

They devoted themselves to the teachings of the Apostles and to the breaking of bread.

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**Second Sunday
of Easter
(Divine Mercy)**

April 19, 2020

**Give thanks to God,
for His mercy endures!**

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:2:14, 22-33: they did not know whom they had killed

1 Peter:1:17-21: Jesus was revealed for you.

Lk:240:13-35: the disciples on the road to Emmaus failed to recognize Jesus.

We will be live streaming this Sunday Mass at 10 a. m. @ Facebook.com/stritananakuli

There are many opportunities to view Mass via live stream while public Masses are cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Weekday and Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from various churches in our diocese.

OAHU

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, downtown Honolulu

Sundays at 9 AM, Bishop Larry Silva presiding

Mondays to Saturdays at 8 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/HonoluluCathedralBasilica>

or www.hictv.com

Sacred Heart, Punahou

Sundays at 8 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartpunahou>

St. John Apostle and Evangelist, Mililani

Saturdays at 5 PM and Sunday at 11 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnmililani/live>

St. Joseph, Waipahu

Daily at 7 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchWaipahu/>

St. John the Baptist, Kalihi

Mass in Spanish on Sundays at 8 AM

Para misa en Español, seguir este enlace. Estará disponible el domingo a las 8 AM.

<https://www.facebook.com/kalihicentral/>

MAUI

Christ the King, Kahului

Sundays at 9 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/ctkchurchmaui/>

or Maui radio station 105.5 FM

St. Anthony, Wailuku

Sundays at 9 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/stanthonymaui.org/live>

Rebroadcasts of Sunday Mass available at <https://stanthonymaui.org/>

Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses: www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefyl9g9A5SGWA4FuGIA

Catholic TV Mass. . . www.watchthemass.com/

EWTN Daily Mass. . . <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. . . www.nationalshrine.org/mass/

Catholic Faith Network Masses. . . www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/masses

Prayers

Pope Francis' Prayer with Mary for COVID-19 . . .

<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic.cfm>

Archbishop Gomez Prayer for COVID-19. . .

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-and-prayer-during-coronavirus.cfm>

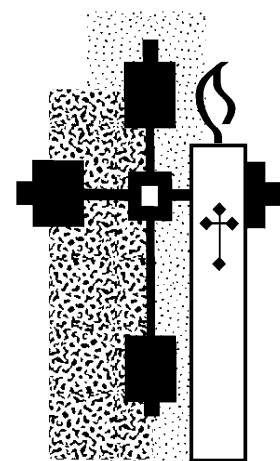
Spiritual Communion. . . (<https://www.archny.org/acts-of-spiritual-communion/>)

COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity. . .

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/covid-19-prayer-of-solidarity.cfm>

Light a Candle Online (from the National Shrine of St. John Neumann).

www.stjohnneumann.org/faith-miracles/light-a-candle-online



**ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASKS, MASKS, MASKS!: Cathy Agor is willing to make masks for the first 50 people who are willing to **donate \$5.00 (per mask) to St Rita's Bldg. Fund.** Just send your check to Mele In the church office with the number of masks you would like and then Cathy will mail them to you. Let's stay safe people!

ST. RITA'S PRAYER GROUP: Aloha Mai Kakou St. Rita Ohana. Join our virtual prayer group on Thursday evenings. Send Mele Ahuna your email address (via e-mail ahuna@hawaii.rr.com) and we can invite you to our Google Hangout! Hope to see you soon! A Hui Hou! St. Rita's Prayer Group.

SPREAD THE NEWS! Check out the Hawaii Catholic Schools' website for a list of summer offerings at our Catholic schools. Summer School and Summer Programs for your keiki along with Professional Development opportunities for teachers are now posted. Visit <http://catholicschoolshawaii.org/2020-summer/> to see the listing.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: THANK YOU!: Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say **THANK YOU!** Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl!

