

PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday
of Easter
(Divine Mercy)

April 16, 2023

Jesus, I trust in you!



Saturday, April 15	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 16	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 17	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, April 18	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, April 19	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 20	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, April 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, April 22	..... 10:00-12 pm	Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:2:14, 22-33: Peter proclaimed that Jesus came with miracles, wonders, and signs so that people could know God's love.

1 Pt:1:17-21: the blood of Christ, as of the sinless, unblemished lamb, delivered believers

Lk:24:13-35: Two disciples bound for Emmaus were joined by Jesus, whom they did not recognize. They finally recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream>



Congratulations to **Rachael (Ray) Soden** she received the Sacrament of **Confirmation** and received her **First Eucharist** at the Easter Vigil

We welcome **Jamie Soden** into our parish family **Jamie**, was baptized into the Christian faith last Sunday at the 10 a.m. Mass.

TEAM SPIRIT

Some teams have a life of their own. A good team is not just a collection of talented individuals. It is individuals working together in such a way that they create something new and better.

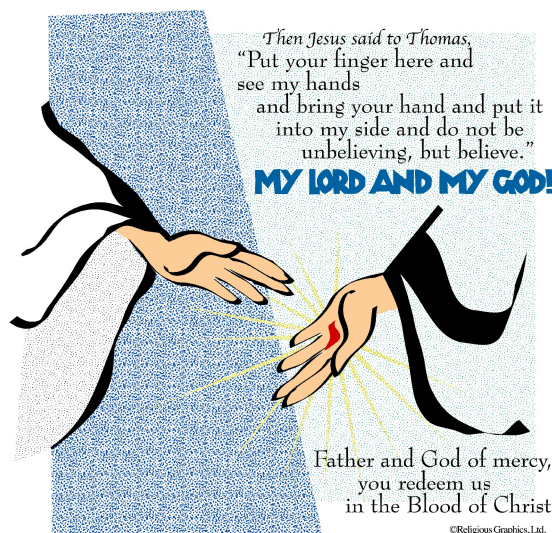
You can have inadequate members in a good team as long as the team sustains all the members. Some teams take the ball field, some of them prepare a meal, and some of them keep a parish alive to its Gospel call.

The team that formed in the years after Jesus died was that kind of a group. They taught and prayed, served, and lived in community. This "Easter team"—the church—worked so well that miracles happened and their numbers increased. God was blessing the work they did.

One of the hallmarks of Christianity is that it is not a faith for loners. Even though each of us meets God intently in the privacy of our hearts, we meet God fully in the communion of the faithful.

You can support your parish community in many ways. You can learn with others, worship in the assembly, do acts of charity with a group, and just spend time with your friends there. When you do, you build God's Easter team.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rachel Vineyard Weekend - Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30th. Arrive at 5:30 pm on Friday/Departure, on Sunday at 5:00 pm.

If you or a friend are hurting from a past abortion and are searching for a confidential, non-judgmental, safe place of healing and support to express and reconcile painful emotions and begin the healing process, look no further... and join us on our next retreat!

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. Call us today if you need someone to talk to. To register, contact Lisa Shorba at (808) 490-2571 or email rvinhawaii@gmail.com.

A fee of \$175/person (covers room, meals/refreshments and retreat materials). Need-based scholarships are available. Space is limited. Registrations are strictly confidential. For more information visit www.rachelsvineyard.com.

RICE BOWL: HAPPY EASTER! Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl and we want to say THANK YOU! If you haven't turn in your Rice Bowl there is still time. Just drop in the collection box..

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 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"** www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

WEEKLY READINGS

Apr 16 Sun: Second Sunday of Easter

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

Apr 17 Mon: Easter Weekday

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

Apr 18 Tue: Easter Weekday

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

Apr 19 Wed: Easter Weekday

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

Apr 20 Thur: Easter Weekday

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

Apr 21 Fri: Easter Weekday

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

Apr 22 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:6:1-7; Ps:119: 23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn:6:22-29

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 conversions to 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 gave 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*)

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

TESTING FAITH

Faith is not fact. Our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus comes from our trust in the promises of God and the faith of those we love. We call it faith and not fact because it is an assurance that comes from deep within our souls. Faith comes with a confidence that the God who made us in goodness has destined us for eternal goodness.

But there are times when our faith is tested. We undergo trials that make us question the goodness of the world and the Creator who made it. We want to believe in Jesus, and yet we do not have the advantage of the first disciples who saw him, heard him, and touched him. Our belief is different from theirs, and it faces challenges they did not know.

The First Letter of Peter says, "You may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith . . . may prove to be for praise." Gold is precious, but it is perishable when tested by fire. Faith is more precious than gold. When tested by fire it only grows stronger.

Our faith may feel weak at times, but those are times for testing. God is present to us, arms filled with promises, ready to steady our vision and shore up our hope. Faith is not fact. It is faith. It struggles deep within the soul, and it survives. It is tested only that it might grow stronger.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Gift of Mercy

God of mercy,
you rain down compassion
upon a world in great need of healing
and shower humanity
with unconditional love.

Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts
today.

Help each of us to receive your
gift of mercy
and allow it to transform our lives.

As we celebrate in Easter joy,
make us instruments of peace
and mercy
in our families, communities,
and Church.

