

# 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
R. C. I. A.	Don Gerry	860-908-5954
Youth Minister:	Ivan Okuda	808-308-6261
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 or at the Rectory 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

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# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2025

Lord, your hand is full of justice!

## PARISH CALENDAR

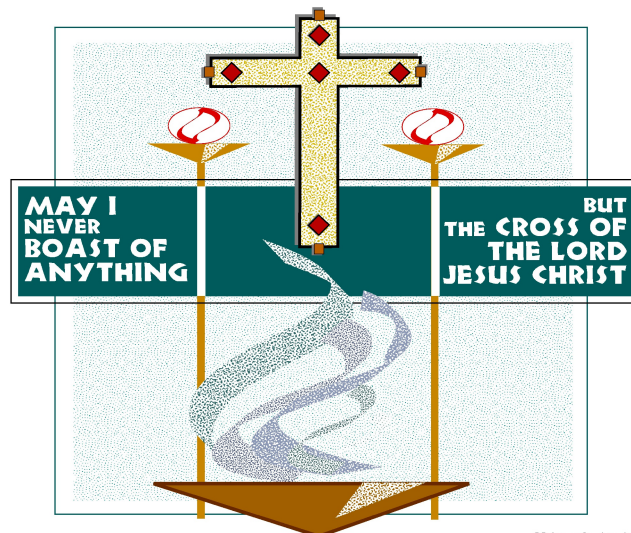
Saturday, July 05	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, <b>Aloha Sunday</b>
Sunday, July 06	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass, <b>Aloha Sunday</b>
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream) <b>Aloha Sunday</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass, <b>Aloha Sunday</b>
Monday, July 07	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, July 08	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, July 09	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Pastoral Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer</b>
Thursday, July 10	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, July 11	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, July 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Dt:30:10-14:** Moses encouraged the people to follow the law of the Lord their God with all their hearts and all their souls. This command is not “mysterious and remote” but “already in your mouths and in your hearts.”

**Col:1:15-20:** Christ Jesus is the new image of God; Before anything came to be, he was. In him resides the fullness of power to restore to God all things: in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

**Lk:10:25-37:** A lawyer asked Jesus what a person must do to gain eternal life. Reminded of the command to love God and neighbor, the man inquired, “Who is my neighbor?”





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Knights of Columbus council 16414 would like to congratulate all St. Rita class of 2025 graduates. Our council consists of men from St. Rita parish who have stepped up and want to make a difference for the parish. If you are a man who is at least 18 years old, in good standing with the Catholic Church, and interested in becoming a Knight, please contact GK Bill Kozak at 1 (609) 381-1193. Council 16414 had fundraisers such as baked good sales, breakfast bentos, and more. If you'd like to support Council 16414 with your time, talent, or treasure please reach out to any brother knight or call GK Bill.

The St. Rita Knights of Columbus Council is proud to present four, \$500 scholarships to St. Rita graduates from the class of 2025. The recipients are: Mychaela Cobb, Kealani Kaalouahi, Jaclyn Okuda and Jayven Okuda.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "O God our Creator. . . through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the of Gospel to every corner of society." *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Prayer for Religious Liberty."*

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Jul 06 Sun: 14<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is:66:10-14c; Ps:66; Gal:6:14-18; Lk:10:1-12, 17-20

**Jul 07 Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:28:10-22a; Ps:91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab; Mt:9:18-26

**Jul 08 Tue: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:32:23-33; Ps:17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b & 15; Mt:9:32-38

**Jul 09 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps:33; 2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt:10: 1-7

**Jul 10 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

Gb:44:18:21, 23b- 29; 45:1-5; Ps:105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt:10:7-15

**Jul 11 Fri: Saint Benedict, Abbot**

Gn:46:1-7, 28-30; Ps:37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt:10:16-23

**Jul 12 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

Gn:49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps:105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt:10:24-33

## NOTES OF STEWARDSHIP



### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 519.21
Candles	40.00
Outreach	70.00
Regatta Parking	160.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3, 789.21</b>

### **RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS**

Building Fund	\$ 1, 325.00
Ohana In Christ	1, 020.00
Peter Pence's	135.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2, 480.00</b>

### **ON-LINE GIVING (JUNE)**

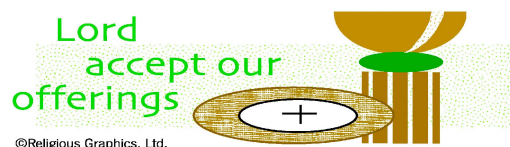
#### **Operation Funds Collection:**

General Collection	\$ 5, 365.00
Outreach	1, 240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6, 605.00</b>

#### **Restricted Collection:**

Building Fund	\$ 3, 175.00
Repair & Maintenance	595.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3, 770.00</b>

### MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri  
8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm  
Closed Wednesday  
Weekend Appointments  
Available



## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C July 6, 2025

### Ka Leo O Ke Kahuipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Nui’ia

#### A Note of Mahalo Nui Loa - Ohana In Christ

Our mahalo nui loa to our parishioners and friends of the parish who participated and assisted St. Rita Parish to reach its goal of **\$ 12,604. for the 2024-2025 Ohana in Christ Appeal.** Keeping your all in our prayers in gratitude and God bless you all.

