

FOLLOW THE VOICE OF THE LORD

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Fourth Sunday
of Easter

May 3, 2020

The Mercy of the Lord
fills the earth!

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:6:1-7: The call of the first deacons

1 Peter:2:4-9: We are chosen to witness to the glory of God.

Jn:14:1-12: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

We will be live streaming this Sunday Mass at 10 a. m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream> or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCepqtr_VuHL7R-MjmZpe7C/

There are many opportunities to view Mass via live stream while public Masses are cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Weekday and Sunday Mass will be live-streamed from various churches in our diocese.

OAHU

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, downtown Honolulu

Sundays at 9 AM, Bishop Larry Silva presiding

Mondays to Saturdays at 8 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/HonoluluCathedralBasilica>
or www.hictv.com

Sacred Heart, Punahou

Sundays at 8 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartpunahou>

St. John Apostle and Evangelist, Mililani

Saturdays at 5 PM and Sunday at 11 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnmililani/live>

St. Joseph, Waipahu

Daily at 7 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchWaipahu/>

St. John the Baptist, Kalihi

Mass in Spanish on Sundays at 8 AM

Para misa en Español, seguir este enlace. Estará disponible el domingo a las 8 AM.

<https://www.facebook.com/kalihicentral/>

MAUI

Christ the King, Kahului

Sundays at 9 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/ctkchurchmaui/>

or Maui radio station 105.5 FM

St. Anthony, Wailuku

Sundays at 9 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/stanthonymaui.org/live>

Rebroadcasts of Sunday Mass available at <https://stanthonymaui.org/>

Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses: www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefyl9g9A5SGWA4FvGIA

Catholic TV Mass. . . www.watchthemass.com/

EWTN Daily Mass. . . <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. . . www.nationalshrine.org/mass/

Catholic Faith Network Masses. . . www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/masses

Prayers

Pope Francis' Prayer with Mary for COVID-19 . . .

<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic.cfm>

Archbishop Gomez Prayer for COVID-19. . .

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-and-prayer-during-coronavirus.cfm>

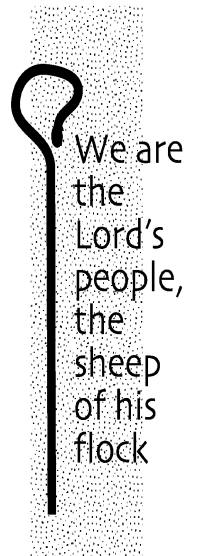
Spiritual Communion. . . (<https://www.archny.org/acts-of-spiritual-communion/>

COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity. . .

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/covid-19-prayer-of-solidarity.cfm>

Light a Candle Online (from the National Shrine of St. John Neumann).

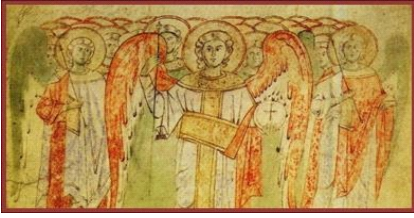
www.stjohnneumann.org/faith-miracles/light-a-candle-online



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



FREE DIGITAL BOOK FROM THE VATICAN: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been the model of strength and compassion during this pandemic. He has offered us breathtaking liturgies, heartfelt homilies, memorable social media posts, and multiple resources for prayer. He has offered courageous leadership to his Church and to the world. Now the Vatican (specifically the Libreria Editrice Vaticana and the Dicastery for Communication) is offering a 192-page digital book for a FREE download -- **Strong in the Face of Tribulation: The Church in Communion – A Support in Time of Trial**. It is a collection of the Pope's homilies, prayers, and messages. You may access the book at this link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf>.

ST. RITA'S PRAYER GROUP: *Aloha Mai Kakou St. Rita Ohana*. Join our virtual prayer group on Thursday evenings. Send Mele Ahuna your email address (via e-mail ahuna@hawaii.rr.com) and we can invite you to our Google Hangout! Hope to see you soon! A Hui Hou! St. Rita's Prayer Group.