WORD OF LIFE: "If you or someone you know has had an abortion, 'be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.'" * Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is also available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"**

WEEKLY READINGS

Apr 19 Sun: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Acts:2:42-47; Ps:118; 1 Peter: 1:3-9; Jn:20:19-31

Apr 20 Mon: Easter Weekday

Acts:4:23-31; Ps:2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn:3:1-8

Apr 21 Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:4:32-37; Ps:93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn:3:7b-15

Apr 22 Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:5:17-26; Ps:34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn:3:16-21

Apr 23 Thur: Easter Weekday

Acts:5: 27-33; Ps:34: 2 & 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn:3:31-36

Apr 24 Fri: Easter weekday

Acts:5:34-42; Ps:27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn: 6:1-15

Apr 25 Sat: Saint Mark, Evangelist

1 Peter:5:5b-14; Ps:89; 2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk:16:15+-20

Post-Easter Faith

It's hard not to be skeptical these days. We're bombarded with advertisers spending mega-bucks to tell us things that are not absolutely true. The newspaper is filled with stories of people deceiving others. Even some of our political and religious leaders are involved in dubious dealings. How are we to sort it all out? Sometimes, like Thomas, we have to see things for ourselves. We have to try the product to see if it really does what the advertiser claims. We have to talk with and check out references for people who will have an impact on our lives. We have security systems, answering machines and caller ID to protect ourselves from strangers. It's easy to criticize Thomas, but how open are we to the incredible? Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship in the New testament was that of sharing financial resources – giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that offered evidence of God's active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise stewardship in our own parish families. **(International Catholic Stewardship Council)**

You can still continue contribute to St. Rita during this time of Social - distancing by going to our web-site www.stritananakuli.org And click "On-line Giving" on the banner line. You can also send your Tithe/Donation via mail: St. Rita Catholic Church/ 89-318 Farrington Hwy. / Nanakuli, HI 96792

Reflection

All the characteristics of the new church still hold true for us today. In the spirit of the peace Jesus offered the disciples and continues to offer us, we share the victory of the Cross. In the breaking of the bread, prayer, sharing stories, and serving one another, Jesus sends us out, clothed with the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the Good News. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

After Easter, the apostles went out courageously and told the story of Jesus, his resurrection, and the Good News he brought. Many people believed the words, signs, and wonders of Jesus' followers. Together they broke bread, prayed, shared stories, and helped one another. Many sold their possessions and used the proceeds to help the less fortunate. The conversion described in Acts is joyful and dramatic. As we look closely at Peter's letter and John's Gospel, we see less joy and drama. Peter warns new Christians that it is not always easy to be a follower, but the bottom line is that our souls will be saved. We haven't realized yet what that means exactly. Its full impact will not be realized until we join Christ in heaven.

John breaks into the story slowly. He begins by telling us that the apostles had gathered, frightened, in an upper room with locked doors. Jesus appears in the room and gently offers them peace. There's certainly excitement, relief, joy, tears of understanding as the miracle continues to unfold, but even this joy is quieted by Thomas' reluctance to believe what had transpired while he was gone. Still, the same conditions exist for the apostles and for us today as the early Christians found after Easter. We break bread, pray, share stories, and help one another.

Blessed are those
who have not seen
and have believed!



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Breath of Life

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
as you once breathed life into the first
human being,
so now the Risen Christ
breathes your living Spirit into us.
May this Spirit animate every part
of our lives.
May we listen and look for the Spirit,
and follow where the Spirit leads.

If our faith is shaken,
if our joy wavers,
if we long for signs and wonders,
breathe your Spirit into us anew
so that we will persevere in discipleship
and inspire others to follow where
the Spirit leads.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Moving Forward

