

PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

In the Lord we find our refuge.

Saturday, April 24	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 25	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 8:30 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 26	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, April 27	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, April 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 29	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, April 30	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, May 1	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts 9:26-31: Saul preached boldly in Jerusalem.

1 Jn 3:18-24: Loving and believing in Christ is to keep his commandments

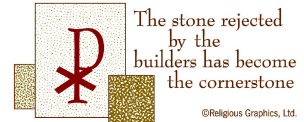
Jn 15:1-8: "I am the vine, you are the branches."

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Mask)

Saturday Evening Mass @ 5 pm

Four Sunday Masses @ 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am & 5 pm

Weekday Masses will be at 8 am & 7 pm (Mon)



To get tickets. You can go to www.stritananakuli.org on the Banner line look "Mass Tickets" click it. You will see screen "Mass Tickets" click on **Obtain Mass Ticket through Event Brite.com here** you will then have a screen which has a picture of the front of the church "St. Rita Catholic Mass Tickets" click; on the next page will be in orange box which says "Select a date" select date and time you wish to get tickets. Please remember there a limited amount of seats due to social distancing. If you do not have a computer you may call the parish office between 10 am - 12 pm (Mon-Tue- Wed-Fri) for tickets

We will continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/

Reflecting on God's Word

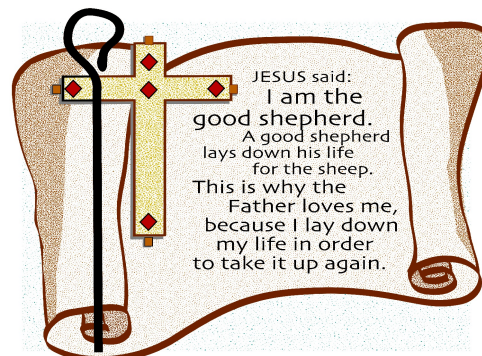
All of creation has the power to lay down its life. The yearly seasons lay down the bounty of their harvest, and daily our own lives pour forth their energy into tasks and labors—all a laying down. Most people want to be and are generous. Most people want to forgive. Most people want to be patient, to sacrifice for the sake of love, to give back what is received. Most people want to give of themselves for the happiness of others, to do service for the community, to donate blood, to be able to forgo their own way for the sake of harmony, to be courageous even at great cost.

All of creation also has the power to take up life again. Springtime returns; each morning we instinctively awaken to another day; weakened bodies heal. We also have the power to take up life. We seek relationships of love; we desire to enfold that love with children. We work hard; we long to be creative; we strive to be good; we seek to create harmony and peace. We hunger for a relationship with our God. And we succeed more often than not. We do have a God-given power to take up new life. It is our God's command to us.

That dual rhythm of laying down and taking up is but the echo of the Lord Jesus and how he chose to live among us. It was his Father's command to him, bred in his bones and in his spirit, and it is a command that continues to show itself in our lives.

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

Copyright © 2014, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: “St Rita is seeking volunteers with the following skills to assist us with the upcoming work days. We need plumbers, carpenters, drywall installers, electricians, painters and general laborers. We also need people with trucks that are willing to pick up building materials and deliver to St. Rita. If you have these skills and want to be part of helping improve the St. Rita campus, please call or text Chris Kalili at (808)840-9038 or Krissy Kalili at (808)840-9039. We will have a preliminary meeting with all volunteers on May 16th. More information will be provided to volunteers regarding this meeting once we have identified who is willing to help. Mahalo!”

