

SPIRIT-LED NEWS



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This weekend, I would like to talk about Evangelization. According to the USCCB, Evangelization happens when the word of Jesus speaks to people's hearts and minds. Needing no trickery or manipulation, evangelization can happen only when people accept the Gospel freely, as the "good news" it is meant to be, because of the power of the gospel message and the accompanying grace of God.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, states that "the church does not proselytize, but rather she grows by 'attraction'" to the beauty of God's love. Evangelization "does not begin by seeking to convince others, but by bearing witness each day to the love that has watched over us and lifted us back up,"

Therefore, we Catholics should not be afraid to live out our calling to evangelize and share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ our Savior. Unfortunately, as Eric Sammons points out in his article titled "Be Honest: Are You Afraid to Evangelize?" Eric states that: "When Catholics are confronted with the idea of evangelizing, the first reaction is fear—plain, unadulterated fear. Do you know how they say people most fear public speaking and death? Well, most Catholics would rather give a speech from their grave than evangelize." Eric further states: "That fear usually takes one of two forms (or even a double whammy of both). First, the Catholic fears that he doesn't know enough about his faith to evangelize. He might even fear that his ignorance is so bad he could turn people away from their Faith. The second fear is social rejection. What if my family or friends or co-workers think I'm crazy? Or offensive? I don't want to be the religious freak with no friends."

Yet, Jesus commands us time and age in the Gospels that we must share His message to the whole world freely as He has given it to us freely. So, to help us all get over this fear to evangelize, I have a special insert in this weekend's bulletin called 4 Factors that Help Open Doors for Evangelism by Aaron Earls. Hopefully, it will help us all grow a little more confident in living out our call to evangelize. So, please take the time this week to read it. I know you will find the information it contains valuable.

Fr. Anthony Rapar

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
 95-370 Kuahelani Ave. Mililani, Hawaii 96789 | (808) 623-3332
www.stjohnmililani.org

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT: WE ARE A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY—called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service* and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to install, in our parish community the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

PASTOR Fr. Anthony Rapozo

In Residence Fr. John Gabriel

DEACON Dcn. Romeo Ganibe

*FULL Parish Clergy & Staff Directory available
on our website.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 8AM Mondays: Communion Service; Tuesday – Saturday: Mass

Sunday: 5PM (Saturday Vigil), 7AM, 9AM, 11AM & 6PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30PM

PARISH RECTORY HOURS

Monday 12:00PM – 4:00PM

Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:00PM

Saturday - Sunday Closed

Please call the office for all other inquiries:
 Anointing, Baptisms, Blessings, Food Pantry,
 Funeral, Homebound Communion &
 Marriage.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE JUNE 24/25

Sunday Collection	\$ 10,493.68
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 3,597.00
Building, Equipment & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 290.00
OCC Capital Campaign (Non-Assessed)	\$ 380.00
Blessing	\$ 220.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,151.44
Mass Intentions	\$ 120.00
Candles	\$ 340.00
Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Holy Father (Peter's Pence)	\$ 25.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$ 185.00

WEEKEND TOTAL \$ 16,807.12



4 Factors That Help Open Doors for Evangelism

Insights | Discipleship & Evangelism | May 4, 2022

Your religiously unaffiliated friend may be hesitant to talk about faith, but some “nones” are willing to have those conversations.

By Aaron Earls



Your religiously unaffiliated friend may be less likely to want to talk about faith than your Christian neighbor, but even some “nones” are willing to have those conversations—especially with someone they know.

An Evangelism Explosion study conducted by Lifeway Research found **most Americans are open to having a faith-centered discussion**. But most also say their Christian friends rarely bring up the topic.

When examining only those from non-Christian religions or nones, who make up a **growing percentage of the U.S. population**, there’s more hesitancy to engage in

those types of conversations. However, even they are often ready to talk about religious beliefs.

In particular, the religiously unaffiliated are among the least likely to say they're concerned about finding hope, peace, and purpose and fulfillment or having certainty they'll go to heaven or have eternal life. The nones are also the religious group least likely to say they're open to having faith conversations with others. That doesn't mean, however, all of them are always opposed to talking about faith.

