



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 _____
STREET CITY STATE/ZIP

April 26, 2026

The mercy of the Lord
fills the earth!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, April 25	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 26	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 27	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, April 28	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, April 29	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 30	..... 8:00 a.m	<i>Communion Service</i>
Friday, May 1	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	First Friday Mass
	9:00 a. m.-7:00 p.m	First Friday Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday, May 2	..... 8:00 a. m	No Morning Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

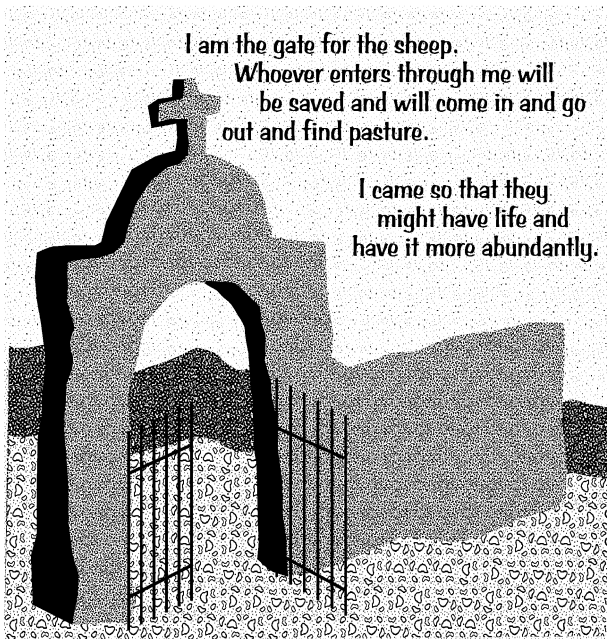


NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:6:1-7: *There were complaints that certain widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Seven deacons were appointed to oversee and equitable distribution of food*

1 Pt:2:4-9: *Christ is the cornerstone, precious to God. All who believe are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own” called to proclaim the gospel.*

Jn:14:1-2: *Jesus told the disciples that he would prepare a place for them in heaven. He explained that, in order to know the Father, one must first know the Son. People of faith will do the works that he did.*



The Good Shepherd
lays down his life
for his sheep



Follow the QR Code for On-line
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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!

WORD OF LIFE: “Suicidal individuals— with or without a terminal illness—topically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, “Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of the request and support me through this difficult time?” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Every Suicide is tragic” www.usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic

WEEKLY READINGS

Apr 26 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts:2:14a, 36-41; Ps:23; 1 Pt:2:20b-25; Jn:10:1-10

Apr 27 : Mon: Easter Weekday

Acts:11:1-18; Ps:42:2-3; 43:3-4; Jn:10:11-18

Apr 28 : Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:11:19-26; Ps:87: 1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn:10:22-30

Apr 29: Wed: Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts:12:24-13:5a; Ps:67; 2-3, 5, 6 & 8; Jn:12:44-50

Apr 30 Thur: Easter Weekday

Acts:13:13-25; Ps:89: 2-3, 21-22, 25 & 27; Jn:13:16-20

May 01 Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts:13:26-33; Ps:2: 6-7, 8-9, 10-11b; Jn:14:1-6

May 02 Sat: Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Acts:13:44-52; Ps:98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn:14:7-14

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Saint Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a special way. Are we good stewards of those baptismal vows? Have we renewed our commitment to follow in Jesus’ footsteps? Have we opened our hearts to discern the will of God in our lives? Take some time to reflect on the importance of our baptismal renewal and our lives as disciples of the Lord International Catholic Stewardship Council


STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 674.00
Candles	73.00
Outreach	70.00
 Total	 \$ 3, 817.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 529.00
Repair & Maintenance	130.00
Operation Rice Bowl	96.59
 Total	 \$ 755.59

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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- Canonization investigation efforts
- Historical & Medical documentation

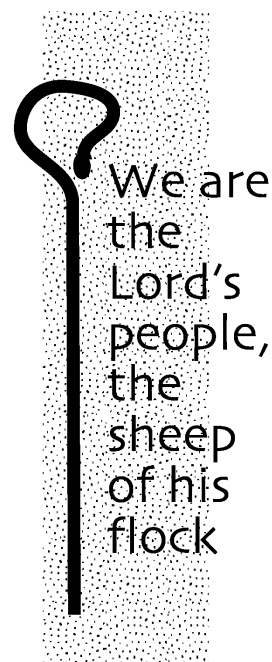
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4th Sunday of Easter A April 26, 2026 – Good Shepherd Sunday

Scripture Reflections

1st Reading: Act 2: 14a, 36-41 Background Context: The 1st reading of today contains part of the conclusion of the sermon preached by Peter to the Jews in Jerusalem immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit on **Pentecost Day**. Peter once fearful now filled with the power of Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed with his voice raised to the Jews.

