

# PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

May 8, 2022

The Good Shepherd  
is truly risen!



Saturday, May 7	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, May 8	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, May 9	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, May 10	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass - St. Damien de Veuster
	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass - St. Damien de Veuster
Wednesday, May 11	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, May 13	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, May 14	..... 10:00-12 pm	<b>Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St.</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Acts:14:21-27: Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the good news and made numerous disciples .**

**Rev: 21:1-5a: John saw a new heaven and new earth.**

**John:13:31-33a, 34-35: "Jesus said to the others, "I give you a new commandment: love one another.**

**(Masks are optional but encouraged)**

**We continue to live streaming the Sunday Mass at 9:00 a. m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr\\_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7Cg/)**

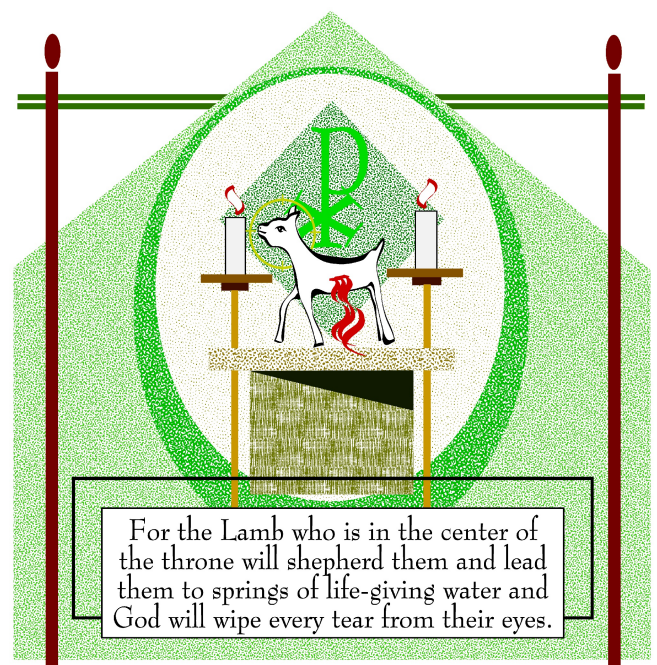
## REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

The game called Follow the Leader can be fun—depending on how the leader leads. If the leader charges through tangled bushes, over high fences, under fallen branches, and around barking dogs, trying to lose and discourage the other players, the followers tend to give up in defeat, feeling cowardly, sad, and weak. On the other hand, if the leader blazes the trail for the others, and encourages and guides them along the way, the followers can complete the game feeling confident and joyful.

Today's scriptures show Christ as the latter kind of leader. He guides us and wipes away our tears. He is a shepherd who encourages us and brings us through suffering to life-giving water. Paul and Barnabas joyfully follow his lead by becoming Christ-like leaders themselves. They encourage and ease the way for their own followers through whatever distress may come their way. In the same way, all followers of Christ are meant to become leaders who share with others the courage, confidence, and joy they have found in following Christ.

—Virginia Stillwell

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For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **DIOCESAN PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND (MAY 7-8):**

This weekend our Special collection is for our "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. They were there for us. Let's be there for them now." Envelopes are at the back of church and in your envelope packets. You can also give on online at [www.catholichawaii.org/dprf](http://www.catholichawaii.org/dprf). Please be generous.

## **SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEARTS AT REGINA PACIS CONVENT:**

The parishioners of St. Rita will be remembered expressly in the prayers and works of the Sisters of the Sacred hearts at Regina Pacis Convent during the week of **May 15 to 21, 2022**. You may send your prayer intentions to the Sisters by phone (808)737-5822, via e-mail; [reginasscc@cs.com](mailto:reginasscc@cs.com) or by mail to Regina Pacis Community 1120 Fifth Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816. The Sacred Hearts sisters are Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, their chapel is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to anyone who wishes to spend some time in prayer. The sister's invite you to join in the Perpetual Adoration at home by uniting yourself with the Sister at adoration in their chapel.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers"*

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

### **May 8 Sun: Fourth Sunday Of Easter**

Act:13:14, 43-52; Ps:100: Rev:7:9, 14b-17; Jn:10 :27-30

### **May 9 Mon: Easter Weekday**

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

### **May 10 Tue: Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest**

1 Cor:15:1-8; Ps:19:2-3, 4-5; Jn:14:6-14

### **May 11 Wed: Easter Weekday**

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

### **May 12 Thur: Easter Weekday**

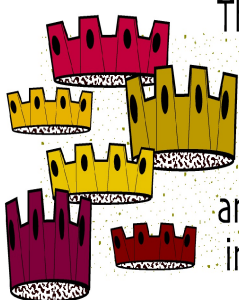
Acts:13:13-25; Ps:89:2-3, 21,22, 25 & 27; Jn:13:16-20

### **May 13 Fri: Easter Weekday**

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

### **May 14 Sat: Saint Matthias, Apostle**

Acts:1:15-17, 20-26; Ps:113: 1-2, 3- 4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn:15:9-17



These are the ones who have survived the time of distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb

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## **NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP**

*Jesus, the "Good Shepherd," makes a promise in today's Gospel to those who hear his voice and follow him. He promises them eternal life. Amidst all the other voices that clamor for attention in their daily lives, the voices that make demands, give advice, seek to persuade or like to gossip, good stewards listen for the Good Shepherd's voice. The other voices are legion and we do not always recognize how contrary they are to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Good stewards know that it takes compassionate heart, a habit of prayer, a hunger for the Eucharist and a love of neighbor for them to truly hear the voice of the good Shepherd. What might we do in our daily lives to prepare us to more authentically hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?*  
**(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**

## **GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE SPIRIT**

You cannot stop the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will flow and inspire, filling the earth beyond all borders. You cannot stop God's Word.

