



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

Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

With the Lord there is mercy!

Saturday, August 15	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 16	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 17	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, August 18	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, August 19	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a. m	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, August 20	 8:00 a.m	Communion Service
Friday, August 21	 7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - ADMISSION DAY HOLIDAY
Saturday, August 22	 3:15-4:00 p.m	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:22:19-23: The Lord's servant will receive the key of the House of David,. What the servant does, God confirms.

Rm:11:33-36: The riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God are too deep for humans to fathom. God's judgements are inscrutable and unsearchable. All things come from God, through God, and for God.

Mt:16:13-20: At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Then he gave to Peter the keys to heaven's reign. Finally, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (AUGUST 22)!

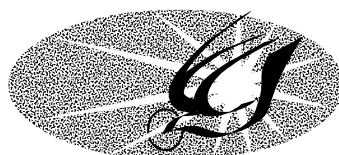
Today's memorial celebrates that Jesus' mother sits on a throne next to His, and Jesus says to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

For these reasons, on October 11, 1954, four years after proclaiming the Assumption, Pope Pius XII instituted the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary in his encyclical, *Ad Caeli Reginam* (The Queen of Heaven). This memorial was assigned to May 31, following the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but in 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the date to August 22, eight days after the Solemnity of the Assumption. Largely this was done to create an octave of anticipation and to show that the Assumption results in the Mother of God being also the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth.

As Queen, Mother Mary intercedes for us and acts as His mediator. From her heavenly throne, the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth is entrusted with God's grace. Not the source, she is privileged to be the instrument of distribution. As a mother, she is pleased to lavish every good thing upon her earthly children. She longs to gather them together in Heaven, with and in her divine Son.

The heart of today's memorial is simple. We have a Queen Mother in Heaven. We turn to her with childlike faith and simplicity. As a young child runs to his mother in time of need, never questioning her love, protection, and care, so we run to her. She is our protectress, our refuge, our hope, and our sweet delight. Her affection is perfect and her motherly love unmatched.

Mother and Queen of Heaven, I run to you as a child with confidence and trust. You are the glorious Queen Mother, reigning over your children with love and mercy. Please pray for me and bestow upon me all that I need. I open my heart to your Son's grace that you are entrusted to dispense. Make me holy and free from sin, so you can present me spotless and pure to your beloved Son, the King of the Universe. Queen of Heaven, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR

ADULTS:(former known as R. C. I. A)

"Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (or OCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's OCIA program will begin **Sept 13, 2026.**
- 2) OCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) OCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.

- 4) OCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:

a. Rite of Acceptance (**beginning of Advent**)

b. Rite of Election (**beginning of Lent**)

c. OCIA Scrutinies (**during Lent**)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call the parish office at 808-6687833 or our OCIA Director (Don Gerry, 860-908-5954)"

WORD OF LIFE: *"No sin, failure, humiliation or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being. The fundamental dignity of each person, therefore, is neither acquired nor earned, nor does it need to be justified" Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas © 2026, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission, All rights reserved*

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 16 Sun: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is:56: 1, 6-7; Ps:67; Rms:11:13-15, 29-32; Mt:15:21-28

Aug 17 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Ez:24:15-23; Dt:32:18-19, 20, 21; Mt:19:16-22

Aug 18 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Ez:28:1-10; Dt:32: 26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt:19:23-30

Aug 19: Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Ez:34:1-11; Ps:23; 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt:18:15-20

Aug 20 Thur: Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Ez:36:23-28; Ps:51: 12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mt:22:1-14

Aug 21 Fri: Saint Pius X, Pope

Ez:37:1-14; Ps:107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt:22:34-40

Aug 22 Sat: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ez:43:1-7ab; Ps:85: 9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt:23:1-12

LOVE

is the command of the Lord

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A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's first reading, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah during a time of political upheaval and moral decline. The prophet had warned of God's judgement against people for the feelings of self-importance they found in their possessions, and condemned them for various forms of economic, injustice such as exploiting the poor and immigrants. Good stewards know that Isaiah's message is as compelling today as it was in the time of the kingdom of Judah: do the right thing. Offer justice and compassion toward others. Be honest in all your dealings. And remember to observe the day of the Lord. International Catholic Stewardship Council