“Let the house of Israel know for certain that God made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.” Acts 2: 36.

Peter’s bold and truthful words moved the Jews who heard him **to realize the enormity of their crime** in handing Jesus over to Pilate to be executed. The Jews were cut to the heart and they asked, **“what we are to do brothers?”** Peter answered the Jews directly to the point, **“Repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”** Peter further announced to them of the good news of the Resurrection that led them to recognize God’s plan of salvation.

Application to Life: Peter’s **bold and truthful words** are also addressed to us. He invites us too to take our place behind that crowd, for his words clearly apply to us as well. All humankind, each and every one of us took part in the death of Jesus through our sins. We too, by our sins put our hands on Jesus and had Him executed.

Do you know that even though many of us would rather avoid or take it as offensive when it is told to us, yet perhaps the best thing that can happen? **That is to be told the truth!**

Peter did not sugar coat his message to the Jews. Peter told them the truth that they needed to hear, **“...this Jesus whom you have crucified.”** Hearing the truth told to them, the Jews were **“cut to the heart”** that is touched deeply in realizing what they had done to Jesus. It was a risk for Peter, **but truth always sets free those who need to hear and know the truth.** For the Jews it opened their hearts to repentance and entry into baptism. **Those in authority, parents and leaders do greater harm by being afraid to tell the truth when the situation calls for truth to be told.**

But what Peter wanted to stress too was not so much of our guilt, but as the way God reacted to our crime. God made Jesus Christ that is Messiah, God made use of Jesus’ death to save us, to save the world. **We killed Him... and... He saved us!** Prophet Isaiah spoke 500 years before Jesus’ birth that **“He was pieced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was in Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”** Isaiah 53:5.

Would anyone except God give such a response to our crime? If this is not love, where can love be found? The early Christians chose the title “**Lord**” for Jesus as a way of confessing Jesus’ absolute dominion over angels, men and things created.

In ascribing the title to Jesus those Christians meant to stress what faith in **Risen Christ** should imply: **complete surrender to Jesus of all that we have and all that we are.**

The Jews were cut to the heart, an expression, **showing deep inner conviction** and **openness to change.** We too recognize our part and let us accept Peter’s message and allow our faith to lead to action, that is the same lesson we must imitate.

Our faith must lead to action, and thus Peter calls us all **to conversion and repentance then to be baptized and receive the gift of the Spirit.**

These promises are not only for those present in the early Church but also for all of us who now are baptized and strive to live the path of the Gospel in our time.

The exhortation of Peter is the Risen Lord is our Lord and Savior and as this becomes clearer to us day after day, we must go on surrendering to God’s Plan of love always more decidedly day to day.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b – 25 Background Context: This passage comes from the **1st Epistle of Peter** traditionally attributed to Peter the Apostle. It is addressed to the early Christians in Asia Minor (present day Turkey), who were experiencing suffering and social hostility for their faith. The situation of the slaves in the ancient world was as bad as in any history of slavery, with the masters exercising the right to life or death over them. The slaves were often considered less than the beast of burden, “**a living tool**” as they were often called.

Application to Life: Confirming the saying of Jesus that poor and downtrodden were chosen candidates to God’s kingdom, large number of slaves came to faith in Jesus Christ in the early Church. Though the Church rightly stressed that in Jesus Christ there is no difference, free or slave men. Peter in today’s passage wisely advised slaves who had become Christians to fulfill their duties toward their masters and to accept for the Lord’s sake even unjust punishments inflicted on them.

Yet it was Christianity that introduced a new relationship that gave the slave in a Christian household a dignity not found before. No one was ever as free and innocent as Jesus had been, yet Peter tells his Christians, Jesus submitted to punishment and death, thus bringing us salvation. When insulted and abused Jesus did not retaliate but entrusted

Himself to God. **This taught the believers to respond to injustice with trust rather than revenge.**

Christ bore our sins on the Cross so that believers might die to sin and live for righteousness. **Jesus' wounds brought us healing and new life.** Believers who once had wandered like lost sheep and gone astray but now return Jesus Christ, **the Shepherd and Guardian of their souls.** Salvation is described as restoration and guidance.