More than half of nones (52%) and those of other religions (55%) say many of their Christian friends rarely talk about faith. Many non-Christians are also curious about the faith and devotion of others.

Religiously unaffiliated Americans (60%) are more likely than the average American (51%) to say they're curious why some people are so devoted to their faith. Young adults, the least religious demographic, are also more likely than older Americans to express curiosity about others' religious devotion.

Half of American nones (50%) say they wouldn't think about faith unless a friend or family member brought it up. There are a few factors that increase the likelihood a non-Christian will be willing to talk about faith with someone.

1. Friends top strangers

This is true of almost every demographic group, including non-Christians. If people are going to have a conversation about faith, they'd rather talk to someone they know.

Among the religiously unaffiliated, 38% say they're not open at all to having a faith conversation with a stranger. And 45% say the same about a specifically Christian conversation. When asked about having those conversations with a friend, the percentage who completely reject the option drops dramatically.

Around 1 in 5 nones (20%) say they're not open at all to having a faith conversation with a friend, and around 1 in 4 (26%) say they have no interest in a distinctly Christian conversation with a friend, an 18 and 19 point drop respectively as compared to conversations with strangers.

Still, 20% of nones say they're very open to having a conversation about Christianity with a friend, and 14% are very open to talking with a stranger about it.

2. In-person tops social media

Non-Christians would rather speak with a stranger about religious issues face-to-face than try to have that discussion on social media.

Americans in general are hesitant about having those discussions in that digital venue. Around a quarter (26%) say they're very open to having a conversation about faith on social media. Among nones, the least supportive demographic, the percentage drops to 16%. More than 2 in 5 Americans without Christian beliefs (42%) say they're not open to those conversations on social media.

Yet, 1 in 5 of those without Christian beliefs (19%) say they're very open to having those discussions on social media. In-person is better, but there are online evangelistic opportunities.

3. Personal testimony tops forced discussion

Half of Americans of non-Christian religions say they're very open to hearing the life story of someone new (49%), even if that story includes faith (50%). More members of other religions are very open to listening to those stories than the average American (42%).

While just 33% of the religiously unaffiliated say they're very open to hearing the life story of someone new and 23% are very open to life stories if they include faith, those are still higher than the percentages who are very open to other types of religious conversations.

4. Conversation tops presentation

If possible, Christians should simply talk about faith with non-Christians instead of relying on presentation tools. Conversations create a personal connection while tools often cause people to disconnect.

Around half of American nones said they would be less interested in continuing a faith conversation with someone if the person shared a brochure or pamphlet with some of the information written down or illustrated (55%), showed an app with some of the information they were talking about (51%), or quoted from their religious text (46%).

That doesn't mean people will end the conversation if a Christian reads from a tract or quotes a Bible verse. It does mean, however, that non-Christians are often more on guard when those things happen.

Christians should be considerate of differing perspectives of those around them while still being attentive to the Holy Spirit. God can and does draw people to Himself through random conversations with strangers, social media discussions, and prepared presentations using a brochure.

Be aware of areas that may cause unnecessary tension in any evangelistic conversation and seek to demonstrate concern for the other person as an individual made in the image of God, not as a project to finish or—even worse—an enemy to defeat.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEKEND, July 1/2, we will take up the **PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please drop your donation during offertory or you may also donate online through our parish website and click on "Online Giving." Please be generous.

SCRIPTURE CLASSES WITH FR JOSEPH will start on Monday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm in the OCC.

July 3: A brief introduction to the Bible

July 6: A brief introduction to the Old Testament

July 11: A brief introduction to the Intertestamental Period

July 13: A brief introduction to the New Testament

July 18: A brief introduction to the Synoptic Gospels

July 20: The Story of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

July 25 and 27: Continuation of The Story of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Call the parish office to register. All are welcome to attend.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Tuesday, July 4th, in observance of 4th of July.

SJAE WOMEN'S GUILD: Serve our parish and meet other women parishioners by joining the SJAE Women's Guild. **The next General Membership Meeting is Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 9 am in the Church.** Exciting events coming up include Fr. Anthony's Birthday, Church Pilgrimage and Bake Sale.

