



Inside This Issue...

- 2 Striving to Tithe: *How You Can Give*
- 3 Give Thanks to the Lord, It Is Right and Just
- 4 "From the Mouths of Babes" The Faith Journey of the Rose Family
- 6 Quarterly Financial Report
- 8 Holy Triduum

One Big Parish Family, Accessible to All

For parishioner Deb Zedalis, one of the best things about our church is that we don't have any walls on the sides.

"When I think, 'What would be the dream for the parish?' it would be that it's not only open physically, but that it's open emotionally and spiritually, so that all people can come and this be their home, their respite, their place where they are welcomed, loved and accepted," Deb says.

It is with this goal in mind that St. John Apostle & Evangelist has welcomed its newest ministry, the Disability Team, an outreach to those with disabilities in our community.

The Disability Team begins with two primary focuses. The first of these is to evaluate the facilities, to make sure that the church itself, as well as the surrounding community center and various meeting rooms, are accessible and meeting the needs of parishioners and visitors with disabilities.

"Outside of the church proper, we're not really designed to include all of our parish community," says Deb, who currently serves as the Chair of the Disability Team.

With this in mind, we begin plans for a new, fully accessible community center that is able to easily welcome all members of our parish family.

Secondly, the Disability Team hopes to foster a sense of awareness and welcome for those living with various disabilities, ranging from physical, to mental and developmental.

"How do we best serve the disabled and handicapped in a way that honors and includes them in the parish family?" Deb says. "In the facilities and the services, how do we make sure that we're being aware and inclusive of all our parish family?"



The Disability Team is looking for members to join our current team, serving our parish and community. (From left to right) Rose Nohara, Deb Zedalis, and Lynne Cullen. Please join our Disability Discussion on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to noon in the church.

continued on page 7

Striving to Tithe: *How You Can Give*

As Catholics, we know we have an obligation to support the Church, but we recognize that each family has to decide how much they can give. Some families truly can't afford to tithe – giving 10 percent of income. All the same, we do honor the tithe as a Scriptural benchmark that has been followed for centuries. It began with the Israelites giving 10 percent of their “first fruits” (see Deut. 26:4-10), and has persisted through today in the Catholic Church. It's a good standard to strive toward.

But for many, tithing may seem difficult. In fact, for most of us, tithing is difficult – but only at first. Families who tithe invariably say they had to “take a leap of faith” when they started, but they also say they feel great joy and peace knowing that they are putting God first in their finances. And after a while, most say they don't even miss the money. But how did they get to that point? Below are a few steps you can take to begin tithing.

1. Believe you *should* tithe.

The very first step toward tithing is believing that it is a worthy goal that you should strive toward. It has to be an intentional decision to put God first, before anything else. This is contrary to the old investment adage, “pay yourself first” – meaning to first put aside a certain percentage into savings before paying bills. Someone who tithes has modified this mentality, with 10 percent going to God first, and then the other 90 percent going towards savings, expenses, etc.

2. Make a budget and stick to it.

Budgeting is simple on paper, but harder in real life. To begin, simply calculate your income and make an honest evaluation of your expenses. Put your tithe as the first “line item,” and treat it like you would your rent or mortgage payment – something you would never miss. Choose to give to God what's right, not what's left.

3. Cut back and re-prioritize.

Evaluate how you spend your money and find ways to cut back. It costs nearly \$30 for two people to go to a movie and buy popcorn, sodas and candy.

The new car you're thinking about may cost \$60 more per month to add a sunroof and leather interior. Are these things you could live without? In our consumer-oriented society, there's no end to what we want to buy. The question is where our priorities lie – do you want a plasma TV more than a vibrant youth ministry?

4. Choose good charities.

A charity may be a friend or family member in need. It may be Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army. To find where your money can make a difference, try visiting CharityNavigator.org.

Contrary to what some televangelists say, if you give God \$100, he's not going to automatically give you a winning lottery ticket. Mathematically, you will have less money after you tithe. But we do know that God rewards those who do what is right – perhaps not in tangible ways, but certainly in spiritual ways. Choosing to tithe will take a leap of faith on your part, but it's one that will surely pay dividends. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven to pour down blessing upon you without measure?” (Malachi 3:10).



