

PARISH CALENDAR

Fifth Sunday
of Easter

May 2, 2021

Christ has redeemed us with His blood!

Let us LOVE
not in word and speech
but in deed and truth

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Saturday, May 1 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, May 2 7:00 a.m.	Mass
 8:30 a.m.	Mass
 10:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, May 3	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, May 4	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, May 5	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 6	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, May 7	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, May 8	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48: Peter preaches to the gentiles.

1 John:4:7-10: God's love calls us to love one another.

John:15:9-17: Love one another as I have loved you.

(Everyone who attends Mass must wear a Masks)

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

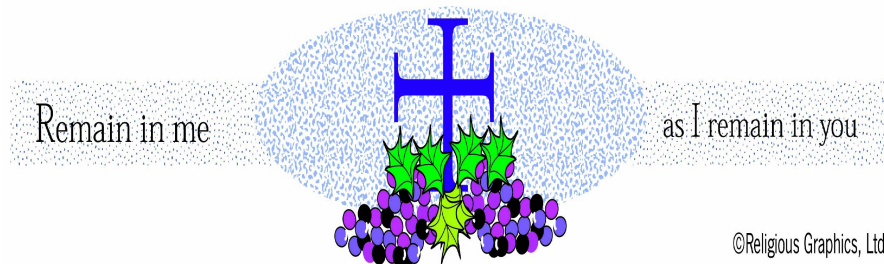
Hearing Jesus' words, "I am the vine, you are the branches," sounds comforting at first. But then comes "and my Father is the vine grower" (John 15:1). The task of the vine grower is to prune and pruning can be tricky. The danger is cutting the main vine and not the branches, or cutting the branches that carry this year's fruit and not the old ones from last year. But Jesus tells us that it is the Father who is out there with the pruning shears, not some careless hired hand. He is cutting away the dead wood, and cutting back the good branches so they bear even more fruit.

Nevertheless, you might think, who wants to be pruned, even metaphorically? Who wants God snipping away? It's hard to be pruned. There is a dying in that. But that is the ongoing story of Easter: dying and rising, pruning and bearing more fruit. God is there pruning us to bring out life, to make us life bearers and life givers. The Father continues snipping away, separating us from our selfishness, our self-centeredness, and all those things we hold on to that do not give us life: resentments, old grievances, desires for getting even.

God is about life, committed to an abundance of life—not just life today but eternal life. That's the divine plan. Are we part of it?

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Building Committee is working to relocate the existing Restrooms and Pantry to the Rectory Building. Volunteers are needed to assist in renovating the Rectory. Work will involve the construction of a new ramp, install new Men and Women toilet facilities, repair/removal of damaged bay-window, repair flooring, electrical work, plumbing work, masonry work, drywall work and painting. Skilled and Unskilled volunteers in any area noted above is asked to come out and join us. We have a preliminary meeting for all volunteers to be held here at the church on May 16th at 11:00am, after the 10:am Mass. More detail information will be given at the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and want to be participate, please call Chris Kalili at 808 840-9038 or Krissy Kalili at 808-840-9039 or Patrick Gomes at 808-347-2384 for more information. Thank you

2021 DIOCESAN PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

COLLECTION: Thank you, for your generosity to the Diocesan Priest's Retirement Fund. 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.

WORD OF LIFE: "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." USCCB Respect Life flyer quoting Pope Francis' "Day of Life Greeting" © 2013 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS

May 2 Sun: 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts: 9:26-31; Ps:22; 1 Jn:3:18-24; Jn:15:1-8

May 3 Mon: Saint Philip and James, Apostles

1 Cor:15:1-18; Ps:19: 2-3, 4-5; Jn:14:6-14

May 4 Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:14:19-28; Ps:145: 10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn:14:27-31a

May 5 Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:15:1-6; Ps:122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn:15:1-8

May 6 Thur: Easter Weekday

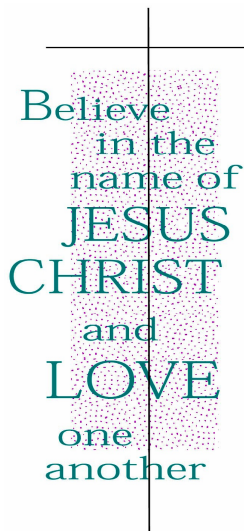
Acts:15:7-21; Ps:96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn:15:9-11