JESUS IS LOOKING FOR ALTAR SERVERS! Are you registered with SJA&E Church? Have you received your First Holy Communion? Are you active in the Catholic Faith? If so, please consider serving as an Altar Server. **ALTAR SERVER TRAINING** is on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Church. An Altar server form is available at the back of the church. Contact Angela-altarssjae@gmail.com for more information.

Enjoy your summer with a good Catholic book! Feast Days this month includes Mary Magdalene, St James, the Holy Family, and others. Stop by and see what your library team has to offer on these and other saints. **THE LIBRARY TEAM** will be on the lanai after all Masses on July 15/16.

REBOOT! Featuring Catholic Author and Speaker, Chris Stefanick. Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 7-9pm in the church. **REBOOT!** is the fun, inspiring and practical experience of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more! Rediscover the message of the Gospel as **Powerful** for us all, **Beautiful** in its application to LIFE, **Engaging** for those searching, and **Fun & Captivating** for all ages, including our youth! **DO NOT MISS** the opportunity to hear one of the most sought-after voices of our time! Offering practical insight into living the life God has created for you! **Come! Be energized! Invite someone! Tickets available on the parish website or www.reallifecatholic.com.**



FRIENDLY REMINDER! REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADES K TO 5. EDGE Grades 6 - 8 and Lifeteen Grades 9-12. Please visit our parish website under Religious Education for an online link.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE : June 19 - July 23, 2023: St. John is partnering with Kipapa Elementary School and Helping Hands Hawaii to help students from families with financial challenges with school supplies they need prior to the beginning of the school year. Here's how you can help:

Kipapa Elementary School is the only Title 1 school in Mililani and has about 51% of the students who qualify for Free or Reduced priced meals. St. John is collecting 300 boxes of facial tissue (240 count).

Helping Hands Hawaii celebrates the 25th anniversary of Ready to Learn, a school supply program to help prepare keiki from low-income and homeless families for school.

St. John is collecting the following school supplies: Backpacks, ball point pens (black or blue), composition books (wide ruled), crayons (24 count), dry erase markers, ear buds with microphone, erasers, folder papers, glue (4 ounces), hand sanitizers, highlighters (yellow), markers (assorted colors), pencils (colored), pencils (No. 2), permanent markers (black), portfolios (2 pockets), USB flash drives.

Please drop off your donation in the parish office during office hours or in the collection box provided at the main entrance to the church. Mahalo for your support!

I THIRST HAWAII: Eucharistic Revival & Evangelization- Friday, July 14: St Elizabeth, Aiea - 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Saturday, July 15: St Ann, Kaneohe - 7:00 am – 3:00 pm. For more information and to register, please visit: jesusthirstsforamerica.com.

JOB OPENING:

Maintenance & Groundskeeper (Part-Time) Description: Responsible for the maintenance, cleanliness, and repair of parish facilities. Performs a variety of facility and equipment maintenance and preventative maintenance duties. Oversees any maintenance activities provided by contractors as assigned by the Pastor. To apply:

<https://www.hrsymphony.com/hrs/route/position/5971/G5QE>

THIS WEEK ON FORMED:

Maria Goretti: The Story of the Patroness of Modern Youth

Learn more about the holy life and martyrdom of St. Maria Goretti in this moving documentary. In particular, the film highlights her ultimate act of love: forgiving her murderer on her deathbed.

The Annie Moses Show - Salute To America

The Annie Moses Show returns with a Fourth of July celebration! Featuring world-champion yodeler, Don Derby; a Mark Twain Broadway blowout; and up-and-coming virtuosos from across the fruited plain, our "Salute To America" honors the past and looks to the future with eyes of faith.

The Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24 | The Bible Project | Book Collection

This video concludes Luke's epic portrait of Jesus of Nazareth. The disciples discover the empty tomb and eventually have their entire view of the world turned upside-down as they meet the risen Jesus. Luke shows how Jesus' kingdom of God mission to its climactic moment, and he sets the stage for its continuation in Luke's second volume, Acts.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [signup .formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION (MATTHEW 10:37 – 42) BY CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS

Today's readings take us back to some basics of stewardship living and demonstrate the genius of this way of life.

