



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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PARISH CALENDAR

Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

June 28, 2026

Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Saturday, June 27	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, June 28	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, June 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, June 30	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, July 1	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 2	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, July 3	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	First Friday Mass
	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m	First Friday Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
Saturday, July 4	..... 8:00 a.m.	First Saturday Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Zec:9:9-10: The prophet foretold the coming of the savior and king who would proclaim peace to all the nations of the earth.

Rm:8:9, 11-13: Paul wrote that the Spirit of God lives in all who are Christ"s. They should live not according to the flesh but in God's Spirit.

Mt:11:25-30: Jesus invited the people saying "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give your rest."

June 29: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles—Solemnity

Saint Peter: c. 1—c. 64

Patron Saint of Rome, bakers, brick makers, masons, bridge-builders, butchers, clockmakers, cobblers, fishermen, harvesters, watchmakers, locksmiths, netmakers, the papacy, and the Universal Church
Invoked against feet problems, fevers, and frenzy

Saint Paul: c. 3—c. 64

Patron Saint of Rome, evangelists, theologians, musicians, public relations personnel, writers, publishers, and reporters; rope-, saddle-, and tentmakers; Gentiles; Cursillo movement; and Catholic Action
Invoked against snakes and hailstorms
Pre-Congregation canonizations



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: *invites married couples to make time for each other this summer.* The Vatican has formally recognized WWME as an International Private Association of the Faithful, affirming its role in the life of the Church. Couples are invited to attend the July 10-12, 2026, residential weekend at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley, O`ahu. Application are available at www.hawaiiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (808)276-571 or email brian.claudine.perry@wwme.org Space is limited.

WORD OF LIFE: *“O God our Creator . . . we ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith”* USCCB, *“Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty”*

WEEKLY READINGS

Jun 28 Sun: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kgs:4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps:89; Rms:6:3-4, 8-11; Mt:10:37-42

Jun 29 : Mon: Saint Peter and Paul Apostles
Acts:12:1-11; Ps:34:-2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tim:4:6-8, 17-18; Mt:16:13-19

Jun 30 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday
Am:3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps:5: 4b-6a, 6b-7, 8; Mt:8:23-27

Jul 01: Wed: Ordinary Weekday
Am:5:14-15, 21-24; Ps:50; 7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17; Mt:8:28-34

Jul 02 Thur: Ordinary Weekday
Am:7:10-17; Ps:19: 8, 9, 10, 11; Mt:9:1-8

Jul 03 Fri: Saint Thomas, Apostle
Eph:2:19-22; Ps:117:1bc, 2; Jn:20:24-29

Jul 04 Sat: Ordinary Weekday
Am:9:11-15; Ps:85: 9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt:9:14-17

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today’s gospel reading the Twelve hear Jesu speak these words: “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” This is the first time Matthew mentions the word “cross” in his Gospel, and it is not in direct reference to Jesus’ crucifixion but as a prerequisite to following him. Good stewards recognize that the call to “take up the cross” and align their goals in life and their fate with that of Jesus, that is with suffering opposition, resistance and even death. Reflect this week on the crosses you need to take up daily in order to comprehend the way of Jesus Christ. **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

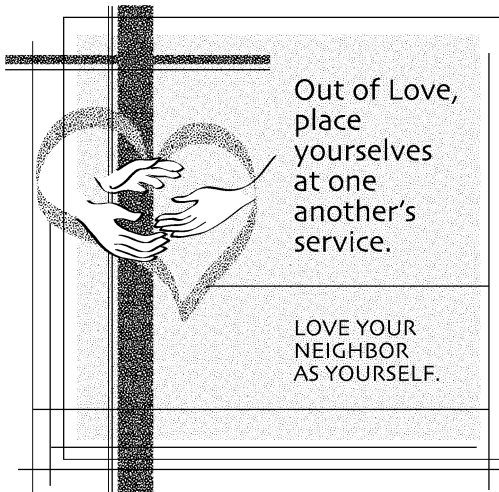
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,090.00
Candles	90.00
Canoe Regatta Parking	1,057.00
Mass Intention	270.00
Outreach	145.00
Total	\$ 4,652.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 245.00
Repairs & Maintenance	75.00
Joseph Dutton Servant of God	25.00
Total	\$ 345.00

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nui’ia

Scripture Reflections

Old Testament: 2 Kings 4: 8-11. 14 -16a **Background Context:** Elisha was a prophet who lived around **850 BC** before Jesus came into the world. It was a time right after the division of the united monarchy after the death of King Solomon. Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the **Northern kingdom – Israel** and the **Southern Kingdom – Judah**. It was a time of political instability and spiritual syncretism. God raised up prophets to serve as God’s living presence among the people.

Prophet Elisha one of chief prophet ministered primarily in the Northern Kingdom – Israel where he traveled from place to place.