Gospel: John 10: 1 – 10 Background Context: The 4th Sunday in Easter Time has been called **the Good Shephard Sunday**, since the Gospel is taken from John the parables in reference to **the Good Shepherd** at its center, who is **Jesus Christ.**

For the same reason the Church invites us to keep this Sunday as “**Vocation Sunday**” that is as a day of prayer to ask God to send us good and numerous shepherds from among our own children and also as a reflection to see how we may help our children to become good shepherds that Christ wants them to be and to remain so until the end of their lives.

Today's passage comes immediately after John chapter 9 where Jesus healed the man born blind. The Pharisees reject the healed man; therefore, **Jesus uses the shepherd metaphor to contrast true leadership verses false religious leaders.**

In comparing Himself to the gate of the sheepfold Jesus made it clear that no one can form part of God's flock except through Him or as He warned in another passage, “**No one can come to the Father except through Me.**” (John 14:6).

Shepherding was very common in ancient Israel. The flocks in Palestine at the time of Jesus were not large, the normal size being between 50 and 100. **Several shepherds would agree to have enclosure built surrounding with walls of stones not more than 4 or 5 feet high.** The enclosure had only one entrance. The shepherds would bring their flocks into enclosure in the evenings time while one of them watched the others take their rest. **Early in the morning each shepherd called his flock out, the sheep recognized the voice of their respective shepherds and followed them.** Then various flocks take different directions in search of pastures guided by their shepherd.

Application to Life: These few details can help us understand the words of Jesus in the Gospel of today, and the reasons that moved Him to compare Himself to the gate of the sheepfold. We find in the Old Testament that that both religious and civil leaders in Israel were considered shepherds, people entrusted by God with the material and spiritual welfare of the people.

But these shepherds of Israel proved unfaithful most of the time and God complained bitterly against them in the **Book of prophet Ezekiel**: they had shown no concern for flock and sought only their own advantage, causing thereby incalculable harm to the people of Israel. Their task would be taken away from them by God who would provide an exceptionally good shepherd, one according to His heart who would guide the people.

This **prophecy of Ezekiel** is fulfilled in Jesus. It was a very well-known prophecy among the Jews and when Jesus proclaimed Himself solemnly to be **“the Good Shepherd”** those listening to Him clearly understood that He was referring to the good shepherd announced by prophet Ezekiel: in other words, they understood that Jesus was proclaiming Himself **“the Messiah”** the Savior of the world.

He calls them **“thieves and brigands the people whose only aim is to steal, kill and destroy.” (John 10: 8, 10)**. They claim the right to the flock of Israel; they did not realize that they were already dismissed for their unfaithfulness, and that faithful shepherd announced by prophet Ezekiel was there in front of them.

It is the will of Jesus that some of **His sheep** become in turn shepherds to look after **His flock in His name**. As much as every father or mother should be a good shepherd as all pastors are to be. Yet every Christian family should consider it a great privilege that Jesus may call one of its sons to the priesthood. Have you prayed about it as a ohana- family?

MAHALO NUI LOA: Mahalo Nui Loa to our St. Rita Parishioners for the generous donation collected last week for late +Deacon Jerome Vito’s Aiga. The **amount of \$1,251.00 was collected** and given to Lefu’a Vito Aiga.

OUR PARISH CHURCH YARD: Mahalo to our St. Rita Parish Church Yard, minsters in raking and cutting the lawn. We are blessed to have **Kirk Adams** upon his retirement has devoted much of his time in keeping our yard befitting St. Rita Parish Church. Also, we are blessed with **Ivan Okuda** who dedicated himself to keeping the parish lawn green by coming over to water them in the evening hours! Mahalo nui loa **Kirk** and **Ivan** in your ministry in maintaining St. Rita Parish grounds, God bless you both!

PARISH AIR-CONDITIONERS: Please be patient in bearing the situation of 2 old broken Air-Conditioners in the Church, (front & back). We are replacing them as soon as possible. They had been serviced and repaired in the past months but now it has become not cost-effective to keep repairing old air conditioners knowing they would simply break down again.

Have a blessed Week in the Lord!

