



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
O. C. I. A.	Don Gerry
Youth Minister:	Ivan Okuda
Knights of Columbus:	Bill Kozak
Outreach Coordinator:	Carlin Ujimori-Kaeo
Outreach/Facsimile/Prayer-line	

808-672-5437
860-908-5954
808-3086261
609-381-1193
808-668-7833
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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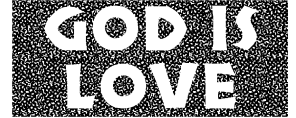
PARISH CALENDAR

Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 5, 2026

Lord, your hand is full of justice!

Saturday, July 4	 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Sunday, July 5	 7:00 a.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream) Aloha Sunday
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass, Aloha Sunday
Monday, July 6	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Tuesday, July 7	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, July 8	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 9	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, July 10	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, July 11	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass



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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:55:10-11: Just as rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return until the whole earth is watered and fruitful, so shall the word of the Lord go out to do God's will and accomplish God's purpose.

Rm:8:18-23: Paul told the Romans that the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelation of God's children. The world will be set free and take part in the wondrous freedom of God's children.

Mt:13:1-23: Jesus told the parable of the sower. When disciples questioned him about it, he explained how those who hear the word and understand it will bear fruit and yield a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.



**HAWAII CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC
RENEWAL SERVICES**

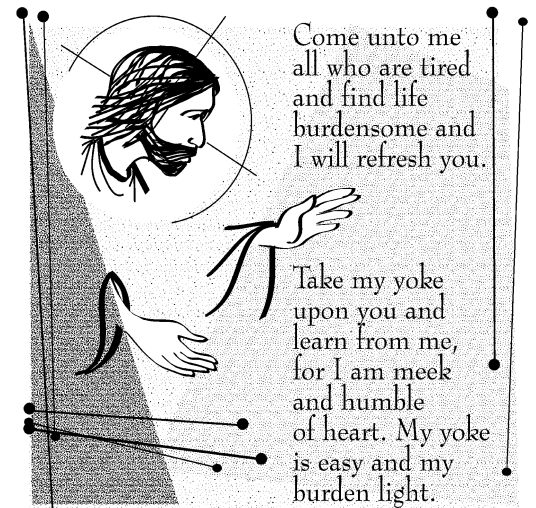
WE WHO ARE RECEIVING THE UNSHAKABLE
KINGDOM SHOULD HAVE GRATITUDE, WITH
WHICH WE SHOULD OFFER WORSHIP PLEASING
TO GOD IN REVERENCE AND AWE.
FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE
HEBREWS 12:28-29

God is a Consuming Fire

46TH CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026, 9 AM-6 PM
CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII
 1822 KEEAMOKU STREET, HONOLULU HI 96822

**FR. ALFRED OMAR GUERRERO, DEACON KEN BISSEN JR.,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: *This Independence Day Weekend, celebrate the freedom to love and grow together. Worldwide Marriage Encounter, now officially recognized by the Vatican as an International Private Association of the Faithful, invites married couples to renew their commitment in a special residential weekend. The next WWME Hawaii experience is July 10-12, 2026, at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley, O`ahu. To apply or for more information, visit www.hawaiiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry at (808)276-571 or email brian.claudine.perry@wwme.org*

WORD OF LIFE: *“O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. . . We celebrate the abundant gifts you have give this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We make reparation for the offenses against you and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation. May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops “Local Celebration of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

WEEKLY READINGS

Jul 05 Sun: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zec:9:9-10; Ps:145; Rms:8:9, 11-13; Mt:11:25-30

Jul 06 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Hos:2:16, 17c-18, 21-22; Ps:145:-2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;

Mt:9:18-26

Jul 07 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Hos:8:4-7; 11-13; Ps:115: 3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10; Mt:9:32-38

Jul 08: Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Hos:10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps:105; 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt:10:1-7

Jul 09 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Hos:11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps:80: 2ac, & 3b, 15-16; Mt:10:7-15

Jul 10 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Hos:14:2-10; Ps:51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 & 17; Mt:10:16-23

Jul 11 Sat: Saint Benedict, Abbot

Is:6:1-8; Ps:93: 1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mt:10:24-33

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,488.00
Candles	40.00
Outreach	320.00
Total	\$ 4,652.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 794.00
Peter's Pence	105.00
Total	\$ 899.00

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

A STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

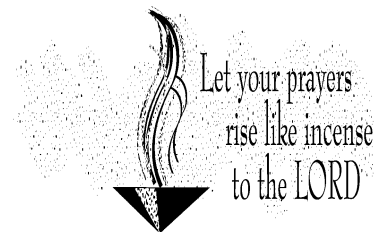
Dear brothers and sisters,

Who are we as disciples of Jesus Christ? How is stewardship part of the life of the disciple? How do we lead others toward this spiritual way of life? These are the questions that stewardship leaders constantly ask themselves. There is no one answer to these essential questions, of course, and no singular way of carrying out the role we have as pastoral leaders who are dedicated to forming people as stewards. Yet, we know that this way of life is filled with meaning and purpose, and we sense the impact it may have on others in our community. “Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves...Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.” (Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, Introduction)

How do we lead people to such living discipleship? In his pastoral letter, The Joy of the Gospel, our late pontiff, Pope Francis pointed to the importance of an encounter with Christ as the beginning point:

Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being (The Joy of the Gospel, 8).