They tried. The enemies of Paul and Barnabas tried to stop them from preaching. They tried to contain the message of the Gospel. It did not work.

Paul and Barnabas, traveling on a missionary journey, spoke at a synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism listened. By the following week the crowds were so large that the Jewish leaders of the city tried to stop the apostles from preaching. Paul and Barnabas simply preached to a wider audience. They no longer preached to Jews alone. Now they were preaching to Gentiles.

As Christianity continued to spread, the Jewish leaders started a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their territory. They did the only thing they could do. They went to another city. And they preached the Gospel there.

If the Holy Spirit has a message, that message will be proclaimed. And if the message is within us, we will speak it. Not everyone is prepared to hear the message. Not everyone will receive its point. But the Spirit will speak.

When someone tries to keep you from saying what you know is important, the Spirit may be looking for a wider audience.

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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Our Shepherd

Faithful Shepherd,  
you know each member of your flock.  
Open our hearts and minds  
to see your presence in the world.  
As the Good Shepherd,  
you hear and answer our prayer.  
May we allow your voice to resound  
in our hearts.  
Guide us to understand  
that no matter who we are  
or where we are in this world,  
we are all members of your flock.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 8, 2022  
Accompanying One Another



*Today's readings: Acts 13:14, 43–52; Psalm 100:1–2, 3, 5; Revelation 7:9, 14b–17; John 10:27–30.* Why does it seem that differences in culture, religion, or preferences frighten people? This appears to be the situation in the first reading today. The Jews grew jealous when Paul and Barnabas included the Gentiles in a Sabbath gathering. One group saw themselves as more deserving than the other and grew angry and violent. They wanted to keep the faith contained among those like themselves.

In the Gospel, Jesus identifies his sheep as those who “hear my voice” and “follow me.” Jesus gives them “eternal life.” Jesus’ sheep only need to hear his voice and follow him. It seems so simple, yet often people complicate

Christianity as they judge by appearances. Fear can lead to anger and ultimately to excluding people who have many gifts and talents to offer our communities.

When fearful of others, it is essential to pray for the grace to see people as God sees them, to recognize the presence of God within those who come to us seeking to join our journey of faith. Our prayer should lead us to treat each person with dignity and respect. May we strive to imitate the reverence for others that is apparent in Pope Francis’ statement: “The Church will have to initiate everyone—priests, religious and laity—into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 169).



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 9**

### The Voice of the Shepherd

Think of the people you love and how it feels when you hear one of them say your name. Often, the voice of a loved one is soothing. Jesus knows and calls us by name; if we are listening, comfort and security will be found even while facing challenges. Today, allow yourself a few moments of silence to hear your name being called by the Good Shepherd, and know the gift of peace. Consider meditating on the words of Sunday's responsorial psalm: we are his people, the sheep of his flock. *Today's readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4; John 10:1-10.*

**Tuesday, May 10**

### A Hand to Hold

Jesus lets his doubters know that his followers, his sheep, are secure with him. "No one can take them out of my hand," he says, "and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one." No matter the situation or adversary, Christians can rest assured that God cares for them. *Today's readings: Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30.*

**Wednesday, May 11**

### Light in Darkness

"I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness," Jesus states in today's Gospel. Unable to see in the dark, people often become afraid. The darkness we find ourselves in can be as literal as when the electricity is out during a storm, or figurative such as when the future seems uncertain. When you feel enveloped by darkness, remember to look for Jesus to light your path. *Today's readings: Acts 12:24-13:5a; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; John 12:44-50.*

**Thursday, May 12**

### God Is Good

"For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord," we sing in today's responsorial psalm. What are the blessings in your life? Love, faith, family, friendship, a place to call home, our health, a job are some of the blessings that might come to mind. Many of these we take for granted. Grace, mercy, and faithfulness are God's promise to us. Even a moment of gratitude opens us to the fullness of this promise. *Today's readings: Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; John 13:16-20.*

**Friday, May 13**

### Have Faith

Just as Jesus tells the disciples, he also tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." How often we allow our hearts to be troubled. It seems as though worry and fear can become a way of life. Spend time with the Gospel, placing yourself in Jesus' hands as you contemplate that he is "the way the truth and the life." *Today's readings: Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14:1-6.*

**Saturday, May 14**

### Faithful and Kind

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his followers to come to him in prayer. "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do so that the Father may be glorified in the Son," he says. Not only does Jesus desire to answer his followers' petitions, but he seeks to draw them to the Father. As we come to know Jesus, we come to know the Father. Spend time in a conversation with God and tell him your deepest concerns. Allow for quiet time to listen to God in your heart. *Today's readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; John 15:9-17.*





## Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

### **NEWS RELEASE**

TO: Diocesan Pro-Life Directors, State Catholic Conference Directors

FROM: USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

DATE: May 4, 2022

USCCB Pro-Life Chairman Urges Faithful to Pray in Response to Leak of Draft Supreme Court Opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

WASHINGTON—In response to the leak of a draft opinion in the Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities issued the following call to prayer:

"The leak related to the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* reminds us of the urgent need for prayer and action at this pivotal moment in our country.

"As Catholics, we care about every unborn child and every mother. Our Church has consistently witnessed in word and deed that **life begins at the moment of conception**. As the bishops shared in our statement **Standing with Moms in Need**: we pledge 'to redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, and during the early years of parenthood, offering them loving and compassionate care through initiatives such as **Walking with Moms in Need** and countless others.'

"At the same time, as we await the court's decision, we urge everyone to intensify their prayer and fasting that the final decision of the Court will bring about the reversal of *Roe* and *Casey*.

"We hope and pray for a change in our laws and stand ready to help all pregnant women in need in each of our communities.

"Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us and guide us."

**[View this release on the USCCB website.](#)**

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