

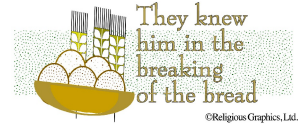
## PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday  
of Easter

April 23, 2023

May I never boast except in  
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, April 22	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 23	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass <b>(Live Stream)</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, April 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, April 25	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance Committee Meeting (Virtual)</b>
Wednesday, April 26	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 27	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, April 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, April 29	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Acts:2:14a, 36-41:** Peter proclaimed that only in the name of Jesus Christ are sins forgiven and the Holy Spirit received.

**1 Pt:2:20b-25:** Jesus suffered for the sins of all people, and by his death on the cross, all can live in accord with God's will.

**Lk:10:1-10:** Jesus said, "I am the gate for the sheep." He declared that whoever enters through him will be saved.

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

### PRICELESS FRIENDS

Some things truly are priceless. You may pay a lot of your hard-earned income to have a home, furnish it for comfort, feed the people who live there, and enjoy the amenities of life. You know the cost of the things you own.

But some things are priceless—the children who play, the people who love you, experiences of friendship, the wonder of creation, fresh air, freedom, and faith.

At Easter it becomes evident that something else is priceless. We are. Jesus offered himself up to death for something that was priceless to him. The First Letter of Peter says, "You were ransomed from your futile conduct . . . not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ." Jesus' own life was more precious than silver and gold, and he gave it up for what he valued: humanity.

At Easter we learn again how precious is human life. We come to a new realization of who we are and how much we mean to the God who made us. We are loved.

As we look around at other people, we see some we know well and some who are strangers. We see people we love and people we ignore. We see people in need and people of plenty. But if we see them as God sees them, we see people of value. Let us live in reverence of the life we have and the life we see. It is priceless.

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And it happened that,  
while he was with them  
at table, he took bread,  
said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave  
it to them. With  
that their eyes were  
opened and they  
recognized him.

The two recounted what  
had taken place on the way  
and how he was made known  
to them in the breaking  
of the bread.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DIOCESAN PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND:** Next week our Special Collection will be for the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund. This is a different collection from the *Religious Retirement Fund* that is done each December. In concert with next weekend's Good Shepherd Sunday, we are asked to prayerfully consider giving generously to this collection that will directly support our priest who are in their retirement years. They have given their lives shepherding our communities, and we pray that they are adequately cared for in this next chapter of their lives.

**THE VOICES OF VERMONT, USA: Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 10 am (HST)** Join this special webinar "The Voices of Vermont, USA hosted by the Damien & Marianne Catholic Conference. This live presentation from Vermont will features several panelists who will share their story on how their personal and professional lives have been impacted and continually been influenced by Servant of god Joseph Dutton layman, affectionately known to the people of Vermont as "Brother Joseph Dutton, Beloved do of Stowe." Pre-register for this complementary webinar at [www.dmrechawaii.org](http://www.dmrechawaii.org)

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. . . . Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Apr 23 Sun: Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts:2:14, 22-33; Ps:16; 1 Pt:1:17-21; Lk:24:13-35

**Apr 24 Mon: Easter Weekday**

Acts:6:8-15; Ps:119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn:6:22-29

**Apr 25 Tue: Saint Mark, Evangelist**

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

**Apr 26 Wed: Easter Weekday**

Acts:8:1b-8; Ps:66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn:6:35-40

**Apr 27 Thur: Easter Weekday**

Acts:8:26-40; Ps:66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn:6:44-51

**Apr 28 Fri: Easter Weekday**

Acts:9:1-20; Ps:117: 1bc, 2; Jn:6:52-59

**Apr 29 Sat: Saint Catherine**

Acts:9:31-42; Ps:116:123-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn:6:60-69

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

As today's gospel reveals, the first meal shared with the risen Lord happened in a place called Emmaus. Perhaps there is no better time to reflect on this story than in those prayerful moments at Mass when we return to our place after receiving Holy Communion. Those few moments give us an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of Christ's presence within us. We have a chance to practice hospitality by inviting Jesus into our hearts to walk and talk with us about our own Emmaus journey. We can relieve once again the time when he broke bread for the disciples. And just as they did, we too can recognize Christ in this meal we have just shared with others. *(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](http://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**

## THE EASTER MESSAGE

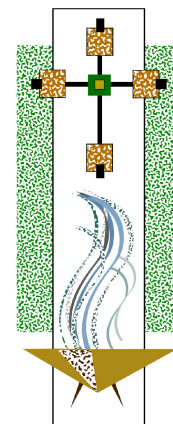
Christian parents have the joy of teaching the faith to their children. When they do so, they tell the story in its simplest terms. Jesus came from God. He performed many miracles. His enemies put him to death on a cross. God raised him up again. These are the core elements of the story of Jesus. When parents tell them, they renew their own faith.

On the first Pentecost Sunday, Peter found himself in a situation that called for the core message. He stood up in Jerusalem before a group of his peers and preached. What could he say? He just told the basics. Jesus came with a mission and he rose from the dead.

Some people are afraid they do not know enough about their faith to teach others. They shy away from volunteering. Yet the core message of our belief is contained in the creed we know so well and recite so regularly. And if the faith has truly taken firm hold of our hearts, we will be unable to keep quiet about its message.

Christian parents do this best, but we are called in many ways to proclaim the simple message and core belief: Jesus came from God, and he is risen!

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# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



## The Path of Life

Ever-present God,  
always near to us,  
you invite us to recognize your presence  
and remain close in your friendship.  
Help us open our eyes to see you when you  
draw near.  
Open our ears to hear you teach your  
divine plan.