Because **Shunem**, a town located in the fertile Jezreel Valley, south of Mount Moreh laid along the important travel route making it a natural stopping point for travelers and prophets, like **prophet Elisha** who often stopped there for rest. Unlike the priests who served in the Temple, prophets such as **Elisha** traveled throughout the land. Since they did not have permanent residence, they depended greatly on the hospitality of Israelites.

Hospitality was a sacred duty in the ancient Near East, providing food, shelter and protection to travelers and was considered an act of righteousness and reverence toward God. We read that an influential woman from **Shunem**, recognized something others might have missed, she saw in **prophet Elisha** “**a holy man of God**”.

Her response is very surprising because she did not offer a one-time act of kindness but informed her husband to make place for **prophet Elisha**, giving him small room on the roof where he can rest whenever he passed by. Her hospitality was intentional, generous and rooted in faith. She did not just welcome **prophet Elisha** but created a place of rest for him. That simple act opened the door for God to act in her life. In a world that was often driven by gain and recognition, her quiet goodness stood out. When **prophet Elisha** wished to reward her, he was informed by her servant Gehazi that she had no son, and her husband was getting on in years.

Application to Life: She may have shown outwardly that she was content with her life, yet God saw deeper than outward contentment. For beneath her silence laid a hidden longing, she had no child. Through **prophet Elisha** God promised her a son. Her reaction is deeply human; she hesitates, almost afraid to believe. Hope can be risky, especially when it has been delayed for so long. This **woman** from the **town of Shunem** had lived

with her husband in hope for child one day but remained barren and both were getting on in age and were resigned to a life without a child. But we find that God's promise made to the unexpected and would always prove true for God is faithful and always in unexpected ways.

We are reminded that God noticed the unnoticed, that is a good deed done in good intention is never forgotten. What many others simply may not notice God does. The acts of kindness big or small done in sincerity do not go unseen or unnoticed. It is not the size or the amount, or the length but of the heart.

Remember the acronym **R.A.C. for Random Act of Kindness**? We all may have experienced it. There are many I can recall but one that I remember well took place years ago while standing in the line with bunch of little things I intended to buy at a store.

I was struggling awkwardly and often dropping things here and there slipping out of my arms. I was somewhat embarrassed about not having a cart. Suddenly the woman ahead of me turned around said **“put your stuff in one side of my cart”** as she moved her things to one side and when she began to move forward, she opened her handbag, **“here it was meant for you”** and handed me a cloth bag and left to an open cashier.

Like the **woman** from **Shunem** we are often taught that faith is not always done in big or loud ways, it is often found in small unnoticeable and in consistent gestures of kindness or service we often don't expect.

Most of all that hope in what is promised by God is never in vain. In our lives we are invited to live like her, that is first of all to recognize God in others and to make space - room for God in our ordinary day to day events of life and trust that even the unspoken desires of our hearts are known to God. We shall never find out until we reach heaven, the wonderful reward God provides for our smallest act of kindness to our neighbor.

New Testament: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 Background Context: In the 2nd Reading Paul speaks about the deep meaning of **Baptism**. He reminded the Christians in Rome that **Baptism** was not just a ritual or an outward sign it is sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Application to Life: When we were **baptized**, we were symbolically buried with Christ and just as Christ was raised from the dead we were raised to a new life. **Baptism** is not just an outward ritual, rather **baptism** changes everything. We believe that we died with Christ and we also rose with Him to the new life. **“Are you not unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” Romans 6:3.** And Paul

further stated, “...so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a newness of life,” Romans 6:4.

For the early Christians, this teaching was powerful reminder of who they were, and it should be for each one of us. Let us not be foolish to take advantage and go on committing sin.

Many early Christians too came from pagan background and in their journey to become a Christian they not only learned what it meant to leave behind old ways of living – sin, but to practice in concrete action daily their journey of conversion. Paul wanted them and all to understand that following Jesus Christ meant a real inner change not just the knowledge of the faith they were taught but to be lived out in their daily life.

To be united to Jesus Christ in death means that the power of sin is broken, that is our old ways of life of sin must be left behind and the new life of Jesus must be embraced and lived. To be united with Jesus Christ in resurrection means that the hope and the promise of the resurrection begin not only after our earthly death but even now on this earthly pilgrimage toward eternal life.

This passage reminds us that Christian life is about continuous renewal. Our struggle with weakness, sin and old habits never fully ends while on this earth, but through Jesus Christ we are not trapped by them, we conquer them by the power of God. Because Jesus Christ has conquered death, we are told by Paul that, “**consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus,**” Romans 6:11. Baptism is not just something that happened in the past in our infancy or in our adult conversion, but it is a reality to be lived every day. Each day we are called to leave behind selfishness, fear and sin and rise with Christ to live in faith, hope, love and holiness.