Give Thanks to the Lord, It Is Right and Just

Dear Parishioners,

Every time I prepare my monthly letter to you in this newsletter, I am reminded how blessed I am. Being a priest truly is a blessing. While the job is not always easy — a pastor has many responsibilities — the rewards are equally humbling.

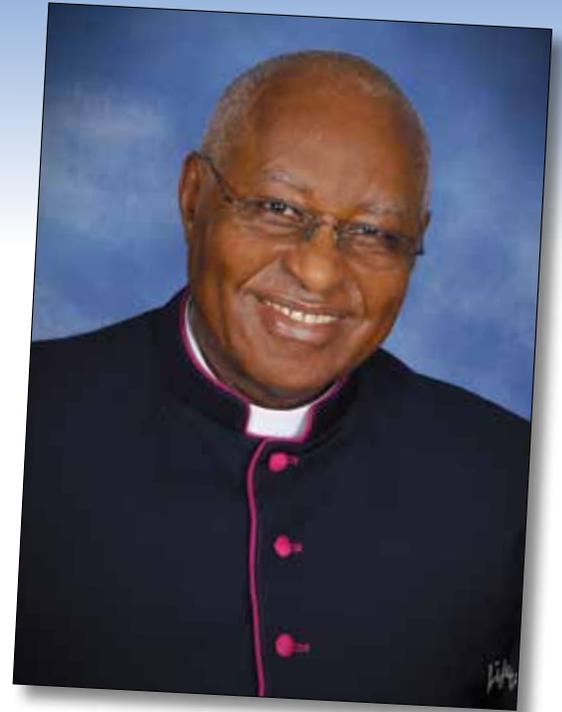
As we complete our preparations and then share in our celebrations of the Triduum and Easter, I am also prompted to think about the holiest things I do. By far, the holiest is celebrating Mass, and especially consecrating the holy bread and wine so Christ is present among us. The very word “consecration” literally means “association with the sacred.” To have that duty is incredible. I have never taken it for granted, and although it may appear at times to be somewhat automatic, it never is for me.

Almost all of us are familiar with the Mass, and with what we do and say leading up to the high point — the Eucharist. But I think we must guard against becoming too casual in our responses and what we say. That is what I work to avoid, but I believe you need to work just as diligently to make

sure that you are listening, hearing, and being aware of what you are saying. For us as Catholics, the Mass is the most important sacred act in the Church.

I suppose I could write a whole series of letters or articles on the meaning of everything we say and do at Mass, but I was thinking of one exchange in particular during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is something we may say in sort of a habitual way, but I firmly believe each of us must truly consider what we are saying.

I say to you, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” and you respond, “It is right and just.” Think about what that means, because it is very much at the heart of stewardship. I am saying we need to thank God, show gratitude for everything we are and everything with which we are gifted — and you, at least in words, acknowledge that doing that is exactly what we need to do. The Mass is filled with statements and exchanges of that sort, and I would ask that we really think about what they truly mean.



Even the simple exchange between the Eucharistic Minister and you at the actual reception of the Host is heavy with meaning. We say, “The Body of Christ,” and you reply “Amen.” In that instance, “Amen” means “Yes, I do believe this is Jesus.” Like myself, you are blessed. Sometimes we just need to realize it. Happy Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor

“From the *Ma* *The Faith Journey*”

We know from Scripture that children enjoy a special closeness to our Lord. We are told in Matthew 21:16 that praise to the Father is brought forth from the mouths of babes, and in Mark 10:15, Jesus reminds us that we must have the faith of a child if we wish to enter into the heavenly kingdom. Sometimes, we are blessed enough to witness the Holy Spirit working through children to increase the faith of those around them. In the case of LeAnn and Chris Rose, an unexpected question posed by their young daughter just over a year ago became the starting point of a life-changing faith journey for their entire family.