**Looking Ahead:** St. Rita Pastoral Council will be held, **Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** at Kamiano Traylor. Members are urged to attend.

#### Scripture Reflections

**First Reading: Isaiah 66: 10 - 14c Background Context:** Our first reading is taken from **Prophet Isaiah**, and its message is one of comfort and hope. It was written during a very difficult time when the Israelites returned from living in exile in Babylon. They were back in Jerusalem, but things were not as they had expected. The city was still in ruins, the temple had just been rebuilt, and life was hard. Many people felt disappointed and discouraged. In this passage Prophet Isaiah tells the people to rejoice and be glad about Jerusalem. Even though the city had suffered, it would once again be a place of joy and peace. **Application to Life:** What intimate and deeply affectionate words are spoken by God through Prophet Isaiah to the Israelites. God used timeless image so familiar and sentimental to any Israelite and even to people of today, that of a loving mother. Here Jerusalem is personified as loving and caring for her dear infant. Just as an infant finds comfort, nourishment and safety in its mother's arms, the people of Israel would find comfort, nourishment and love in **God's divine presence.**

Here it is important to note the emphasis on **divine presence** among them. Only in acknowledging and trusting in that promise of God's divine presence in their midst would the image of a loving mother as personified by Jerusalem, make sense.

The bond and the expression of affection a loving and caring mother has for her child is vividly expressed by God. Even to the point of how an infant – “**a nursling carried and fondled in her lap; as a mother comforts you.**” (**Isaiah 66:12**). Anyone who can recall of their growing up years and had the fortune of such experience, the assuring joy, laughter and love of being fondled on the lap of our mothers would feel the warmth swell in their hearts by these words spoken by God! What amazing promises God made to comfort them, to nourish them strong again, and to bring them peace. Truly here in these passages



Prophet Isaiah portrays a human mother who is gentle and loving...such is the image of God! It showed us that God is truly close to us, that God cares and loves us deeply, and God wants to heal us of all our brokenness, most of all God is divinely present in each of our lives. That is why the promise of God is not abstract nor disconnected doctrines hurl to the Israelites. Prophet Isaiah moreover speaks for God who promised to bless the people like a flowing river. **“Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of nations like an overflowing torrent” (Isaiah 66:12)**, a sure and promising sign of abundance, refreshment, and life beyond all expectation.

In our own lives, we too have experienced or felt like our lives are broken. We may have lost direction or hope. Maybe we are waiting for things to get better, or we are tired and burdened from carrying out our struggles. In such times let us recall not simply intellectually but, in our hearts, those warm emotions of what God’s divine presence in our day-to-day life is **“a loving mother.”** How much of our deep embedded pain past and present can be lifted and removed by the transformative power of God’s divine presence and the best encountered with the divine physician is in the Eucharistic Adoration! This is because we can only approach this truth of **Jesus Christ the Divine Physician** truly present in the Holy Eucharist by our act of faith and not with our senses as we are accustomed to do in life. This act of faith takes humility on our part and behold, our hearts become open in us to be touched by the Divine Physician! **“We walk by faith not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7.**

Prophet Isaiah’s message clearly tells us that God sees all of our life’s struggles and comes close to us with comfort and kindness, like a loving mother who tenderly loves her infant child. God does not fix things from far away, rather holds us like a loving mother who holds her beloved child. Have you experienced, even for a fleeting moment, this truth in the presence of the Holy Eucharist exposed in Monstrance? When God became Incarnate, God made His dwelling among us and in His infinite love what no ancient Israelites could ever imagined God lives among us unto the end of time...hidden from our senses yet revealed to those who seek to see with the eyes of faith? We are overwhelmed with awe as we reflect on the amazing words of God spoken so long ago through Prophet Isaiah as we are now privileged to reflect on them through the lenses of the Gospel. What a comforting and reassuring image Prophet Isaiah spoke on behalf of God who so loved us! God gives us peace, strength, and joy even in our difficult times. We simply need to never cease to open our hearts to God’s care. So today, let us take a moment to rest in God’s love and perhaps before year 2025 passes into eternity, that we are given the opportunity to come in faith to the presence of the Divine Physician in the Eucharistic Adoration. Let us rejoice



not because everything is perfect, but we are not alone, that God is with us, holding us, healing us and filling our hearts with new life. Just like Jerusalem though still in ruins was promised to be rebuilt and thus joy after sorrow, we too are promised peace, joy and comfort in God's presence.

