



## 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.*

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IF YOU \_\_\_\_\_ ARE NEW TO THE PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER  
\_\_\_\_\_ HAVE A NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE(HM) \_\_\_\_\_ (WK.) \_\_\_\_\_

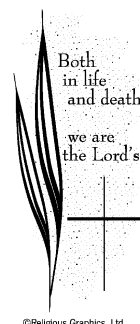
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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# PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026

Love one another  
as I have loved you!



|                         |                     |                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, September 12  | ..... 5:00 p.m.     | Mass                       |
| Sunday, September 13    | ..... 7:00 a.m.     | Mass                       |
|                         | ..... 9:00 a. m.    | Mass (Live Stream)         |
|                         | ..... 5:00 p.m.     | Mass                       |
| Monday, September 14    | ..... 7:30 a.m      | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary    |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.     | Mass                       |
| Tuesday, September 15   | ..... 7:30 a.m      | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary    |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.     | Mass                       |
| Wednesday, September 16 | ..... 7:30 a.m      | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary    |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a. m     | Mass                       |
|                         | .. 9:30am -11:30 am | Food Pantry Open           |
| Thursday, September 17  | ..... 8:00 a.m      | Communion Service          |
| Friday, September 18    | ..... 7:30 a.m      | Liturgy of Hours/Rosary    |
|                         | ..... 8:00 a.m.     | Mass                       |
| Saturday, September 19  | ..... 8:00 a.m.     | Mass                       |
|                         | ..... 3:15-4:00 p.m | <b>Confession - Church</b> |
|                         | ..... 5:00 p.m.     | Mass                       |

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Is:55:6-9:** Isaiah prophesied, "Seek the Lord while he may be found./call him while he is near/...For my thoughts are not your thoughts./nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."

**Phil:1:20c-24, 27a:** Paul wrote, "Life is Christ, and death is gain. . . . I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."

**Mt:20:1-36a:** Jesus told the parable about the vineyard owner who hired workers at different times of the day and paid them all the same amount at the end of the day. The owner concluded, "am I not free to do as I wish with m own money?" Jesus added, "the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross—Feast

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Today, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.

In 326, Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, a devout Christian, embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to identify significant sites from Christ's life and establish a church at each. In Jerusalem, she hoped to find the True Cross and to build a church over the sites of Mount Calvary and Jesus' tomb, known as the Holy Sepulchre. Upon identifying Mount Calvary and the empty tomb, she discovered three buried crosses. After an investigation, the local bishop confirmed they were the crosses used to crucify Jesus and the two thieves. Since Helena did not know which cross was Christ's, she arranged for a sick woman to touch all three. The woman was immediately healed upon touching one of them, indicating that it was the True Cross.

Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of a church to encompass Mount Calvary and Christ's tomb and to house the True Cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was erected and dedicated on September 13, 335. Legend says that the following day—September 14, 335—Christ's Cross was brought outside the church for the faithful to venerate. Over the next three centuries, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated annually in Jerusalem and varied elsewhere.

Although we commemorate three historical events today, the celebration's core is not the Cross's wood or the holy sites where Jesus died and was buried. The primary focus is the infinite love shown through the Son of God's selfless and perfect Sacrifice and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result. The Cross, a cruel instrument of torture and death, is now the symbol of God's perfect love, further magnifying that love and showcasing God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon the world.

**Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for my soul's salvation, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I open myself to that grace, asking You to bestow it superabundantly. May I have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use my sacrifices to further bestow Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You.** (My Catholic Life)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JUBILEE OF ST. FRANCIS:** All are invited to join the Jubilee of St Francis Eucharistic Procession on Saturday, **October 3**, marking the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi. We begin with Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m., at St. Peter and Paul Church, 800 Kaheka St., Honolulu, followed by the procession at 9:00 a.m., concluding at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa with prayer and Benediction. As part of the Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis, the faithful may also receive the Plenary Indulgence grant by the Holy Father, fulfilling the usual conditions of Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and the prescribed Jubilee prayers. Registration is required for everyone joining the procession and is especially important for the safety, security, and proper coordination of all participants. Please see the event poster (**in glass bulletin board**) for registration details. Come and walk with us in faith following Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKEND RETREAT:** Registrations are now being accepted for the **October 9-11, 2026 Retreat!** If you or a friend are hurting from a past abortion and are searching for a confidential, non-judgmental, safe place of healing and supported to express and reconcile painful emotions and begin the healing process, you've found the right place and are welcomed. Both women and men are impacted by abortion and greatly benefit from the retreats. Singles, couples and family members of aborted children have come to Rachel's Vineyard for peace and inner healing. You are not alone. Pick up a Rachel's Vineyard brochure at the entrance of church for more information.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity." USCCB "Prayer to Heal Racial Division"

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Sep 13 Sun: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sir:27:30-28:7; Ps:103; Rm :14:7-9; Mt:18:21-35

**Sep 14 : Mon: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Nm:21:4b-9; Ps:78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-17, 38; Phil: 2:6-11;

Jn:3:13-17

**Sep 15 : Tue: Our Lady of Sorrows**

1 Cor:12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps:100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn:19:25-27

or Lk:2: 33-35

**Sep 16: Wed: Saint Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**

1 Cor:12:31-13:13; Ps:33:2-3, 4-5, 12 & 22; Lk:7:31-35

**Sep 17 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

1 Cor:15:1-11; Ps:118: 1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk:7:36-50

**Sep 18 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

1 Cor:15:12-20; Ps:17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b & 15; Lk:8:1-3

**Sep 19 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

1 Cor:15:35-37, 42-49; Ps:56: 10c-12, 13-14; Lk:8:4-15



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## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Today's gospel reading continues Jesus' instructions on being good stewards of others – the direction that if we love Jesus Christ, we must forgive an individual 77 times. The reading compels us to consider one of the most difficult practices of Christian discipleship. Forgiveness is the way of Jesus, the way of the cross. Vengeance, bitterness and hatred seem so much easier and certainly more desirable. Forgiveness is hard road to travel, but it is the only road that leads to life Christ. Consider this week who you need to forgive. (*International Catholic Stewardship Council*)

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

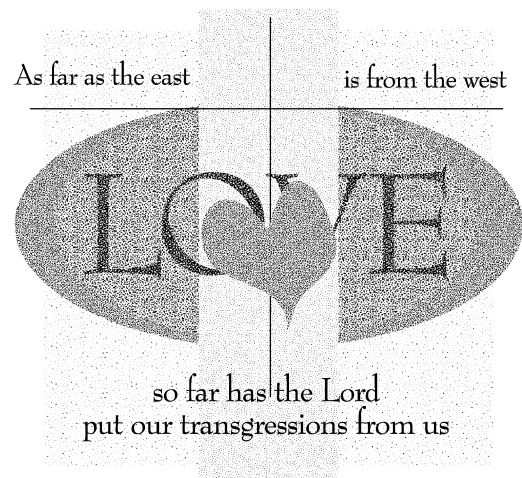
### Operation Funds Collection:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sunday Collection</b> | <b>\$ 2,937.00</b> |
| <b>Candles</b>           | <b>55.00</b>       |
| <b>Funeral</b>           | <b>350.00</b>      |
| <b>Mass Intention</b>    | <b>110.00</b>      |
| <b>Outreach</b>          | <b>2000</b>        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 3,467.00</b> |

## RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Building Fund</b>            | <b>\$ 580.00</b> |
| <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b> | <b>80.00</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$ 660.00</b> |

## MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



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## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A – September 13, 2026

Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Aloha Nui’ia

### Scripture Reflections

**Introduction:** The readings remind us that because we belong to Jesus Christ and have received God’s abundant mercy, we are called to forgive not by forgetting the fault but by refusing to let it control our lives.