Through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

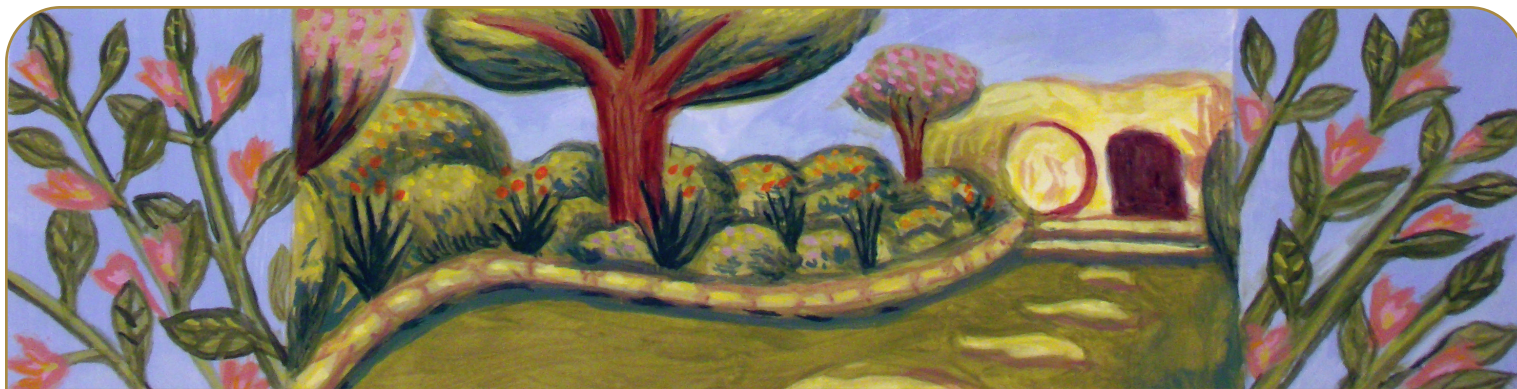
Divine Mercy



Today's readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31. During the Jubilee Year of 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina Kowalska and declared that the universal Church would henceforth observe the Sunday after Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy. As we end the Octave of Easter, we are invited to contemplate the mystery of the resurrection in the light of God's infinite mercy. The richness of God's mercy radiates through today's Scriptures and especially in Jesus' compassionate response toward Thomas' unbelief. The gift of mercy is explicitly given when Jesus commissions his disciples as ministers of divine mercy: "He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you

forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained'" (John 20:22–23). Through entrusting the first disciples with the gift of forgiving sins, Jesus initiated a waterfall of mercy for all of humanity.

Sr. Faustina repeatedly heard a call to proclaim God's mercy to the world. She promoted the chaplet of divine mercy to raise spiritual awareness of God's mercy. Today, many Catholics will visit shrines devoted to divine mercy and pray the chaplet of divine mercy. Our Church announces to the world that God is merciful and that we are invited to rest in his loving embrace. May our hearts grow more aware of the mercy of God in our lives. In turn, may we actively show mercy to those who need it most.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 17 Follow Acts

A reading from Acts is proclaimed on nearly each day of the Easter season. Written as a continuance of his Gospel account, Luke paints the broad strokes of the Church's development from the resurrection of Jesus to Paul's first imprisonment. Luke emphasizes the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Christian community and the spread of the Word of God. Read Acts through to gain a perspective of how this period unfolded. *Today's readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 18 Everyone Had Enough

The early Christian community laid the groundwork for upholding the common good by placing their treasure in a common purse to be shared fairly across the community. As a result, everyone had enough. Religious communities and some other intentional Christian communities follow this practice to this day. The care for the whole community supersedes the wants of the individual. While this ideal may seem radical to our modern way of thinking, there is much to be learned. How can you more intentionally share from our wealth with the most vulnerable in society? *Today's readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 19 Walk in the Light

During the Advent season as we await the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah announces, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:1). Jesus himself proclaims, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). In today's Gospel reading, Jesus equates light with the eternal power of good and dark with the power of evil. As Christians, we are invited to walk in the light,

to seek the truth, and to practice goodness. *Today's readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 20 Obey God

When confronted by the temple leaders about their bold preaching, Peter and the apostles reply, “We must obey God” (Acts 5:29). The Latin root of the word *obey* means “listen” or “hear.” This is powerful instruction for us today. There are so many loud and competing voices in the world. As Christians, we are charged to listen to the voice of God. Attending carefully to the preaching of the apostles in Acts and the speeches of Jesus in the Gospel of John will strengthen the words of truth in our hearts and help drown out all others. *Today's readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 21 My Light and My Salvation

Our responsorial psalm for today captures the essence of Easter faith. We keep our eyes glued on the Lord throughout our earthly life with hope that we will rest in the house of the Lord for all of eternity. Carry Psalm 27 in your pocket, tape it on your bathroom mirror, and pray it daily until you have it memorized. It will carve a path to holiness. *Today's readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 22 Miracles Abound

We hear of two powerful miracles in today's readings. Acts relates that the number of those in Jerusalem coming to believe in Jesus “increased greatly” (Acts 6:7). John's Gospel recounts how Jesus rejoined the disciples in the boat by walking across the water. Which miracle stirs your heart more: the exponential number of people coming to faith or Jesus walking across the sea? Take it to prayer. *Today's readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*

