When we do this, we discover joy and strength to always remain faithful and to possess peace the world cannot give.

Gospel: John 20: 19 – 31

Background Context: A child in science class stated to the teacher, “**I’ll believe it when I see it**” when shown a tiny seed and told that that tiny seed could grow into big tree.

But weeks later he saw the first green shoot of leaf appear from the pot that contained the seed and his doubt slowly turned into wonder as the shoot grew taller and more branches and leaves began to appear. Like that child we often struggle to believe in what is promised to us unless we can first see everything now.

In today's Gospel of John, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors not just because of the danger outside, but because of fear within. After the crucifixion and death of Jesus, the disciples were confused, afraid and uncertain about the future, even as they recalled what Jesus had taught them, “**that He will suffer, die and rise on the third day.**”

Application to Life: How often does our failure to accomplish the task we worked so hard for and if it did not turn out as we had planned, we are burdened with frustration, or with guilt and emptiness. This often translates to our spiritual life where what we may have planned to accomplish many things, but it did not happen and we become disenchanted and even fearful that we are unworthy of our Christian baptism.

Into such fear, the **Risen Jesus** comes and stands among us saying, “**Peace be with you,**” in our lives as Jesus did in the midst of the fearful apostles. Even as we shut close the doors of our hearts **Risen Jesus** can enter.

Just as the **Risen Jesus** did not reprimand them of their failures - sins so too it is the same for us. Jesus instead offered them and us love and mercy, as He showed them His wounds

which revealed at what cost Jesus loved and forgave us. The **Divine Mercy** which we are undeserving yet offered and given to us unconditionally.

This is the heart of **Divine Mercy**. That just as **Risen Jesus** met the fearful disciples where they were at, He meets us even in all our weakness. Just as He did for them and with each one of us, the **Risen Jesus** desired that we have His peace and that Peace, He assured us through the Sacrament of Confession-Penance.

Let us not be fearful or ashamed to admit our need to repent and enter the sanctifying grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation-Confession to seek healing of our souls, our spiritual life.

The amazing Gospel of John today reminds us that no matter the sin we may have fallen into we can never be separated from the love of Jesus Christ, as we are simply to **Trust in Jesus' unfathomable Mercy** and return. The **Risen Jesus** came among the fearful apostles not to condemn but to forgive and restore what sin had broken.

Let us always remember that the same **Risen Jesus** comes to us today. That no sin we fall into is greater than **His Mercy**. When we accept His forgiveness, our fear begins to fade, and we can experience true joy and peace, the world cannot give.

In our daily life too, this peace truly can begin in us when we know we are forgiven and we ourselves then forgive others. Of course, to forgive another does not mean we are to feel good about it, but we are to will to forgive and take steps to let all bitterness or residue of unforgiveness leave our hearts.

Just as though the locked doors, the **Risen Jesus** entered freely, no fear, no failure, no weakness, can keep the **Risen Jesus** away from our locked hearts. When the **Risen Jesus** comes into our lives, He brings courage and hope. He may not remove all our problems but gives us courage and strength necessary to face them.

Then just as the **Risen Jesus** sent the disciples on a mission breathing the Holy Spirit upon them and entrusting them with the work of forgiveness-Sacrament of Reconciliation. We as members of the Church, the body of Christ must also go forth and strive to give that forgiveness we had received now to one another.

Finally, we then encounter the disciple Thomas who was absent on the first appearance of **Risen Jesus** on the Day of the Lord's Resurrection, the First Sunday. Thomas struggled to believe and asked for proof. His doubt is also our reality. But Jesus did not reject him, instead He meets Thomas where he was and gently led him to the faith.

Thomas now having encountered the **Risen Lord** invited him to put his finger in His hands and his hand into His side, responded with humility and joy, **“My Lord and My God.”** The amazing act of faith we too should utter every time the Holy Eucharist is lifted up. Truly Thomas’ doubt became a doorway to deeper faith.

The **Risen Jesus** then told him, **“Blessed are those who have not seen Me and yet believe,”** those words are spoken to us today. We do not see the **Risen Jesus** physically, but we are invited to **Trust Him**. This Gospel invites us to open the locked doors of our hearts and allow the Mercy and the Love of God to enter our hearts.

Let the words that Jesus desired of us always be on our lips in all circumstances of our life; **“Jesus I Trust in You.”**

Let Jesus enter our lives with His peace, let us accept His forgiveness as we seek to forgive one another, allow Him to remove our fear and trust Him when we struggle with doubts and uncertainties in life.

HO’OMAIKA’I – CONGRATULATIONS

Dcn HAROLD LEVY on your **Diocesan 25th Anniversary Deaconate Celebrations** that took place this past 10:00am Saturday, April 11th at Co-Cathedral of St. Therese of Little Child in Kalihi. **The Diocesan Celebration** was hosted by the Diocese of Honolulu to honor many Jubilarians of 50th, 25th and 10th Anniversaries of Clergy and Religious!

God bless you Dcn Harold and mahalo nui loa for your faithful ministry of Deaconate here in **St. Rita Parish of Nanakuli**. Deacon Harold stated that all his 25 years of deaconate was served in the Parish of St. Rita! God Bless You!

LITURGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 14th 7:pm at Kamiano Traylor.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, April 15th 7:pm Kamiano Traylor.

COMING FUNERAL: **Dcn Jerome Lefu’a Vito’s funeral** will take place on **Wednesday, April 22nd** at **St. Therese of Little Child**, Co-Cathedral in Kalihi. 10:00am visitation and **11:00am Funeral Mass** presided by Bishop Larry Silva DD with clergy from the Diocese joining. **Burial will follow at Mililani Cemetery at 2:30pm.**

Next Sunday, April 19th and **(18th Vigil)** the parish will take a **2nd collection** to assist late **+Dcn Jerome’s Ohana**. Dcn Jerome was with us at 5pm Mass choir with h ohana. He was associated with the parish while assigned to Sacred Heart Parish. Mahalo for your kokua.

Have a blessed week in the Lord! A pa'ilo o'na cop.