*We rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit to enflame our hearts and open our minds as the beginning point for this encounter with God’s love. As members of Christ’s Body, we also recognize the responsibility we have to witness to the power of faith and the impact of living as disciples in our lives. This is one of the great gifts of stewardship in the life of the Church: as we “let God take us beyond ourselves,” we witness to the transforming power of stewardship as “an expression of discipleship.” We evangelize. A reflection question for stewardship leaders: How do you witness to the impact of living as a disciple who embraces stewardship as a way of life?. **International Catholic Stewardship Council***



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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

July 5, 2026

O Ka Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nui’ia

This Sunday is Aloha Sunday! Our Sunday Liturgy – Mass will mostly be prayed in Oleo Hawai’i. The Hawaiian Mass Prayer folders are available for use. Please leave them at the church after mass (Mahalo to Karen Victor for the translations for the Hawaiian Mass). Join us at the side of the church for coffee, juice and sweet bread.

Let us continue to pray for the success of St. Rita Parish Center to start soon so that we will be able to gather on many of our parish events there.

Happy 4th of July! I am sure many of you celebrated the Independence weekend with family -ohana gathering and cookouts. Though there are some flaws in our Nation, like in any family of nations, yet the truth is that there is no other nation on earth that has been so blessed by God in the 250 years of Independence and enjoy such abundance of blessings.

Let us continue to pray that Our Nation may never forget to remember that all blessings come from God and that it is not only in our strength that we must rely upon but in the moral righteousness to live justly before God and obey His Commandments. Let us always pray in humility before God. **“If My people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land.”**

2 Chronicles 7:14.

Scripture Reflection

Old Testament: Zechariah 9: 9 -10 Background Context: Prophet Zechariah ministered to the people of Judah after their return from exile in Babylon. Although they had come back to their homeland life was still difficult. Into this situation prophet Zechariah gave a message of hope **“Rejoice heartily...shout for joy...See your King shall come to you; just savior is he, meek and riding on an ass on a colt the foal of an ass.” Zechariah 9: 9.**

This promised King is very different from the rulers of the world who displayed powerful army, horses and weapons, but prophet Zechariah described a King who is just savior, meek, and humble for he comes riding on an ass on a colt instead of a horse, Colt, or a donkey signified a beast of burden thus the King comes in humility, peace, to save and to love humanity and not to conquer and destroy as earthly kings do.

His kingdom reigns on not violence but justice and peace and to remove the weapons of war and proclaim peace not only to Israel but to all nations. His reign extends from sea to sea symbolizing the universal reach of God's kingdom.

Application to Life: Christians see this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, this humble King, is the same Jesus who in the Gospel invites each one of us to come to Him.

Prophet Zechariah's prophecy challenges us to examine our own expectations of God. Do we often look for dramatic ways of power, quick solutions of worldly success? Yet God chose the way of humility, service and sacrificial love. To welcome Christ the King means allowing His peace to reign in our hearts and learning His way of gentleness not one of our own selfishness. As His disciples we are called to be signs of that same kingdom rejecting violence, seeking reconciliation and serving others with humble hearts.

New Testament: Romans 8: 9, 11-13 Background Context: If prophet Zechariah showed us that kind of King, Paul in the Letter to the Romans tells how we are able to follow this King not by our own strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that they are to live not in the flesh but according to the spirit of God.

Here **“flesh”** does not simply mean physical body but rather life or a way of life that is centered on selfish desires and living apart from God. But in contrast living in the spirit means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, choices and actions.

Application to Life: Paul states that those who belong to Christ have the spirit of God dwelling in them. This is one of the greatest gifts of the Christian life. The same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives in us. Just as Jesus was raised to life, He is also at work in us, giving us the strength to overcome sin and grow in holiness and live in hope. This new life is not something we achieve by our own efforts, but it is God's gift.