**Second Reading: Galatians 6: 14 – 18 Background Context:** This letter to the Galatians is the concluding part of the letter. Paul concluded with a strong clear statement of faith. He boldly declared, **“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:14).** That is a powerful statement especially in today's world where we are often encouraged to show off our achievements, our grades, careers, fitness, social media followers or even in religious actions. Paul turns that idea upside down. He says the only thing worth boasting about is what Jesus did for us on the Cross. Why? Because the Cross is where real love and sacrifice happen.

The Cross reminds us that we are not saved by how **“good”** we are as the world may gauge us, but by God's grace given to us freely because of Jesus Christ and His death on the Cross. Paul even says that things like circumcision, religious rules or traditions do not matter anymore. What matters is being a new creation. That means letting God change us from the inside out, our hearts, our attitudes, the way we treat others, this can feel very real in our everyday lives. Maybe we feel pressure to keep up appearances to **“be perfect”** or to earn approval from people around us, even at church. **Application to Life:** Paul is reminding us; stop trying to earn it. You are already deeply loved. You do not have to prove your worth. Now this does not mean that we are to be complacent in our discipleship, far from it. Paul himself told us, **“I have completed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4: 6).** Paul's reference **“to bearing the marks of Jesus”** is a reminder that following Jesus can come with sacrifice united to Jesus and not apart from Jesus. For Paul, it meant real suffering we bear but those marks – sufferings were not signs of weakness, they were signs of belonging. They showed that his life was fully committed to Jesus. In our living as a disciple it might mean going against the crowd, forgiving when it is hard, being honest when others lie, or standing up for what is right. These choices may not make us popular, but they make us faithful and like Paul we are more and more conformed to the image of Jesus - Cross. Let's not live life of trying to impress others for it always ends in disappointment. **Let us strive to open our lives to God to shape our hearts, more and more in the image of His Son Jesus Christ.** When life becomes difficult or burdensome let us remember that even suffering can be part of following Jesus. And at the center of it all is the Cross, reminding us that we are loved, forgiven and made new in Jesus. That is something worth living for!



**Gospel: Luke 10: 1- 12, 17 – 20 Background Context:** One day a man noticed a boy walking along the beach, picking up starfish and throwing them back into the sea. The man said **“there are thousands of them! You cannot make a difference.”** The boy picked up another and replied, **“I made a difference to this one.”** This simple story mirrors the heart of the gospel passage taken from Luke. Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to prepare the way for Him. These were not famous or powerful, they were ordinary followers, yet given an extraordinary task, to bring peace, heal the sick, and announce that **“the kingdom of God has come near.”** Jesus gave them practical instructions; travel light, stay with those who welcome you, and keep moving when rejected. Jesus did not promise comfort or success. Jesus prepared them for challenge, stating they are being sent **“like lambs among wolves.”** Yet they are to go with trust, depending not on their own strength but on God’s provision and power.

Upon returning the disciples were amazed; for even the demons submitted to them. They had experienced the authority of Jesus at work through them. But Jesus quickly redirects their joy. **“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”** **Application to Life:** The disciples’ and yes, **our true value as disciples of Jesus Christ**, lies not in what they or we have accomplished, **but in their relationship with God** just as ours must be also. Jesus’ words here in the gospel remind us that our mission given by Jesus to us is **not about being successful by the world’s standards. It is about being faithful**, available and willing to do God’s Will. Therefore, our mission as disciples may not always have to be dramatic; it could be very simple as a kind word spoken, a shared meal with those who hunger, or standing up for truth when it is difficult. Success for the disciples of Jesus Christ is not measured by numbers or applause as of the world, but by faithfulness to God’s Will- His Commandments, **“If your love me keep my Commandments.” John 14:15).** The **central message of the passage from Luke’s gospel is the calls each one of us received in our Baptism** and have been given the mission. You do not need to be a preacher or go to far off lands. **Jesus sends us where we are**, to our homes, schools, workplaces, churches, and neighborhoods. Like the boy with the starfish, we may wonder if our efforts matter. But **every act done in Jesus’ name does matter and brings light into the world.** Our joy should not be in praise or power, but knowing we belonged to God, that our names are written in heaven. So let us live with the conviction that we have a mission. Let us live with courage because the kingdom of God has come and we are part of it. So today let us ask ourselves, **where does Jesus send me?** Whom can I comfort, forgive, or serve this week? The mission is here. The harvest is now. Let us answer the call. **Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!** Fr. Paulo

*Fr. Paulo*