



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.) _____

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Sixth Sunday
of Easter

May 10, 2026

The Lord has freed His people,
alleluia!

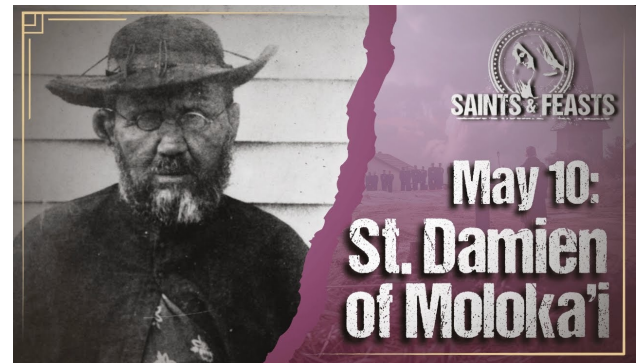
PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, May 9	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, May 10	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, May 11	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, May 12	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, May 13	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 14	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, May 15	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, May 16	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

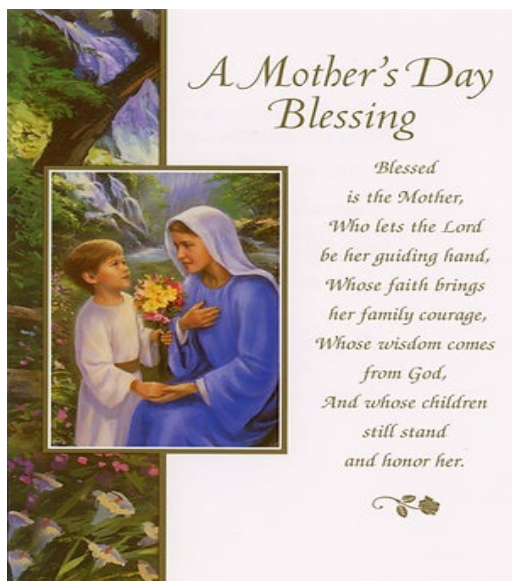


NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:1:12-14 (59a): Jesus has been taken up to Heaven..
1Peter 4:13-16: Beloved rejoice the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ.
John: 17:1-11a: Jesus raised his eyes to Heaven and said "Father, the hour has come".



**"Greater Love Hath No Man Than This,
That A Man Lay Down His Life For His
Friends"**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD OF LIFE: “Radical solidarity compels us to come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their pre-born children. It requires us to address the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. We must do all we can to provide mothers, children, and families with the support they need to flourish. This cannot be accomplished by laws or policy alone, but requires the continual transformation of our own hearts, recognizing in every person the face of Christ, and placing their needs before our own”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Radical Solidarity”

WEEKLY READINGS

May 10 Sun: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts:8:5-8, 14-17; Ps:66; 1 Pt:3:15-18; Jn:14:15-21

May 11 : Mon: Easter Weekday

Acts:16:11-15; Ps:149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b;

Jn:15:261—16:4a

May 12 : Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:16:22-34; Ps:138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn:16:5-11

May 13: Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:17:15, 22-18:1; Ps:148; 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn:16:12-15

May 14 Thur: Saint Matthias, Apostle

Acts:1:15-17, 20-26; Ps:113: 1-2, 3a, 5-6, 7-8; Jn:15:9-17

May 15 Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts:16:20-23; Ps:47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn:16:20-23

May 16 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:18:23-28; Ps:47: 2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn:16:23b-28

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Philip understood very well Jesus’ words: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” We learn of Philip’s devotion to prayer, evangelizing and healing in the region of Samaria; made up of communities that would not be very receptive to the followers of Jesus. Philip is a model steward, living his discipleship day by day in the Lord without being obstructed by feelings of what cost his actions might entail. Good stewards summon the courage to proclaim the Lord and to serve Him by ministering to others. As an Easter people, eager to rejoice in the Lord, it is important to reflect on how we are living out our own commitment to discipleship.

International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection:	\$3,204.00
Candles:	\$147.00
Mass Intentions:	\$100.00
Total:	\$3204.00

Restricted Collections

Building Fund:	\$570.00
Repairs/Maintenance:	\$390.00
Outreach:	\$45.00
Religious Retirement:	\$20.00
Total:	\$1035.00



Aloha St. Rita Ohana

On behalf of Deacon Lefua Vito’s ohana; we would like to express our deepest “Thank You” for all your monetary gifts, food, sympathy, prayers, and kind words. There are not enough words to express our deepest love and Aloha that you have shown us in our time of grief.

Praise God, for all you do for our Ohana!

“Faafetai tele lava”, Love always,

Lefu’a-Vito ohana



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Assistant Office
Manager

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6th Sunday of Easter A – May 10, 2026

O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nui’ia

Hau’Oli La Makuahine – Happy Mother’s Day

On this Mother’s Day, we extend our Congratulations – Ho’omaika’i to all our Mothers! How fitting that Mother’s Day falls in the Month of May, the Month of Mary, when we celebrate the month dedicated to Mary the Mother of Jesus Christ and our mother!