Chris remembers the evening it all began – he and LeAnn were seated at dinner with their daughters, Elizabeth and Jocelyn. As they began to eat, one of the children – who had recently watched a television show in which a Catholic family said a mealtime blessing – asked her parents a seemingly simple question.

“We were all sitting down for dinner and one of our daughters asked us why we don’t pray at the table,” Chris recalls. “So, it was pretty much my kids who first made me think about it. My wife, LeAnn, had mentioned before that she was Catholic, and I turned to



LeAnn and Chris Rose with Deacon Modesto at their marriage convalidation

her and asked, ‘Why don’t we go to church?’ So it really all derived from our kids asking about the Lord.”

As it turned out, the timing of their daughter’s question couldn’t have been better – brought up Catholic in her early years, LeAnn had recently begun thinking about her childhood faith again.

“My background is that I was baptized and received my Holy Communion, and after awhile I strayed away because my parents stopped taking me to church and we weren’t

really involved,” LeAnn explains. “Now as a mother, I have just felt this need for awhile. It was a pull to go back to church, but I didn’t know how because I was used to the idea of a church where everything is black and white, and I was a sinner because I was married outside the Church and my children weren’t baptized. So I didn’t even really know where to start.”

Prompted by their dinnertime conversation, the family came to a Mass at St. John and immediately felt welcome in the parish. In February

“I’m so happy and so blessed we found St. John’s. Deacon Modesto, Deacon Romeo and Monsignor – everyone has been so amazing through this journey. Deacon Modesto has been there for us step-by-step with everything. We are just so blessed to have St. John’s in our lives and in our home.” – LeAnn Rose

“Mouths of Babes” of the Rose Family

2016, Chris and LeAnn had their marriage validated in the Church and, shortly after, LeAnn received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass. In October, they were blessed by the birth of their twins, Timothy and Gabriella. Six-year-old Jocelyn and the twins were baptized together, while Chris continued the process of RCIA, or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and 9-year-old Elizabeth attended RCIA for Children.

Both Chris and Elizabeth are excited about becoming full members of the Church at this year’s Easter Vigil Mass.

“I’m looking forward to my Holy Communion,” Elizabeth says. “Before, I didn’t really know much about God and Jesus and the faith and



LeAnn and Chris Rose at their marriage convalidation ceremony

mercy, but I really wanted to learn about it more. Now I get to be a member of the Church, and receive the Body of Christ and Blood of Christ. God has blessed me.”

For Chris, who was not raised in a faith tradition, learning about the Catholic faith and joining the Church has brought a strong sense of completion.

“I think I went to a church maybe three times growing up, so I didn’t know much about faith at all,” he says. “Everything happens for a reason, and when my daughter asked about it at dinner that night, I thought, ‘If my daughter wants to know what it is, then I kind of need to know, too.’ Then, after going [to Mass], I realized that this is what it’s all about – this is what I was missing in life. When we got married in the Church and got to baptize the twins, I felt complete. It was something that had been missing, and now it is a fulfillment. It brings my family all together.”

The entire Rose family feels thankful to have found the faith community here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. Chris appreciates how welcoming the parishioners are, and how willing the RCIA teachers and deacons have been to answer the many questions he brought to their classes.



The Rose children – Elizabeth and Jocelyn with their newborn siblings, Timothy and Gabriella

Elizabeth is especially happy that the parish “uses its money to help people in need.” And LeAnn, who now serves as a lector and on the Health Ministry team, is grateful for the unending support the Rose family has received from the community.

“I’m so happy and so blessed we found St. John’s,” LeAnn enthuses. “Deacon Modesto, Deacon Romeo and Monsignor – everyone has been so amazing through this journey. Deacon Modesto has been there for us step-by-step with everything. We are just so blessed to have St. John’s in our lives and in our home.”

How inspiring it is to see the Holy Spirit working through the words of a child to bring her family to the faith! St. John joyfully welcomes Chris and Elizabeth Rose – and all those coming into the Church this Easter – to our faith community!