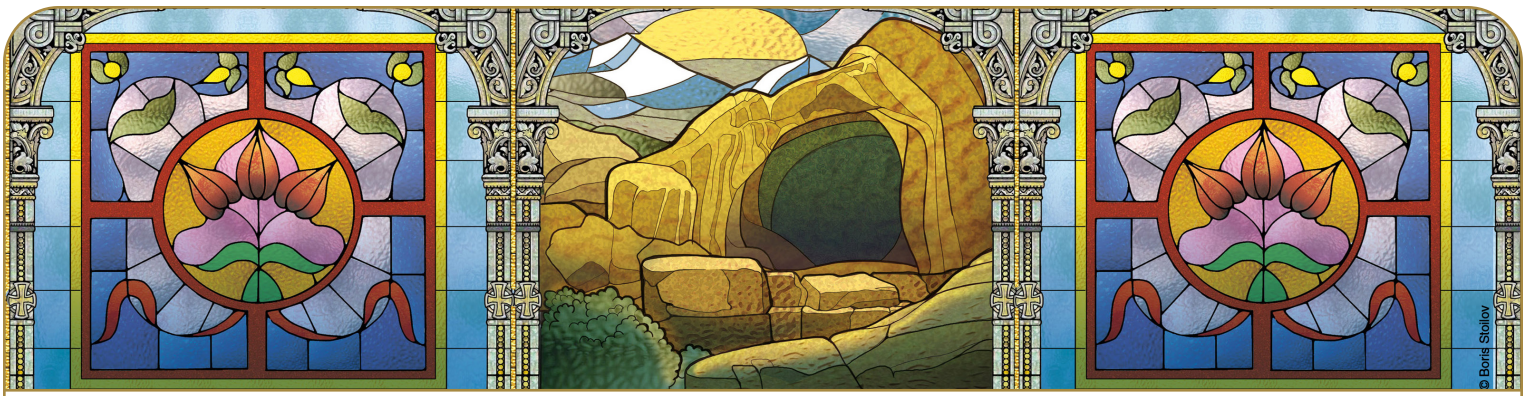


Today's Readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31. Today's readings are permeated with joy. The disciples rejoice when Jesus appears, the early Church exults in her new life in the Spirit, and St. Peter writes of the “indescribable and glorious joy” that comes from knowing how deeply God loves us.

The readings also contain contradictions. The disciples believe in the Risen Lord because he appears to them, and in Acts we hear that the Apostles worked miracles, yet people are blessed for believing without seeing. The passage from Acts also portrays the Church as living in harmony, but other passages reveal that the Church faced internal conflicts and divisions.

St. Peter tells us that we rejoice in our salvation but will sometimes suffer because of our faith. Enduring persecution for the sake of Christ is difficult, but what about other forms of suffering? It's often difficult to integrate our experiences of pain and sorrow into our life of discipleship.

The readings celebrate the joy that arises from faith, but they remind us that faith must be strengthened. We need time in prayer for our encounter with the Risen Lord. We need time with the Scriptures, with the testimony of others who knew Jesus but who also struggled. We need a community to form and support us. Our faith will sometimes waver, but these people and practices will help us enter into the eternal joy of God's Kingdom.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 20 Reborn in the Spirit

Nicodemus doesn't understand that Jesus is bringing about the Kingdom of God. In response, Jesus speaks about the Spirit. Those who are "born from above," who receive the Spirit, become part of God's Kingdom. When the Apostles were reborn in the Spirit, they went forth to bring others into God's Kingdom. At Baptism and Confirmation, we celebrate God's gift of the Spirit, but how much do we let the Spirit work within us? Pray for the courage to live as someone who is reborn in the Spirit. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 21 What We Possess

Nicodemus is a leader among his people, but Jesus has far greater authority because he has come from heaven. Jesus has shared his authority with the Apostles. In Acts, we hear how converts entrust their wealth to the Apostles for distribution among the community. By giving up their wealth, people show that they have submitted themselves to Christ and his Church. They are no longer attached to material things. How attached are you to the things you own? How much would you put at the feet of the Apostles? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 22 Faith to Share

The Acts of the Apostles reminds us that our Christian faith is not something to be kept private. We are instead to be like the Apostles and share the good news that God loves the world so much he became human. When the Apostles are imprisoned for sharing this good news, God sends an angel to free them. God goes to remarkable lengths to help us share his love with others. How can you help someone encounter God's love today? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 23 Brave Witness

Jesus, the one "from above" who has received everything from his Father, speaks on God's behalf and freely shares the Spirit with those who believe. Having received the Spirit, Jesus' followers continue to teach and heal in his name, despite being imprisoned, interrogated, and ordered to stop. Without their brave witness, we would never have heard the Gospel. Pray for those who risk their lives for Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 24 Thy Will Be Done

Despite not having nearly enough food for the crowd, Jesus feeds everyone, and has baskets left over. It is God's will that people be fed, that they be nourished. In Acts, a Jewish leader intervenes on behalf of the Apostles, pointing out that if they are doing God's will, their work will succeed. What work are we trying to do? Does God support us, or are we acting for ourselves alone? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 25 St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark responded to the Lord's command to "proclaim the gospel" by writing down the story of Jesus. In Mark's Gospel account, the danger of the cross looms early in Jesus' ministry. Mark seems to have composed his work for Christians who were persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Like St. Peter in his letter, Mark encourages those who suffer to remain "steadfast in faith." Although we are in a season of rejoicing, we remember that being an Easter people means we must also be people of the cross. Read some or all of Mark's account of the Gospel today. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 16–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