On **Mother’s Day** let us honor all our earthly mothers, living and deceased who have given birth to us and raised us. Truly our most precious and intimate moments of our life’s existence are bound to our mothers.

In our veins flow the blood that binds us and knits us so closely to our mothers, even as the very composition of our physical bodies reveals so much of who she is in us. Truly there were moments, if we were neglected but for few hours, life would have left us. So much gratitude indeed is owed to our earthly mothers who gave birth to us...life.

On this **Mother’s Day** we consecrate every mother both young and old to Jesus Christ our Lord through **Mary our Mother**. That God will through His love and mercy bestow abundance of blessings to all mothers. May they know that each child they bring into world will one day, when led to heaven will be their crowning diadem for all eternity.

It is not easy to be a mother, especially a **Christian mother today, in 2026**. It is a daunting task in a world that has become more and more absent of God. **All Christian mothers** are surely called to become **saints** raising their children in our time, for the cross, mother’s carry is also your child’s cross.

May **all mothers** draw ever nearer to our **Blessed Mother** and through her maternal intercession receive all the blessings necessary that comes through her hands from her **Son Jesus Christ**. Throughout **the Month of May** let us offer our **Rosary Prayers** daily like roses to **Mary the Mother of Jesus!** We pray for **all mothers living and deceased**. We are truly grateful to all our mothers for all they have done for us!

Even if some of us may feel lacking in fond memories to cherish our **earthly mothers** due to whatever circumstances and shortcomings, may we still pray for them for their choice for life we are alive. Most of all may we learn to gaze on **Mary the Mother of Jesus** and find solace and embrace of our heavenly Mother with confidence as her child.

Did you know that on the early cold morning of **December 12, 1531**, when **Juan Diego** was filled with overwhelming anxiety and fear as his uncle Bernadino lay dying? Although he

was supposed to meet **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (4th apparition) that morning on the **hilltop of Tepeyac**, to take an important message to the bishop of Mexico City, **Juan Diego** overwhelmed with anxiety slowly circled around to the opposite path to circumvent himself to avoid meeting her?

But **Our Lady of Guadalupe** came and stood right in front of **Juan Diego** and said to him, **“Hear me and understand well, my little son, let it penetrate your heart...do not be troubled or weighted down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?”**

Let us always in trust and in confidence approach **Mary the Mother of Jesus and our mother** in all our need!

Gifts for All our Mothers: All mothers will be invited after the homily to gather at the front of the statue of **Our Blessed Mother** to be blessed and receive **“a homemade”** laminated prayer card which will be prayed to consecrate themselves to Mary Mother of us all!

OUR NEW BISHOP of DIOCESE of HONOLULU

Fr. Michael Thomas Tupou Castori SJ has been chosen as the new bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu by Pope Leo XIV on May 6th. Fr. Michael upon his consecration will become the 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu. His episcopal ordination and installation as a bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu is set for **Tuesday, July 28th at 10:00am at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, 712 N. School Street, in Honolulu. All are invited.**

Retiring **Bishop Larry Silva** will remain in Hawai'i and be **Bishop Emeritus**. He will hand over all Diocesan matters to the new bishop. We thank **Bishop Larry D.D.** for the 21 years of his Episcopate here in the Diocese and pray for the blessing and success of the new bishop, Michael Thomas Tupou Castori SJ.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14 – 17 **Background Context:** The 1st reading taken from the **Book of Acts of the Apostles** took place in one of the most difficult moments of the early Church. After the persecution that followed the death of **Stephen** many believers were scattered from Jerusalem, fleeing the persecution that was taking place. Yet, instead of stopping the growth of the Church, the persecution and the scattering helped the Gospel to spread far and wide.

We are informed of **Philip** who went from Jerusalem to Samaria where Jews and Samaritans had long standing tensions and conflict yet there, he preached the Gospel boldly. Surprisingly the people in Samaria listened, and they witnessed healing and experienced their deliverance - freedom from evil. The result was, “**there was great joy in that city.**” This is a sign of the arrival of salvation and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Application to Life: This passage from Acts of the Apostles showed that God can bring good even out of suffering. What seemed like a setback, the persecution of the early Church in Jerusalem became an opportunity for growth, the catalyst to go out into the whole world. The Gospel crossed the boundaries of cultures and hostility, reminding us that **God’s love and mercy is for everyone**, not just confined for a select group (Jews).

How often do we find ourselves faltering in our faith when we are faced with hardships. It is precisely when we must seek the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith. Living out our **Catholic Christian Faith** in our world today we will face persecution. Do we pray and reflect how God may be working in us, in the difficult circumstances to strengthen our faith that we may not become complaisant? It is often true that our inner growth of character and faith are made firm and rooted when we face hardships.

Another important passage is when **Peter and John** came from Jerusalem to pray over the new believers so that they can receive out pouring of the **Holy Spirit**. Though they were baptized, the fullness of the Spirit came through the laying of the hands by **Peter and John**, in other words they ministered the sacrament of we now call **Confirmation**.