2021 DIOCESAN PRIESTS’ RETIREMENT FUND

COLLECTION: Today our Special Collection will be for the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund. Our retired priests dedicated themselves over many years to the service of God’s people, and we are grateful for the service they have rendered to our community. Your donations supplement the diocesan pension fund, covering the costs of sustenance, housing, medical and dental insurance, and other needs as our retired priests move into their elder years. Please be generous! Envelopes are at the back of church. You can donate online:

<https://www.catholichawaii.org/DPRF>

WORD OF LIFE: “Current laws in our country fail to protect the lives of the unborn children. . . . People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil [of abortion], especially when it is occurring on a massive scale, implemented in law and funded, in some instances, by the government.” Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, “Priorities at the Polls”

WEEKLY READINGS

Apr 25 Sun: 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts: 4:8-12; Ps:118; 1 Jn:3:1-2; Jn:10:11-18

Apr 26 Mon: Easter Weekday

Act:11:1-18; Ps:42: 2-3, 43: 3, 4; Jn:10:1-10

Apr 27 Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:11:19-26; Ps:87: 1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn:10:22-30

Apr 28 Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:12:24-13:5a; Ps:67:2-3, 5, 6 & 8; Jn:12:44-50

Apr 29 Thur: Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts:13:13-25; Ps:89:2-3, 21-22, 25 & 27; Jn:13:16-20

Apr 30 Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts:13:26-33; Ps:2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn:14:1-6

Mat 1 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:13:44-52; Ps:98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn:14:7-14

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today’s Gospel reading we hear Jesus referring to himself as “the good shepherd.” His sheep know him, trust him, listen to him and follow him’ having faith that no harm will come to them as long as they stay close to him. We reaffirmed our faith in Christ when we renewed our baptismal promises at Easter. As stewards of our relationship with Jesus Christ, are we, like the sheep, willing to listen to Jesus, follow him, trust him? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

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

Converting the Community

If Easter has worked its wonder, you are different today than you were a year ago. Lent and Easter are seasons of renewal in the church. Each Lent we strive to face our sin, do penance, and rise with Jesus. We draw on the power of these seasons to celebrate the love of God in our lives, a love that accepts us in our sinfulness and calls us into grace.

Each year, if Easter works its wonder, we can grow in holiness.

There is one problem. Even though we may be different, other people may not realize it. They may treat us the same, making it hard for us to live fully the new life of grace.

Take Saul, for example. Before his conversion, he persecuted Christians. After his conversion, he lived for Christ alone.

There was one problem. People didn’t trust Saul. When he showed up in Jerusalem among the disciples, they were afraid of him because they didn’t believe he had changed. Only when Barnabas defended him could Saul move about freely.

The mystery of renewal begins in the quiet of each person’s heart, and gradually it converts the community.

Lectioary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B © 2019

Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by

Paul Turner. Lectioary for Mass © 2001, CCD.

Living God’s Word

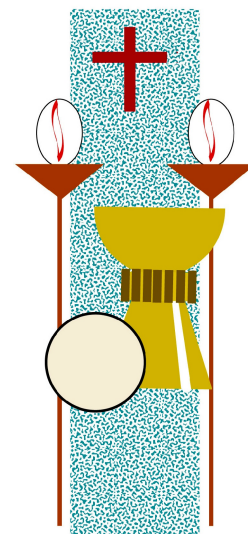


The divine instinct to lay down and to take up is how the Lord Jesus shepherds us, modeling so well what it means to be divine that we find ourselves imitating him and growing in his likeness. That divine instinct is how the Spirit shepherds through us.

Copyright © 2014, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I lack.
In green pastures he makes me lie down;
to still waters he leads me;
he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths

for the sake of his name.
Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me. Amen

April 25, 2021 The Good Shepherd



Today's readings: Acts 4:8–12; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29; 1 John 3:1–2; John 10:11–18. Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd.” The image of the Good Shepherd is one that shows a love that is protective and a love that shows complete concern for the other. This love is most fully expressed when the shepherd lays down his life on the cross for the sheep.