**Old Testament: Sirach 27: 30-28:7**

**Background Context:** The Book of Sirach was written by **Jesus ben Sirach**, Jewish wisdom teacher in Jerusalem, probably in the **early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC**. He was concerned with helping people live faithfully in ordinary family and community life.

This passage comes with his teaching about relationships, friendship, anger and danger of allowing resentment to destroy our lives.

**Application to Life:** Sirach warned us that wrath and anger are hateful things, and they can easily become something we hold onto. When we are hurt, we may feel that we have every right to remain angry. We replay the incident; remember the words spoken against us and sometimes imagine how we might get revenge, we become filled with wrath.

But the longer we hold onto resentment and desire for revenge the more it begins to control us. *The central message s simple:* **“Forgive your neighbor’s injustice’ then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven,” (Sirach 28:2).** Sirach connects our relationship with others to our relationship to God. How can we ask God for mercy **“Forgive us our trespasses...”** as we pray the **Lord’s Prayer** without completing the rest of the sentence, **“...as we forgive those who trespass against us?”**

How can we ask God for mercy-forgiveness while refusing to show mercy-forgiveness to someone else? The passage **does not say the wrong** done to us was insignificant our hurt matters before God.

Forgiveness **does not mean pretending** that nothing happened. It means choosing not to allow wrath, anger and revenge to have the final word!

Sirach asks us to remember the end of your life, **“Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!” (Sirach 28:6).**

**Our life is short**, is it worth carrying hatred for years? Sometimes the person who hurt us may never apologize, but we can still choose freedom by forgiving. Is there someone

whose name still brings anger into my heart? Can I bring that person before God today and ask for the grace to forgive? Perhaps forgiveness is not something I can accomplish in one moment, but I can begin by saying “**Lord; I am willing to let go, help me to forgive.**” The tragic grip of wrath is that wrath is not something you feel – it’s something you own, and what you possess defines who you become before God!

### **New Testament: Romans 14: 7-9**

**Background Context:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading taken from the letter of Paul to the Romans, Paul highlights a profound truth: our life does not belong to us alone; we belong to the Lord. “**...so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s,**” (Romans 14:8).

Whether we are alive or have passed from this world, we remain in Christ’s hands. Paul wrote these words while addressing disagreements among Christians about practices such as food and the observances of days.

Some believers were judging others because they did not follow the same practices. Paul reminds them that Christ must be at the center of their lives, rather than their personal opinions.

**Application to Life:** This passage therefore invites us to ask: Who is at the center of my life? Sometimes we live as though everything depends on us, our plans, our achievements, our possessions and our reputation.

But Paul reminds us that we are not our own masters. Our life is a gift from God and is meant to be lived for Christ. This is also a comforting message when we think about death. For a Christian, death is not the end of our relationship with Christ. “**So then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s,**” (Romans 14:8). Jesus Christ died and rose again so that he might be the Lord of both the living and the dead.

Today, can I place my life more completely in God’s hands? Can I trust Him not only with my plans and success, but also with my fears, uncertainties and ultimately my death? I belong to the Lord, and that is both a challenge and a consolation.

### **Gospel: Matthew 18: 21 – 35**

**Background Context:** Peter asked Jesus, “**How often must I forgive?**” Peter suggests seven times, thinking he is being generous. Jesus responded to Peter, “**Not seven times, but seventy-seven times,**”(Matthew 18:22). Jesus is not asking us to keep a ledger count. He is telling us to stop keeping count. Forgiveness is not a mathematical calculation. It flows from the abundant mercy that we ourselves have received from God.

**Application to Life:** Jesus then told the parable of the unforgiving servant. The king decided to settle accounts with his servants. The first servant had **“a huge amount”** a debt he could never pay back, yet upon his plea for mercy, the king is moved with compassion and completely forgave the huge amount of debt. Yet upon meeting his fellow servant who owed him a much smaller debt he refused to forgive. The contrast between the two debts is deliberate, one owed a huge amount that he could not pay back and another but a small amount in comparison.