Open our hearts to receive you fully in  
the Eucharist.  
And in doing so, show us the path of life.  
As you accompany us, help us in turn,  
to draw others to you.  
Through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

**Remain Close**



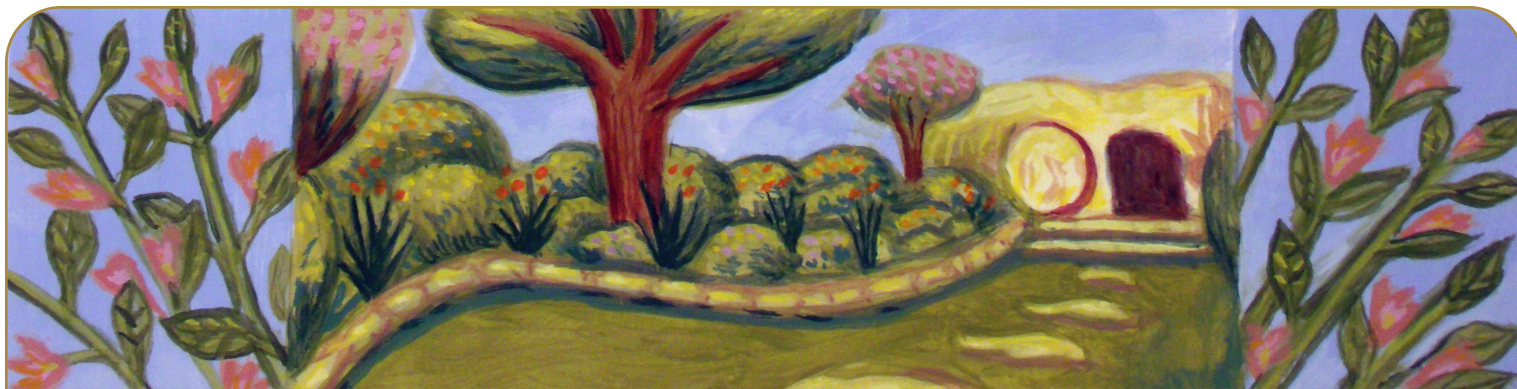
*Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 (11a); 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35.* The Gospel story that recounts Jesus meeting disciples on the road to Emmaus mirrors our journey of faith. Just as Jesus drew near and walked with the disciples, Jesus continually draws near and accompanies us on our path of life. Sometimes we see him right away and welcome his company. Other times, like the two disciples, our eyes are prevented from recognizing his presence. Nevertheless, Jesus persists in making himself known to us.

The disciples' response to Jesus is "Stay with us" (Luke 24:29). And he does, just not in the way they expect. First, he unpacks the Scriptures with them. Next, as he did

at the Last Supper, he gives his real presence in the bread they share when they sit down at the table to eat together. So it is with us, every time we gather around our community table, the altar, Jesus stays with us. He becomes truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. We receive him into our very bodies, hearts, and souls.

As we journey through these Easter days, aglow with joy, God unceasingly pleads with us to "remain close." That can be done through keeping up the spiritual disciplines practiced throughout Lent. We can also remain close through being fully present at the celebration of the Eucharist, where Jesus draws near to us and invites us to spiritual union: communion.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 24

#### Faith in the One He Sent

Jesus offers the key to discipleship to the crowds following him from shore to shore, pleading for more miracles. Jesus instructs, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent” (John 6:29). There it is in a nutshell: have faith. How do we fuel ourselves as disciples? Daily prayer, faithfully attending Mass, reading Scripture, sharing our faith with others, and more. There is much to learn about the call to discipleship through the Scripture readings this third week of Easter. Attend closely. *Today’s readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

### Tuesday, April 25

#### St. Mark

Today the Church commemorates St. Mark, disciple and evangelist. Mark’s Gospel serves as a handbook for discipleship. We listen to the final words spoken by Jesus to his contemporary disciples and all who follow him forever after: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). The mission of the Church and our call as Christian disciples continues to be to share the good news about Jesus Christ in our words, action, gestures, and relationships. *Today’s readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 16–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

### Wednesday, April 26

#### Stand Up for Faith

The challenges of discipleship are on full display in today’s passage from Acts. The early Christians suffered terrible persecution and the scattering of their communities. Christians have faced persecution across the centuries to this day. Stories abound about courageous stands for faith in the face of grave threats. No matter what, the disciples of the early Church persisted and brought many more followers to faith, growing the Church against all odds. *Today’s readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

### Thursday, April 27

#### Called to Teach

Philip demonstrates the call of discipleship to serve as catechist (one who “echoes” the faith). The eunuch seeks understanding and Philip responds, using the Scripture as his starting point, “telling him the good news of Jesus” (Acts 8:35). We are called to follow Philip’s example as catechists, teachers, parents, and friends. Start with the Scriptures and unpack the truths of our faith, persistently sharing the joy of the Gospel with all who will listen. *Today’s readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

### Friday, April 28

#### Called and Chosen

The reading from Acts tells the compelling narrative of the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. Proclaimed in this reading are the flash of light from the sky, the fall, the voice of Jesus, three days that St. Paul was blinded, scales falling from the eyes, and the call to discipleship. Most of us will experience our call to discipleship without the drama and stunned witnesses. Called on the day of our baptism, we are continually invited throughout our life to follow Jesus and serve as his voice, hands, and feet. Reflect on your call today. Embrace it anew in solidarity with St. Paul’s faithful response. *Today’s readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

### Saturday, April 29

#### St. Catherine of Siena

Today the Church lifts up St. Catherine of Siena, mystic, healer, peacemaker, unifier, scholar, and writer. Catherine is a model for all who seek to listen deeply for the will of God and courageously step out to steer the Church to her fullest potential. St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us. *Today’s readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*