For Jesus’ listeners, the image of a shepherd would have been familiar. The community lived closer to the land than many do today and knew what the work of shepherding entails. In addition, alive in their memory was David, the shepherd king, the ruler of their ancestors from whom the messiah was to come. Jesus’ listeners also would have known of the bad shepherds, shepherds that the prophet Ezekiel had referenced. Jesus himself contrasts the Good

Shepherd with the hired man who works for pay. The Good Shepherd watches over the sheep with love. As Psalm 23 states, the shepherd cares for his sheep, leading them to “still waters” and guiding them “along right paths.” Both Jews and Christians draw consolation from this prayer’s depiction of God as a shepherd, with a rod and staff that provide comfort.

Copy the words of Psalm 23. Which word or phrase stands out most for you? What strikes you most fully? Use pencils, pastels, or markers to illuminate your copied psalm. Choose to draw or shade impressions or work on a less abstract illustration. While you are working, ponder the great gift of the Shepherd’s protective love. Reflect on what it means to be the Lord’s sheep.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 26

Listening for His Voice

The sheep hear the Good Shepherd's voice and recognize it. When do you hear the shepherd's voice most clearly? It is difficult to hear amid the noise of the world. Take five to ten minutes for silent listening. If calming your thoughts is difficult, walking may help to quiet your mind. Another tool for contemplation is to journal by drawing or writing. The movement we engage in can help to quiet our thoughts so that we can hear God calling to us. *Today's readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3–4; John 10:1–10.*

Tuesday, April 27

Making Sheep, Being Sheep

Mold sheep out of clay or make them from cardstock, toothpicks, and cotton balls. Each family member can make his or her own sheep. Then add them to your prayer area to help you reflect on your identity as a sheep of the Good Shepherd. How does the shepherd restore your strength? How is it that you lack nothing? Reflecting on these questions together as a family is a great way to form young children in the faith. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

Wednesday, April 28

New Life

As spring comes and new life spreads throughout the world, it is as though the natural world is reminding us about resurrection. Make a small hanging planter of spring flowers, and bring it to a neighbor who is homebound or someone who is lonely. Sit and visit, seeking connection. This too is a way to bring new life. You might choose to do this for several neighbors. The planting and visiting is a great way for families to build relationships with people in their community. *Today's readings: Acts 12:24–13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6 and 8; John 12:44–50.*

Thursday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena was an Italian woman who was not afraid to speak the truth, even when it was not what people wanted to hear. Read more about the life of this woman who had mystical experiences in prayer. Is God calling you to speak the truth in difficult circumstances? In St. Catherine's day, the Church was undergoing difficulties, much like today. How can we use her life and her writings to inspire us in both prayer and action? *Today's readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25 and 27; John 13:16–20.*

Friday, April 30

Paul's Preaching

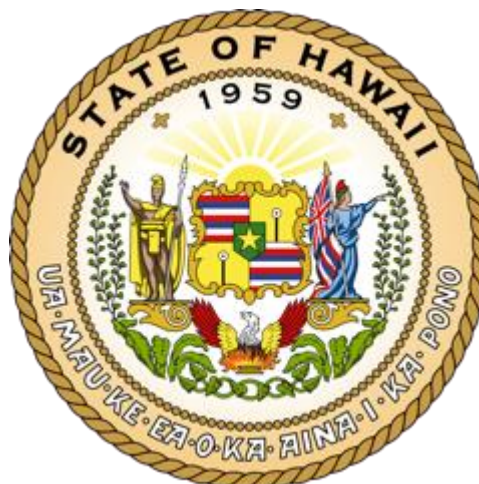
St. Paul preaches, showing Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of God to Israel. When Christians read Scripture, we too look at what happened earlier in salvation history in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Does your parish have a Scripture study you can attend? Reading the Word together in community is a way to guide our interpretations. *Today's readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11ab; John 14:1–6.*

Saturday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker

When we think about St. Joseph, we often meditate on what is called the hidden life of Jesus. These are the many days when the Holy Family was at home in Nazareth. In terms of the time spent and the love that existed, these days were not too different from time with our families. Mary and Joseph were observant of the customs of Jews of their day, and hospitality would have been important to them. Perhaps you could invite someone to your home for dinner in imitation of their practice. It would be especially good if you invite a person who might be having a difficult time or someone who is not a regular guest in your home. *Today's readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14. Proper Gospel for Joseph: Matthew 13:54–58.*





Community Action Network (CAN) Training: Seminar and Workshop

It is crucial at this time to be involved with Legislative Issues. We are asking everyone to join us as we set up a time and place to learn how we can contribute as individual citizens and as a group to be the voice for Pro-Life Issues. The Community Action Network (CAN) provides pastors, deacons, Respect Life Coordinators and parishioners with the tools and resources they need to promote and defend Life and Religious Freedom in Hawaii.