We are people who have received immense mercy and forgiveness, and therefore, we are called to show mercy and forgiveness to others who owe us so much less.

Sometimes we think that by refusing to forgive, we are punishing the person who hurt us. But often they are not even thinking about the incident anymore and we are still carrying it. We drink the poison while hoping that the other person will suffer. It affects marriages, families-ohana, communities and even religious life. We may be hurt by a church member, a spouse, an in-law, a friend or a community member and carry that pain for years.

The saints remind us that radical forgiveness is possible. St. Maria Goretti at her death bed forgave that man who attacked her, and her family chose forgiveness toward the man responsible for her murder.

Their witness showed that forgiveness does not deny the seriousness of evil; it refuses to allow hatred to have the final word. True forgiveness does not necessarily erase the memory. I may still remember what happened but slowly the memory loses its power over me. I can remember without hatred. I can speak about it without bitterness. I can pray for the person. And if that person genuinely needs help, I can help without reopening the old wound.

Jesus invites us to look at the bigger picture, how much has God forgiven me? When we remember our won need for mercy, our hearts can gradually become more merciful and forgiving.

Unforgiveness can become a powerful opening for the evil spirit because it keeps us tied to wounds and prevents us from experiencing the freedom Jesus Christ wants to give us. The question is: Which spirit am allowing to guide my response? Perhaps today we cannot forgive completely. Perhaps the wound is still too deep.

But we can take the first step, we can bring that person before Jesus Christ. We can say, **“Lord, I am not yet ready to forgive, but I am willing to become willing.”** That may be the beginning of forgiveness.

**ST. RITA SOCIAL HALL CENTER:** Progress is beginning to start. We have received the Certificate of Insurance and Bonds. Please keep in prayer the safe completion of our Social Hall Center.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** A 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection will be taken on Sunday (Saturday Vigil) masses to assist the parish to complete its **2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal**. The Diocese of Honolulu has extended the Appeal to the end of this year.

St. Rita Parish has been tasked to collect **\$ 13, 843.00**. Presently we are at **\$6,242.00**, which is **45%** of the goal. If we do not complete the allocated amount, it would be assessed to our parish for next year 2027.

In order to ease the financial burden, our neighboring parishes of St. Joseph, Sacred Hearts and Immaculate Conception also have been taking 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Envelopes** can be found in the pews or at the entrance of the church with St. Rita Church name stamped on it. Please kokua and simply donate whatever amount you may be able to assist St. Rita and print your name or envelope number.

**Our New St. Rita Church Sign:** The **New St. Rita Church Sign** is displayed on the (west side) of the church. There is a **Sign-in Mahalo Card** for parishioners to sign in. It is to extend our mahalo nui loa to Pablo and Maria Secretaria of Sacred Hearts, Waianae who generously printed and donated 3 sets to be used for our church outdoor sign.

**FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION:** On **Going Faith Formation 2026-2027 Registration papers** can now be found at the entrance of the Church. **1.** Incoming New 2- Year Sacramental Classes (1<sup>st</sup> Communion & Confirmation), **2.** Continuing Sacramental Classes to complete 1<sup>st</sup>. Communion & Confirmation, **3.** Ongoing Post 1<sup>st</sup> Communion & Confirmation Classes. Complete & return them to Karen, Brenda or Church Office.

Faith Formation is integral for growth of our Children in their Catholic Faith which will continue to shape their lives into adulthood.

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Catechetical Sunday:** Next Sunday we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. We will commission: **Karin Victor, Dcn Hal & Brenda Levy, Tom & Amy Izzi and Ivan Okuda, Rosa & Silla Lefua and Don Gerry (OCIA)** as St. Rita Faith Formation Teachers 2026-2027. Parishioners who are interested in becoming Faith Formation Teachers or Aides are encouraged to inquire.

**Finance Meeting:** Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7:00pm at Kamiano Traylor

*Have a blessed week!*  
*J. P. [Signature]*