To receive and nurture by our daily cooperation that is in Jesus Christ. Paul also reminds us that we have a choice, we can continue to follow our selfish desires which leads to spiritual death, or we can allow the Holy Spirit to put to death our sinful habits and selfishness. This is not about earning God's love but it's about responding to the new life God has already given us. This passage invites us to ask ourselves who is guiding my life? Are my decisions shaped by selfishness and pride or by the Holy Spirit who calls us to love, forgive and serve? Everyday the Holy Spirit leads us gently closer to Jesus Christ and when we listen to His voice and follow, we experience a true freedom and abundant life, God desires for all His children.

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-30 Background Context: Years ago, going on a hiking trip with group of young adults and wanting to be prepared, I carried not just 1-quart bottle of water but 4-quart bottles of water in my backpack. It seemed like a wise decision at the start of the long hike in Arizona National Park I was about to undertake.

But as the climb became steeper and the midday sun started to beat down on me, I realized at the extra heavy weight that slowed me down, every step became harder. Finally, I had to let go of two extra quarts of bottled water and give it to anyone who wanted it. That is if I wanted to continue and complete the steep climb and make it to the destination.

Application to Life: Sometimes I think life is like that, we tend to carry burden that we think we need only to discover that they keep us from moving forward. We often carry burdens that God never asked us to carry but we do assuming I should know better.

Today's Gospel, Jesus highlights the distinction between the wise of the world and the little ones. At first Jesus' prayer sounds paradoxical, why would God hide truth from the wise? Jesus is not condemning intelligence or learning, rather Jesus is speaking about those who are in the world who are so confident in their knowledge that they leave no room for God.

They are the ones who think they have everything figured out while **"the little children"** on the other hand are those who approach God with humility, openness and trust. Jesus' prayer also revealed the deep intimate relationship between the Father and the Son.

To know Jesus is to know the Father, through Him we discover a God who is loving, merciful and always seeking a relationship with us His children. Jesus extends a most beautiful invitation in the Gospel **"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest..." Matthew 11:28 - 30.**

How often if we quiet ourselves, we may find that we are constantly seeking and doing things that may exhaust us and lack in prioritizing our lives? We often may find that we are tired and drained out because we want to do more, to gain more or achieve more. Does God really want all this out of us? We should often reflect and ask in prayer **"Does God really want all these out of me & Lord what do You want of me and not what I want?"**

We may realize that much of our burden comes from not what God expects of us to do, but from our own desire to prove myself to seek a value to our work and seek an appreciation for what we do. These expectations often become the **"heavy yoke"** that we place upon ourselves. The **"yoke"** spoken by Jesus is the wooden beam measured for the ox that farmers put on the shoulders of the ox or the oxen so that if the two oxen are given the task together, they may walk and pull in the same direction.

In the Gospel Jesus offers and different **“yoke”** and if we take **“the yoke of Jesus”** we allow Him to walk beside us and more it is Jesus who lifts the yoke that we embrace beside Him. **“Jesus’ yoke is light”** not because discipleship is easy but because we are no longer alone. We may begin to stop controlling everything and begin to trust Jesus.

Some of us may carry the burden of always trying to be successful or pretending everything is fine. Some still carry the wounds from what happened years ago. The truth is that these burdens are heavier than what God asks of us to carry, because we try to carry them alone.

This beautiful Gospel invites us to ask ourselves what burden am I carrying that Jesus did not ask me to carry but rather I had created myself? Let us surrender to Jesus and walk with Him not with out Him. We may discover **“the rest”** we had been searching for, all along. The King who rides in a donkey is not asking us to prove ourselves, He simply says **“come to Me.”** If we dare to let go of **“the burdens”** we cling to, we may discover that **“the yoke is easy and the burden is light.”**

OUR PRAYERS & CONDOLENCES

We extend our prayers & condolences to **Bolilan Ohana** at the death of **+Jovita Bolilan** who passed away Friday, July 2nd at Queens West Hospital. Eternal Rest Grand Unto **+Jovita**, O Lord & Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her. May **+Jovita’s** soul & all the souls of the faithful departed in the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.

MAHALO NUI LOA for ALL WHO SPENT AN HOUR

We extend our mahalo nui loa to all who took for an hour before the Eucharistic Adoration this past First Friday. Though inconspicuous to many, simple prayer and presence make all the difference for the blessings for our parish. God bless you.

HO’OMAIKA’I – CONGRATULATIONS

To our newly commissioned **Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister** and **Lecor**: Karen Victor – Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister & Ivan Okuda – Lector. The Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister assist in distribution of the Holy Eucharist and the Lecor assist in proclaiming the Word of God.

JUST A REMINDER of the CHANGES in the ST. RITA OFFICE HOURS

The Main Parish Office Hours – Mele: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Non-Office Hours: Saturday (2) & Sunday (2).

Thursday – Office Covered by volunteer - Sharon Delos Santos from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

Have a blessed week in the Lord! 4 J. Paulo Jr. cap.