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 for Life Greeting"* © 2013 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved

WEEKLY READINGS

May 3 Sun: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts:2:14a, 36-41; Ps:23; 1 Peter:2:20b-25; Jn:10:1-10

May 4 Mon: Easter Weekday

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

May 5 Tue: Easter Weekday

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

May 6 Wed: Easter Weekday

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

May 7 Thur: Easter Weekday

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

May 8 Fri: Easter Weekday

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

May 9 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:14:5-18; Ps:115; 1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn:14:21-26

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

A Change of Mind

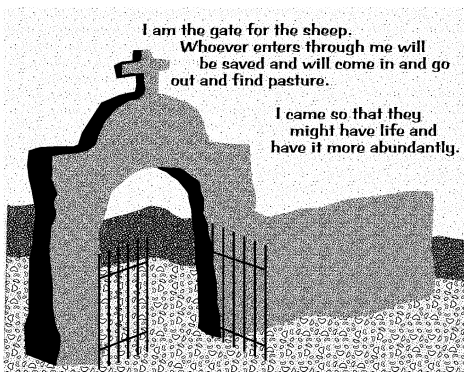
If you've ever been around two or more children at a time, you know the chances are good that someone will do something to make one or the other angry. It might be an action, a word, an expression. Adults spend a lot of time trying to get youngsters to tell each other they're sorry. Sometimes they really are. Sometimes you can cut the charade with a butter knife. Children need direction on how to say they're sorry and truly repent. Sometimes adults need help, too. We offer children guidance by teaching them not only to say they're sorry, but take active steps in preventing the same hurt again. It's similar to following the voice of a shepherd ... someone who shows us the way to love and peace. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Reflection

In order to call us back, the Shepherd is always like an open door. We have encountered many types of doors in our lives. There are swinging doors, locked doors, revolving doors, trap doors, fun-house doors, open doors, and sliding doors, to name just a few. For the most part we go through doors every day without much thought. We go in and out of our homes, work places, schools, and stores almost like involuntary reflexes. But there are some doors that really get our attention as we're about to pass through them. Have you ever had to walk through a hospital door on the way to see someone seriously ill? Have you ever been called to the principal's or boss's office? Have you ever gone through the doors to a counselor or support group for yourself or someone you love? It's likely that you paused and took a deep breath before going through some of these doors, clearing your mind to gather the thoughts and form the words that you knew were necessary for the meeting.

Jesus creates the door of peace for us. We don't have those foreboding feelings of apprehension. It's not like the fun house—there's no distortion in what Jesus promises us. Jesus is not a revolving door—he always opens a straight path for us. We will find a safe pasture in the life the Shepherd has won for us.

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The Good Shepherd
lays down his life
for his sheep

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Life in Abundance

Heavenly Father,
your Son, Jesus, is the Lamb
who models selfless love for others.
May we imitate his life-giving service.
Jesus is the Good Shepherd,
who guides and gathers your people, making
us one.
May we seek reconciliation and healing,

and strive to sustain the bonds of peace.
Jesus is the gate
through whom we enter eternal life with you.
May we seek salvation in him alone
and bring others to share in the life he offers
so that all people will have life in abundance.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Heeding His Call