- Learn why we are called by Jesus to take our gospel message into the public policy arena.
- Learn principles for engaging in public policy within a Christian framework.

If you are interested in joining us for this 45 minute seminar with Eva Andrade and her team, please contact gstreff@rcchawaii.org or vstreff@rcchawaii.org. or Call 808-673-3074. Once we receive a minimum of 10 people, we will set up the time and place.

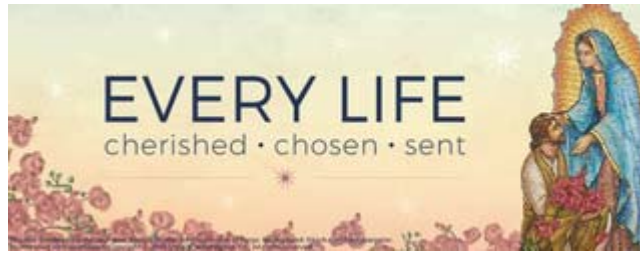


Sidewalk Advocates for Life hosts a 6-hour training course facilitated by Paul Maple, Pro-Life Director for the Knights of Columbus and Program Director for Hawaii's Sidewalk Advocates for Life Organization. Paul recognized that participants/volunteers standing in front of Planned Parenthood praying and holding signs could be more effective if given the necessary advocate training; that is, how to peacefully and lovingly reach out to women and men in crisis and give them choices to save their unborn child.

This one-day program is comprehensive in providing updated information on the abortion industry, the different medical procedures used by the abortion doctors, understanding the RU-486 abortion pill and how to reverse its affects, and Teleabortion. (Teleabortion is a Planned Parenthood pilot-program that utilizes an internet consult with a doctor to prescribe the RU-486 abortion bill. The process was implemented in 2016 in four states – Hawaii is the first to endorse this procedure.)

Please contact Paul Maple: prolifedirector@gmail.com or 808-726-5096. The Honolulu Diocese Respect Life Ministry encourages all Priests, Deacons, Parish Respect Life Coordinators, religious and parishioners to attend this valuable training. The cost is \$25 for a workbook, sidewalk brochures and lunch. Next training session is scheduled for May 22, 2021 at St. Elizabeth Parish from 10 AM to 4 PM. Paul can also set up a training session at your parish.





Current Legislative Issues

Check out USCCB Issues and Action to understand the Catholic Christian viewpoint

- Click on Action Center (<https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/campaigns>)

Highlights of the top 3 Legislative Concerns against Religious Freedoms:

The Equality Act (HR5) (S393) discriminates against people of faith and threatens unborn life.

- Infringes on religious freedom – difficult for individuals to live out their faith; targets Christian beliefs. Reduces human dignity and biblical teachings of male and female created roles.
- Forces women to compete against men and boys in sporting events.
- Requires women to share locker rooms (showers) with biological men.
- All provisions of this act apply to Religious (Catholic) Schools.

The Equality Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is being debated in the Senate.

Born Alive Bill (HR-619) - Stops Infanticide

- Requires doctors and medical staff to provide life-saving medical aid to babies who survive an abortion.
- Bill was introduced by Republican Representative Wagner but is held up in committee by the Democrats.

No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021 (SR6) – Maintains the integrity of the Hyde Amendment

- prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions or for health coverage that includes abortions.
- prohibits qualified health plans from including coverage for abortions.#

#

#

#