May 7 Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts:15:22-33; Ps:57:8-9, 10 & 12; Jn:15:12-17

May 8 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:16:1-10; Ps:100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn:15:18-21



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NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel reading on "the vine and the branches," Jesus offers a quintessential stewardship statement: *Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.* The theme of this reading is "fruitfulness." We hear the expression "bear fruit" five times. And "bearing fruit" is not something that the branches can do by themselves. They are extensions of the vine, Jesus, and are pruned by the gardener, God the Father, who wants them to be fruitful and to be drawn into the unity of the Father and Son. Good stewards recognized that God's love, presence, gardening and pruning are gifts. Do our lives reflect a capacity to be fruitful? Do we believe that by hearing the Word of the Lord and responding, we not only produce "good fruit," but abide in the very life of God? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

STEWARDSHIP OF 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

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

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.

Lectionary 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. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Help Us Remain

Father,
you are the vine grower, who cultivates
the true vine,
nourishing it and pruning it
and keeping it in good health.
You graft us onto the vine
on the day of our baptism,
and you sustain us.

Help us to keep the commandment to remain
in your love.

Bring about much fruit in us.

And united by the divine love we receive,
bring us more deeply into relationship with
you and one another.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May 2, 2021
Bearing Fruit



Today's readings: Acts 9:26–31; Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32; 1 John 3:18–24; John 15:1–8. “Remain in me as I remain in you.” These words from the Gospel relay that the same life that flows through the vine is also in the branches.

Through the sacraments we receive the gift of God's own life. The image of the branches, sustained by the life of the vine, enables us to meditate more deeply on what that life means. Nourished by grace, we bear fruit. The healthier the vine, the more fruit it will bear. Yet none of us is in isolation. Each of us is intimately close to Jesus and to one another. What happens to one affects all.

When we build up the vine, the Body of Christ, we are doing what Jesus has asked: we are remaining in his love. The key question is how to do so.

When one part of the vine is suffering, all parts suffer. When one person among us is without food or medical care or companionship, all are affected. When one person rejects participation in the life of the vine, the vine itself is lacking. When we love, we create space for the other person to grow. When we love self-sacrificially, as Jesus does, we are like the grain of wheat that dies to itself so as to bear fruit.

Meditate on the image of the vine and the branches. Consider what it means to be so closely connected to one another as a vine is to its branches. Does that change your image of your relationship with Christ and other members of the Body of Christ? Perhaps you might choose to copy the Scripture or to draw the vine. This may help you consider what it might mean for your life to bear fruit.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 3

Feast of Sts. Philip and James

Sts. Philip and James were apostles, and in their example we see what it means to follow Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus' response to Philip's statements help us come to a greater understanding of our discipleship. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles and commissioned them to go out to spread the Good News. How can your life, like theirs, be a witness to the Gospel? *Today's readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; John 14:6–14.*

Tuesday, May 4

A Path of Love

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” These words of Jesus seem particularly relevant to our world, where there appear to be dangers everywhere. When decisions are based on fear rather than love, we often find ourselves led to places we do not want to go. Jesus' life was guided by love. He instructs us that this is the map for us as well. *Today's readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 5

There with Us

Consider the words of Jesus: “ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.” Does this mean that we will always get our heart's desire? In Psalm 23, we hear that, because the Lord is our shepherd, there is nothing that we lack. Do you have everything you need? Be assured, God will be there whenever a person turns to him in their trouble. How can you accompany others in their time of trouble, as Jesus accompanies us? *Today's readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 6

Remain in My Love

Jesus invites us into relationship. He invites us to remain in his love, and he tells us how: keep his commandments. By doing this, he says, “your joy will be complete.” Joy is different than happiness. Joy endures while happiness is fleeting. Our joy will be complete when we choose the way of love. *Today's readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