Gospel: Matthew 10: 37-42 Background Context: Matthew’s chapter ten is often called “**the missionary discourse.**” Judging by today’s passage of the Gospel, the conditions to follow Jesus Christ is costly and it takes resolute and steadfast determination.

Jesus addressed His Apostles, “**whoever loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**” Matthew 37-38.

Application to Life: Those are not easy words, at first glance those words of Jesus sound very harsh. But Jesus is not commanding us to stop loving our families – ohana.

Rather Jesus teaches us that loyalty to God must take precedence over every other relationship. In ancient Jewish world, **family – ohana** bonds were among the strongest social ties. Jesus' words must have been truly shocking because it placed discipleship **above even the most sacred human relationship – ohana!** We have saying “**blood is thicker than water;**” meaning **ohana bonds of blood** cannot be diluted. Yet **the paradox** is by placing Jesus Christ first before all others, even ohana, we can truly love them best!

For Jesus is not commanding us to love our **families – ohana** less, rather Jesus is instructing us to place Him first above all, to love and serve Him first only then we can truly love our **families – ohana and others rightly**. For the source of our love for our **family-ohana** comes from the love of God pour upon us and therefore from no other place.

Jesus speaks about taking up the **cross**, as the **cross** was symbol of suffering, humiliation and death in the Roman Empire. Before Jesus' crucifixion, His listeners already knew well the **cross** as a brutal form of execution used by the Romans. **Jesus' calling us to take up the cross meant suffering and total surrender to Him.**

To follow Jesus is to let go of the need to control everything, to die to selfish desires and to trust and surrender to God even when it costs us everything. This is not about losing life but discovering a fuller one. The world says, “**protect your life in self-interest,**” but Jesus stated, “**whoever loses his life for my sake will find it,**” Matthew 10:39.

That is **the paradox of the gospel**, this lies at **the heart of our Christian discipleship**. Those who make self-preservation, such as power, or comfort their ultimate goal may gain temporary security but lose what truly matters. **Conversely**, those **who surrender** themselves to Jesus Christ discovers authentic life. Our **surrender becomes freedom and the small love becomes great in the kingdom of God**. Even offering just a cup of cold water to someone in need matters. It reminds us that discipleship is not about dramatic choices but also about unnoticed small daily kindness, quiet faithfulness and simple generosity. Our gospel invites us to ask, who truly comes first in my life and reassures us that every choice made for Jesus Christ big or small has lasting value. Today the question is simple **where God is asking me to make a space – room in my heart first. What is God asking in my life and who and what is God asking me to let go, so that God becomes first in my life?**

OUR PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES

We extend our prayers and condolences at the death of **+Letita Lefua** to the **Lefua & Moratto Ohana**. **+Letita** peacefully passed away on Wednesday, **June 24th** at her home.

+Jill Moratto passed away Saturday, June 27th at Queens Hospital West. Funeral arrangements are pending for both +Letita & +Jill. Eternal Rest Grant Unto +Letita & +Jill O Lord, & Perpetual Light Shine Upon them. **May +Letita & +Jill and all the Souls of the Faithful Departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen.**

MONTH of JULY – FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration Falls on 4th of July Holiday. Church Office will be closed. Due to Holiday traffic and noise in the evening the **Eucharistic Adoration will be from 9:00am – 12:00noon. Closing Benediction at 12:00noon.** Morning prayers, Rosary & Mass will still be held at the usual time: 7:30am – 8:50am.

ST. RITA CHURCH OFFICE HOUR CHANGES

Please Note: Starting July 6th Main Church Office Hours - Mele at St. Rita Church will be 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday. Saturday (2) & Sunday(2) non-office related hours.

On Thursdays Sharon Delosantos will be at the Church Office 9:00am – 2:00pm. Main Church Office Closed on Saturday & Sunday.

These changes are necessitated by the parish to cut the cost of parish operations. Our parish aligns closely with **Sacred Heart, Waianae** also dealing with their cost cutting with 20-Hour weekly office hours. Just like Sacred Hearts, Waianae we are in need to cut down on General Operational costs as we are presently paying off deficits back into our Parish Repair funds. We need to plan for parish church building repairs that are in dire need once our St. Rita Parish Center construction commences. Mahalo for your understanding.

Fr. Paulo's Vacation – The Month of July

I will be on my annual vacation this coming July (starting 2nd week of July). I am going to Guam for my brother's First Death Anniversary as it is a tradition and custom of Chamorro's to celebrate the First Death Anniversaries. Please welcome the **La Salette Fathers from St. Joseph, Waipahu** who will be covering St. Rita parish.

Remembering in Our Prayers All the Victims of the Earthquake in Venezuela

Let us remember in our prayers the people in Venezuela faced destruction, death and suffering after the **7.5 magnitude earthquake** that struck their country this past Thursday. We pray for their quick relief and help they need from the international communities.

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