Our First Reading, from 2 Kings, shows us the necessity and power of hospitality. It recounts the story of a woman who showed loving hospitality to a visitor, inviting him to dinner with her family and arranging a room for him in their home so that he would have a comfortable place to stay during his travels through her town. She reached out to the man in a simple and practical manner to make him feel welcome and was rewarded in an extraordinary way.



In our Second Reading, from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us of the power of our Baptism and how this sacrament makes us disciples. What does that mean for us here and now? St. Paul tells us very clearly: "You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus." We must live for Christ! Nothing less will do.

Our Lord proclaims this same instruction in a rather shocking way in our Gospel passage from Matthew: "Whoever finds his life [by living for oneself] will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." But how do we lose our life? Precisely through loving actions towards others, loving them as if they were Christ. "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple... he will surely not lose his reward."

The simple brilliance of stewardship living — only our infinitely creative and compassionate God could conceive it!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9 – 10 (100a)

Responsorial Psalm: 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:18 -23

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

HOME MASS CELEBRATION: *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20*



As we begin our Second year of the National Eucharistic Revival which focuses on the Parish, St John's would like to offer our parishioners the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Mass in your home. This would be the perfect time to invite your family or friends and anyone else you would like to experience our beautiful and wonderful Mass. These Masses can only be celebrated on weekdays in the evenings. These home Masses will begin in June. If you would like to schedule a Mass at your home, please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment to go over the details.



- "A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

- POPE FRANCIS

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday July 3, 2023**

8AM Communion Service

Tuesday July 4, 20238AM Mark Burnett (RIP)
James Mercado (RIP)
Msgr. John Mbinda
(Birthday Blessing)**Wednesday July 5, 2023**8AM Rogelio Mora (RIP)
Mark Burnett (RIP)
All Souls in Purgatory (RIP)
Dolly Mandap
(Death Anniversary)**Thursday July 6, 2023**8AM Rosalina Villegas (RIP)
Carmelo Pacpaco (RIP)
Carlos Melegrito (RIP)
Suzanna Foster (Blessing/Healing)**Friday**

8AM

July 7, 2023Feliciano Dona (RIP)
Jane Atkinson (Blessing/Healing)
Guerrero Family
(Blessing/Thanksgiving)
Alexis Salvador
(Birthday Blessing)**Saturday**

8AM

July 8, 2023Salvacion Agsalva (RIP)
Mark Burnett (RIP)
Carmelo Pacpaco (RIP)
Jorge Factor Fernandez (RIP)
Honorio Ocampo & Mariano
Canilao**Sunday**

7AM

July 9, 2023

Carmelo Pacpaco (RIP)

9 AM

For the People

11 AM

Dolly Mandap (Death Anniversary)

6 PM

Patrick Mayock (RIP)

Respect Life: "O God our Creator... through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
"Prayer for Religious Liberty"

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

VICTOR "ART" GUARIN APILADO (RIP) – Monday, July 10, 2023, Mililani Memorial Park – Mauka Chapel: Visitation: 5:30 pm; Wake Service: 6:30 pm. Tuesday, July 11, 2023, St John, Mililani, Visitation: 9:30 am; Eulogy: 10:30 am; Mass: 11:00 am – Burial: 12:30 pm – Mililani Memorial Park.

HEALING / BLESSINGS

Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, Helen Guerrero, Stephanie Rapozo, Thomas Ramos, Christy Esposito, John Bates, Nathan & Diane Kotch, Edward Naong, Teresa Montoya, Letty Baguion, Winnie Lee, Cheryl Solomon-Hume, Mario Visaya, Carmelo Pacpaco, Lita Guerrero, Genelyn Daszek, Lulu T. Jennings, Solomon Siangco, Blanca D Licon, Ruthie Esdicul & Braeden Enoki.

DECEASED

James E. Smith, Shauna Awong, Buena A. Harding, Grace Trent, Maria G. Mercado, Rand T. Ushijima, Charles Kauai, Gino Daguio, Mark Burnett, Patrick Mayock, Carmelo Pacpaco, Art Apilado, Kaede R. Montalban, Richard Amaral, Glenda Buis, Maria T. Tumpap & Frank W. Donahue III.