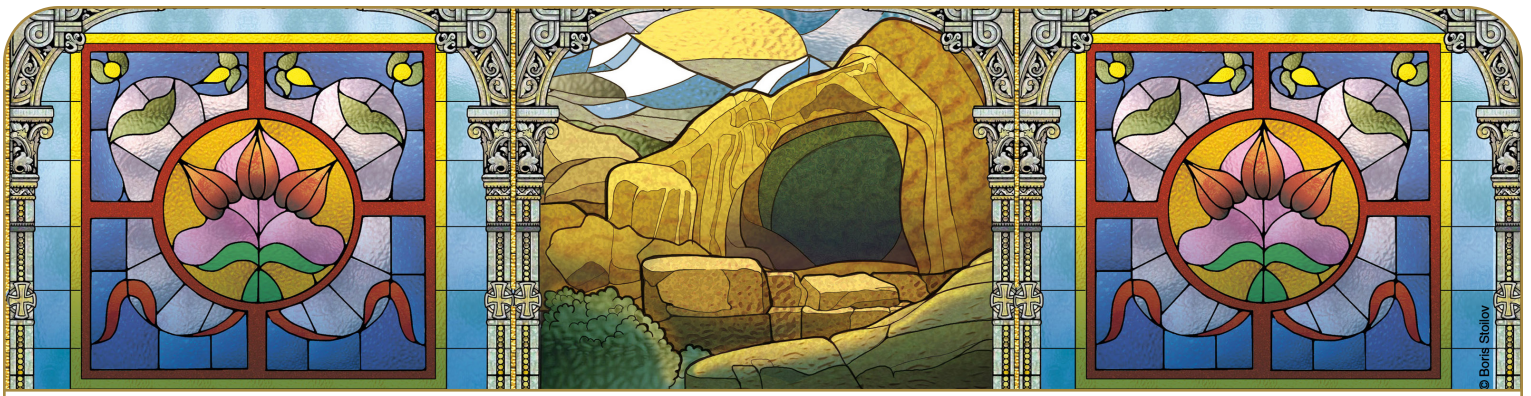


Today's Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6 (1); 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10. We find consolation in the Gospel passage as we identify with the sheep who recognize and follow the voice of Christ, our shepherd. Jesus praises his sheep for trusting him alone. We are further uplifted by the promise of enjoying a life of fullness with God.

Although Jesus speaks of his sheep in glowing terms, we know how easily sheep go astray. Our Second Reading reminds us that there are times we prefer to wander off. It is difficult to follow the example of Christ, the innocent Lamb who suffered for our sake. It is difficult to respond to insults with kindness and patience. It is difficult to act with justice

and integrity when we are dismissed for doing so. Sometimes it is easier to ignore God's voice and go our own way.

The reading from Acts assures us that our Good Shepherd keeps calling us, even if we stop listening. Even if we think we have wandered so far away we won't hear him, his voice will reach our ears. He calls because he wants us to have life in abundance, but also because there are others who are not yet part of his flock. As we heed our Shepherd's call, we may discover that we can shepherd others toward him. These people also need to hear his voice, to be welcomed into the fold, and to share in the gift of the Holy Spirit that brings us into eternal life with God.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 4 One Flock

The first big challenge the early Church faced was whether to admit non-Jews into the community. Since Jesus was Jewish, some people insisted that non-Jews who wished to follow Christ also had to follow Jewish laws, such as what foods they could eat. In response, Peter speaks of a vision in which God dispenses both Jews and Gentiles from such laws. The two groups can now come together to form one flock with Jesus as their shepherd. Pray for the grace to welcome all kinds of people into God's flock. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 42:2–3; 43:3–4; John 10:11–18.*

Tuesday, May 5 Speaking to Them

The sheep who recognize the voice of their shepherd include the people of Antioch. At first, only the Jews in Antioch had the story of Christ proclaimed to them. No one talked with the Gentiles. When some people finally did, their preaching was so successful that a large number “was added to the Lord.” There are people who will welcome the Good News if we share it with them, and if we speak with compassion and sincerity. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

Wednesday, May 6 The Spirit Speaks

In a rare moment in Acts, the Holy Spirit speaks directly to the Apostles. If we long for the Holy Spirit to speak clearly to us, we should note that the Apostles heard the Spirit while they were praying and fasting. Moreover, they had dedicated themselves to God's work, just as Jesus had. Jesus spoke only as his Father commanded him and worked signs because of his perfect obedience. Our Lenten practices helped us listen to the Spirit and follow Christ. Do you have Easter practices that are helping you heed the Spirit's call? *Today's Readings: Acts 12:24–13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; John 12:44–50.*

Thursday, May 7 Salvation Continues

Jesus tells his disciples to imitate his life of loving service, but he also notes that not all of them will. He knows that Judas will betray him. In Acts, Paul and Barnabas travel with a fellow Christian, John, but he leaves them after a short while. It is difficult, sometimes even painful, when someone close to us turns away from us. Sometimes there is nothing we can do, but sometimes there is. Have you had a conflict with a family member or a friend that you can resolve? *Today's Readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25 and 27; John 13:16–20.*

Friday, May 8 His Way

As Paul continues his speech in the synagogue, he reminds his listeners that people rejected Jesus. What happens to people who reject Jesus? If we expect such people to be excluded from God's reign, we might be in for a surprise. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and we are not. Jesus alone decides who enters God's Kingdom. Such final judgments are not ours to make. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's great mercy. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11ab; John 14:1–6.*

Saturday, May 9 Light from Light

By asking Jesus to show them the Father, Philip reveals that he doesn't yet understand that by seeing Jesus, he sees the Father. Jesus is the light who reveals the eternal radiance of God. Therefore, by proclaiming Jesus to the Gentiles, people like Paul and Barnabas spread God's light across the world. They do great works, just as Jesus did. Spend time in prayer today asking Jesus what works you could do to further glorify God. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14.*