Friday, May 7

Love One Another

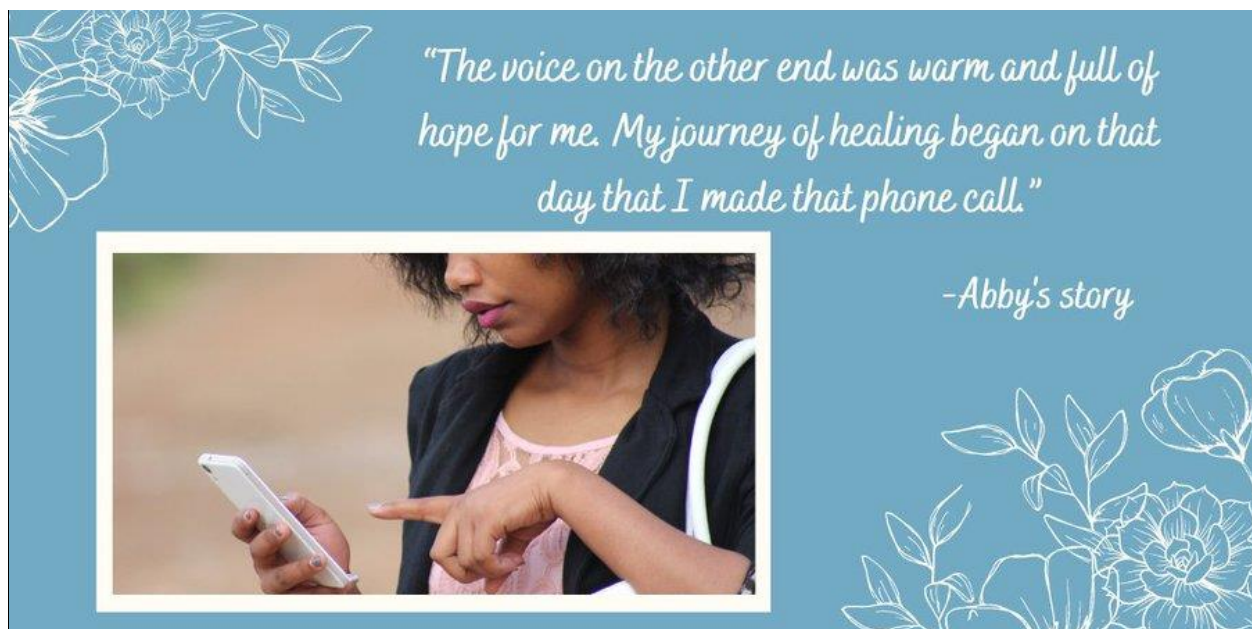
How can we love as Jesus loves? Jesus tells us what we must do: lay down our lives. Do you think he means this literally? Some might be called to martyrdom, but many will not be. Jesus tells us that self-sacrifice is at the heart of what it means to love. When we turn away from selfishness and self-centeredness, even in small ways, when we act with mercy and forgiveness, we are loving as Jesus loves. *Today's readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 8

Challenging the World's Values

Jesus predicts that his way of love will challenge those who place first the things the world values. Christianity is countercultural. How can you help others to make decisions based on love, not fear? Supporting women in crises pregnancies is a way for love to cast out fear. Standing up for the rights of immigrants also rejects fear because it says that the goods of creation are intended for all. We do not have to worry that there will not be enough. We do not need to be afraid of people different from us. *Today's readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*





Project Rachel Ministry

Hope after abortion.

It's common but often unspoken to grieve the loss of a child by abortion. It seems nothing can fill the emptiness of one's heart. Be assured.....there is forgiveness, hope and healing. Many women and men have participated in the Honolulu Diocesan Project Rachel Ministries and were transformed by God's merciful love.

If you, or someone you know, is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available from Project Rachel Ministry. Visit the "Find Help" map on HopeAfterAbortion.org to find the nearest diocesan ministry. In Spanish www.Esperanzaposaborto.org

OR Call

Rachel's Vineyard National Hotline at: 888-456-HOPE (4673)

Local Honolulu Diocese Hotline for Project Rachel at: 808-445-1800

Project Rachel is a Catholic diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion to persons of all faiths. The ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals.

888-456-4673	888-456-4673	888-456-4673	888-456-4673	888-456-4673	888-456-4673
808-445-1800	808-445-1800	808-445-1800	808-445-1800	808-445-1800	808-445-1800