This highlights and inform us that the unity of the Church and the importance of **apostolic authority**, that is our **Christian Faith** is not merely of an individual or like-minded group decide what Jesus established and taught, but that it is rooted first in the Foundation of the Apostles whom Risen Jesus breathed on them and gave them the authority to go forth in His name. Truth is that **Faith** is not meant to be lived alone; **faith** is not of one’s personal interpretation but rather **faith** founded on the Apostles who received their authority directly from the Risen Jesus and passed unbroken through the laying of the hands. Thus, we are strengthened and completed in uniting with the Church founded by Jesus Christ upon the Apostles.

Let us pray to be open to seeing God’s work even in the difficult and challenging situations we may encounter. Sometimes we feel scattered, uncertain or pushed out of our comfort zones, perhaps our complacency. Yet, like **Philip** and the apostles we are called to carry Jesus Christ – the Gospel, wherever we go, at home, work and where we encounter others.

Most of all let us seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives and not remain at the surface level of our faith. Let us daily welcome Jesus Christ – the Gospel fully, for despite the challenges and suffering we may encounter, the joy follows, the joy that the world cannot give and not just for us but for everyone around us.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15 – 18 Background Context: This 2nd reading from 1 Peter speaks to Christians who were facing misunderstanding and suffering for their faith. In the early Church, Christian believers lived in a society – culture that did not accept their Christian values. The passage here encouraged them and us not to be afraid but to remain firm in faith and bear witness by life of love and mercy.

Application to Life: We find an interesting passage in this reading, “**always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope...**” 1 Peter 3:15. This reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden but we are called to share it; boldly but with gentleness and reverence.

Faith is not about arguing or forcing others to believe, it is about living in such a way that people notice something different, peace, hope and love present in our lives and then being able to explain it simply and joyfully.

The passage also speaks about **suffering for doing good**. Sometimes even when we try to do the right thing, we may be misunderstood or rejected. **Peter** tells us that it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong - evil. This gives meaning to our struggles and sufferings; for they unite us to Jesus Christ who suffer for righteousness.

Jesus Christ’s suffering was not pointless; it brought salvation. In the same way our small sacrifices offered in love for Jesus Christ and unite them to Him can bear much fruit.

We can reflect, if others see hope in the way we live our Christian lives? When we speak about our **Catholic Christian Faith** do, we do so with kindness and respect, yet with clarity? And when we face difficulties and challenges do we see them as grace opportunities to grow closer to Jesus Christ?

The passage from 1st Peter invites us to live faith that is both courageous and compassionate, yet strong in conviction by the faithful life we live, yet gentle in expression.

Gospel: John 14: 15-21 Background Context: While in parishes with schools I often witnessed that when small children are dropped off to school, they begin to cry the moment their parents start to leave. They feel perhaps afraid and do not want to be separated. But then when the parents gently assured them and comforted them and most of all promised to come back for them to pick them up after school, most usually stop

crying. With that assurance the child slowly gained confidence and went into the school classroom unafraid.

Application to Life: In a similar way Jesus spoke to His disciples in today's Gospel passage taken from John, preparing them for a time they will not see Him, yet they will never be alone. Jesus began with a simple but powerful words that unites us in profound union with Him, **"If you love me, keep My commandments."** John 14: 15.

Love for Jesus is not simply feelings, it is shown in our actions – behavior- choices. The original word for love used in John's Gospel written in Greek is **"agape"** a sacrificial love. To keep Jesus' commandments means to live as Jesus taught and that takes much more than feelings or good mood, to love others, to forgive, to serve and to remain faithful, that is a **sacrificial love - agape**. Most of all, true love always expresses itself in concrete choices and actions. Jesus then promises, **"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate."** **This Advocate is the Holy Spirit.**

The disciples were anxious and worried about **Jesus** leaving them, but **Jesus** assured them that they will not be abandoned, **"I will not leave you orphans."** The **Holy Spirit** is **Risen Jesus'** continuous presence among us, guiding, strengthening and comforting us.

Often, we underestimate the work of the **Holy Spirit**. Many of us pray to the Father and to Jesus but how often do we consciously turn to the **Holy Spirit** in our daily decisions? We often reduce the power of the **Holy Spirit** to visible signs like speaking in tongues. But the **Holy Spirit's** work is much deeper and wider.

The **Holy Spirit** gives wisdom in confusion, guidance in decisions, courage in fear and peace in trouble moments. The **Holy Spirit** helps us understand Jesus better and live His teaching daily. Jesus also spoke of a deep closeness. **"You are in Me and I am in you."** What a beautiful reminder of our deep and profound union that is our relationship with God so intimately, truly God is not distant.

God desires intimacy with us, and through the **Holy Spirit** Jesus continues to live within us and walk with us.. This beautiful passage invites us all to reflect, do I love Jesus only in words or also most of all in actions? Do I trust the **Holy Spirit** to guide me daily and do I live like someone who is not alone. **Today's Gospel of John** reminds us that **the Christian life not about trying harder in our own strength, but rather loving Jesus, receiving the Holy Spirit and resting in the truth that we are God's children.**

This week let us love Jesus not just in words but in action and consciously invite the **Holy Spirit** to guide us each day. Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