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CHURCH

Financial Report For Period Ending Dec. 31, 2016

	Previous Fiscal Year Actual 7/1/2015-12/31/2015	PERIOD ENDING 7/1/2016-12/31/2016		Current Fiscal Year Budget 7/1/2016-6/30/2017
		Actual	Budget	
RECEIPTS				
Sunday Collection	455,063	463,212	482,000	948,500
BEMO	-	32,028		-
Candle Sales	14,117	11,324	15,000	30,000
Social Ministries	5,038	5,058	7,500	15,000
Religious Education	13,276	8,585	5,050	10,100
Occasional Offering/Donations/Other Income	53,037	48,216	21,460	42,920
Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET	2,412	6,921	5,500	11,000
Interest Income	3,375	3,714	3,050	6,100
Stewardship Development Donations	20,252	2,290	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	566,570	581,348	539,560	1,063,620
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Operations	194,831	277,645	213,490	293,780
Diocesan Assessment	66,672	59,107	66,600	266,400
Parish Council	-	11,448	20,000	20,000
Rectory	19,449	22,704	22,766	45,532
Property/Facilities	51,085	54,614	45,818	91,636
Liturgy	47,358	40,902	44,496	88,992
Religious Education	73,541	70,800	63,892	127,785
Social Ministry	21,135	20,877	34,950	69,900
Youth Ministry	7,611	11,020	4,172	8,345
Stewardship Development	26,531	25,629	25,625	51,250
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	508,213	594,746	541,809	1,063,620
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	58,357	(13,398)	(2,249)	-
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS				
Stewardship Development	20,252	2,290		
Building Fund Collection (Pre/Future Construction)	6,037	32,395		-
Subtotal of Current Year Donations	26,289	34,685		
Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)	-			
TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET	26,289	34,685		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	84,646	21,287		

In fulfillment of our stewardship virtues of accountability and transparency, the Parish Finance Council presents the above Year to Date Report

Notes:

- 1.) Temporarily restricted donations include grants from Weinberg, Building Funds and With Grateful Hearts. Accounting guidelines encourage nonprofits to recognize donations when pledged/received and to release restrictions when expenses are incurred.
- 2.) Change in Net Assets does not include non-cash income - change in value in Land & Building.
- 3.) Please direct questions about this report to the Finance Council.

Accessible to All *continued from page 7*

a loved one with disability to open their hearts to learning and caring for those who may be struggling.

“Someone sitting next to you might have struggles and you’re not even aware of it,” she says.

“When you don’t have [a disability], you don’t really realize,” Lynne adds. “You have to be in someone else’s shoes to understand and have compassion. I’ve learned so much.”

The first step of the Disability Team’s work is identifying parishioners with various needs and listening to hear their concerns and experiences, so that we can seek to accommodate them in whatever ways possible. Parishioners with disabilities, as well as their caregivers, are invited to attend a meeting on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to noon in the church, to further discuss the plans of this ministry.

Those who are interested in serving with this ministry are also invited to attend and to contact Deb for further information on becoming involved.

“We want to really lay out the way ahead, to see what it is we can do together to make sure we’re inclusive of all in our parish,” Deb says. “My hope is that whatever their handicaps or disabilities may be, that they do feel accepted and loved and part of the parish and when they have disappointments, setbacks or issues, we’re able to help them and support them, that we would love and care for them, as one of our own, because they are one of our own.”

“All people need to be treated with dignity,” Lynne adds. “As we learn, and become more sensitive and more welcoming, it will make a stronger church family.”

For more information on the upcoming Disability Team meeting, or to become involved serving with this ministry, please contact Deb Zedalis at 808-348-2973 or dzedalis@hawaii.rr.com.

Holy Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 13

No Daily Mass

8 a.m. – Morning Prayer

7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, April 14

Parish Offices Closed

No Daily Mass

8 a.m. – Morning Prayer

3 p.m. – Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Saturday, April 15

No Daily Mass

8 a.m. – Morning Prayer

No 3:30 p.m. Confession

7 p.m. – Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 16

Masses - 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the church

11 a.m. at Kipapa Park with Bishop Larry Silva

No 6 p.m. Mass