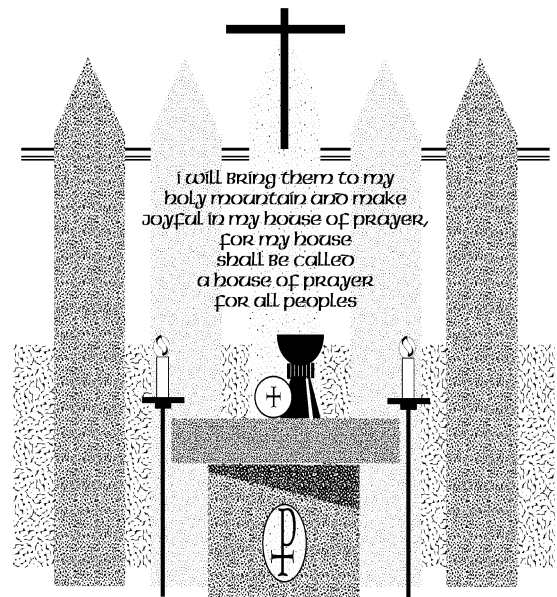
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 272.21
Baptism	320.00
Candles	35.00
Funeral	300.00
Mass Intention	20.00
Outreach	145.00
Total	\$ 3, 992.21

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 420.00
Repair & Maintenance	130.00
Total	\$ 550.00

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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A – August 16, 2026

Ka Leo Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nu’ia

Scripture Reflections

Introduction: Our readings from this 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A, remind us that God’s love and mercy, transcends boundaries and embrace all humanity. Most of all the amazing faith, perseverance and prayer of a foreigner opened the way to God’s blessings!

Old Testament: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Background Context: The first reading taken from the **Book of Isaiah** comes from the period after **the Babylonian Exile (583BCE - 500BCE)**. When the Israelites returned to Jerusalem and tried to rebuild their community and identity but having suffered much in a foreign land they struggled with identity, religious observances and integration again as the People of God.

One of the daunting challenges was accepting and integration of the non-Jews, the foreigners among them. To recognize the foreigners that they too belonged to God’s people.

Perhaps it is one of the clearest testimonies in the Old Testament that God offered salvation to all nations and not only to the Israelites as they had commonly thought. But despite such prophetic testimonies, pride led many in Israel to a **twofold wrong conclusion**: 1) That Israelites were entitled to be saved merely by belonging to the People of the Covenant and 2) That for them the non- Israelites, (the foreigners) were not saved. Yet God clearly stated, **“Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come.”**

Application to Life: Clearly, we are reminded that God’s ohana is bigger than our boundaries. God does not first ask **“where are you from?”** But rather, **“do you love Me and walk in My ways?”**

Prophet Isaiah clearly stated, **“Thus says the Lord, observe what is right, do what is just...” (Isaiah 56:1)**. Salvation is linked with ethical living; God’s future kingdom requires our human cooperation through justice and righteousness. Foreigners are welcome who join themselves to the Lord, into God’s covenant; all who keep God’s Covenant - Laws.

Justice is important because it reflects God’s own character, **“Do what is right”** usually translated **righteousness**. This recalled the faithful living in Covenant with **God’s Justice**

and **God's Righteousness** which always belonged together in prophet Isaiah. **One concerns society, the other concerns personal faithfulness.**

As Christians our belonging to Jesus Christ becomes a living reality when we live justly and righteously in God's Commandments, fulfilling our Baptismal Promises. Let us not be deceived because we were once baptized or had received the other Sacraments we are saved. Our salvation is won by Jesus Christ but at the same time it must come to fruition. Jesus reminded us, not all who cry, "Lord, Lord would be saved, but the one who do the will of My Father."

The **Hebrew word, "yeshuah"**, means "**deliverance**". God promised a new act of redemption- deliverance. Although Israel had returned from exile, the full salvation is still future. We are baptized and have received other Sacraments, partake in the hearing of the Word of God and of the Holy Eucharist, but do they bear fruit in our day-to-day life?

We belong to God, by faith and obedience not ancestry, nor status, nor ethnicity the requirement is our faithful commitment to God.

New Testament: Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

Background Context: In today's second reading taken from chapter 11, Paul wanted all Christians to go a step deeper into understanding God's loving plan to save humankind. Paul reminds us that no amount of ungratefulness or weakness on our part can ever thwart God's plans.

Paul invited Gentiles (non-Jews) to praise God for a double reason: because the rejection of the Good News by the Jews opens the way for that same Good News to be preached to the pagans- Gentiles (non-Jews).

Christians originally coming from paganism should be deeply grateful to God for His wisdom and mercy. "**Now I am speaking to you Gentiles.**" Paul directly addresses the Gentile Christians. "**As the Apostle to the Gentiles,**" Paul explains why Israel's situation matters even to non-Jew believers. The Gentiles must not become proud or think that they have replaced Israel.

Paul stated, "**In order to make my own people jealous and thus save some of them**". The word "**jealous**" does not mean sinful envy. Paul hoped that when Jews see the Gentile enjoying the blessings promised by the Messiah, they will desire those blessings themselves and come to faith in Jesus Christ. This reflects Paul's a pastoral strategy rather than hostility toward the Jews.

Application to Life: Paul had clearly stated, “**The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable**”. This verse is central to Paul’s theology. The **Greek word translated irrevocable** means **not subject to regret or withdrawal**. God never changes His mind about His Covenant. God’s promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob and Israel remain valid because they depend on **God’s faithfulness not merely on human response**.

This teaches an important truth; **God remains faithful even when human beings are unfaithful**. No one would ever thwart God’s plans of saving humankind says Paul, and he forcefully stated God’s unshakable love as God never takes back His gifts or revokes His choice.

In the light of this truth, how much more should we not be grateful for our salvation won by Jesus Christ and strive on our part to bring that amazing and underserving gift of our redemption to completion by doing our part?

That is God’s love for us never fails neither should our love for God. Let us strive to be faithful and when we fail, let us return back and in repentance from sin, seek God’s mercy and love.

Gospel: Mattthew 15:21-28

Background Context: Today’s Gospel takes place in **Tyre and Sidon the pagan territory north of Israel**. Matthew informs us, “**at that time Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon**” This is done **deliberately by Matthew**. Jesus entered the pagan land, and He would demonstrate that faith not ethnicity-status that would truly matter before God.

Both Tyre and Sidon were prosperous Phoenician cities along the Mediterranean Sea along the coast of present-day Lebanon. For many Jews these cities symbolized paganism and hostility toward Israel.

The word “**withdrew**” indicates often the time of preparation or transition for Matthew. **Jesus crosses the geographical and cultural boundaries**, although Jesus’ primary mission remains in Israel, **Jesus’ presence in Gentile territory (Tyre and Sidon) foreshadowed the future mission of the Church**.

Thus, **a Canaanite woman** came and loudly cried out; “**Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David.**” This foreigner, a Canaanite woman called out and made remarkable profession, “**Have mercy**” she approached Jesus as one who can save. Most of all she came with humility. For even as the disciples tried to shut her out she with ever greater effort sought the Lord, for she loved her daughter and desired her to be freed from the torments of the demon.

The woman who is described as a Canaanite here is in **Mark's Gospel** called the Syrophoenician. **But Matthew intentionally** used the ancient title, **Canaanite**. We can recall that the **Canaanites** were **Israel's ancient enemy** in the **Old Testament**.

By using this title Matthew emphasized the even the greatest barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles – even of the Canaanite cannot be a barrier to God's mercy. For even this formidable barrier cannot prevent God's love and mercy shown by Jesus.

Application to Life: She was a pagan, yet she was calling Jesus **"Son of David"** the title she heard the Jews using when referring to the Savior of the world to come.

The initial silence of Jesus seemed to show all but contempt; yet Jesus had already at work in the heart of the woman to bring her to such a faith in in Himself as to serve as a model, not only for the disciples and the people present there, but all who would be disciples.

Often, we too in sincere prayers sometimes grow weary when God seems silent, yet like the Canaanite woman we must persevere in faith with humility.

Jesus' statement "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" At first sight is shocking. That Jesus should at all use the word dogs, the despising term Jews often used to refer to non-Jews or foreigners.

But the actual Greek translation in Matthew, Jesus' word **"dogs"** referred to **"household pet dog"** and not **"the street dogs"** or still more likely **"puppies"**, the **Greek word** used is **"kynaria"** – refer more to non-street dogs.

Jesus used an image from **ohana- family life**. The **"children"** represented **Israel**. The **"bread"** represented **God's blessings**. The **"little dogs – kynaria"** represented the **Gentiles**. Jesus' statement represented **the historical order of salvation rather than judgement about human worth**. But what is more important if we could perceive the tone Jesus put in His words, we would discover the love and mercy in Jesus.

Finally, what a contrast we discover! In last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew chapter 14, just a chapter before, Jesus said to Peter, his own disciple; **"O you little of faith, why did you doubt?"** His own disciple who should have trusted Jesus. Meanwhile here, a foreigner, a Canaanite woman is praised with honor, **"O woman, great is your faith!"**

REMINDER: MASS on SATURDAY, AUGUST 29th is at 4:30PM. RIGHT AFTER MASS, DECON HAL LEVY's 25th CELEBRATION and BRIEF BLESSING of the CONSTRUCTION SITE.

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.

