



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Multicultural Picnic to Offer an Experience Wrapped in Grace

From pierogies and gnocchi, to prayers in Spanish and Swahili, there are so many things that separate the diverse cultures of our parish, and yet so many things that we have in common. Coming next month, each of these cultures will come together to explore our differences and celebrate what we have in common – our faith.

The Multicultural Parish Picnic will be held May 22 following the 11 a.m. Mass on the parish grounds. Some 14 countries will be represented through individual booths inside the Parish Hall, each offering foods, information, colors, and music that represent that country. Now in its third year, the picnic is a collaborative effort of the Pastoral Council, the Men’s and Women’s Clubs, and the Knights of Columbus.

“You walk into the Parish Hall and there are all these different cultures represented,” says Pastoral Council member Amy Dean. “In any booth, some will have food that they give away free, some will dress in their national dress. It’s very festive, very colorful and fun.”

In the past, representatives from the Puerto Rico booth have danced to the sounds of a live cuatro guitar, college students have given



The Poland booth, organized by parishioner Stella Mazur, features photos and items that give a glimpse into the country’s rich cultural heritage. It’s just one of booths that will be on display during the annual Multicultural Parish Picnic next month.

a demonstration of traditional Filipino dance, and the coordinators of the Lithuania booth have displayed treasured family heirlooms.

Stella Mazur, a parishioner who maintains the Poland booth, plans to provide traditional Polish foods like pierogies and kielbasa at her booth. She has also done extensive research on noted Polish scholars and saints such as St. John Paul II, the results of which will be on display.

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Cultivate Your Personal Garden for Christ this Spring

Everyone loves springtime. The weather is warmer and beautiful flowers are blooming all around us.

But anyone with a beautiful garden will attest that the flowers do not magically appear as if the season change itself miraculously makes the flowers bloom. Beautiful flowers and lush gardens are the result of the gardener's hard work.

Imagine that a man is given some flower seeds. The man then buries the seeds in the ground and leaves them on their own. As the months pass and rain falls, some seeds may receive enough nourishment to bloom. But simply burying seeds in the ground will hardly make for a gorgeous garden. Rather, if the man truly wants to enjoy many beautiful flowers, there is much care and work ahead. Recognizing the hidden beauty within these simple seeds, he must cultivate the ground, plant the seeds in a solid foundation, then water and fertilize them throughout the year. Only then will he see the proper fruit these seeds were made to bear.

This simple illustration speaks to the heart of us this season — not only as we look around at the flowers, but more importantly as we reflect on the springtime of the Church. We are celebrating the great feast of Easter when, through His death and resurrection, Christ offers us the greatest gift of all — eternal life with Him forever. This celebration leads us to reflect on the many

gifts God has given us in this life and the fruit they will bear, especially as we look to life eternal.

He has given each of us a multitude of gifts so that we can better serve Him and bring others to Him. Do we notice the hidden potential of our gifts? Do we see them, like the seed, as seemingly small yet so full of fruit? Everything we have — our time, talents and treasure — is a gift from the Lord. Do we accept gifts in gratitude, then put them to use by cultivating and nourishing them so they will bear the proper fruit?

Just like springtime flowers that we enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for. Our gifts need to be cultivated and nourished. Only then will we see them for what they are — wonderful gifts given by God meant for His greater glory.

Like the seeds, if we use our gifts flippantly, we may see some fruits here and there. But we are called to so much more — we are called to build a beautiful garden. We are called to offer God the most beautiful flowers of all.

This season, as we look at all the beautiful flowers around us and enjoy God's creation, let us think about the seeds in our own lives. Ask yourself if you have accepted the gifts God has given you — your time, talents and treasure — and have cultivated and cared for them properly. Or, do they just sit dormant within you yearning to bloom?

All Things and All People Are Made New

Dear Friends in Christ,

We associate the Easter season with springtime — a time of new life and new beginnings — and Holy Scripture addresses this idea of newness many times. In one of our readings during April, God declares, “Behold, I make all things new.”

This idea of being “new” is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We need to strive to do this on a regular basis — even on a daily basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new.

During this ongoing Easter season, we need to retain that idea of being “new.” And being “new” means conversion, and we have often pointed out that conversion is at the heart of a life of stewardship.

It is always risky to try to summarize God, but we hear in Holy Scripture four ways that the Lord makes things new:

1. **God makes us spiritually and morally new.** This is part of that conversion process, but it does not occur unless we want it to happen and we work at it.
2. **God makes us physically and bodily new.** This is the hope of eternal life, when God makes it clear that all of our sorrows and pains and challenges of this life will be eliminated.
3. **God makes creation new.** This is difficult to imagine or to perceive, but the world that we will eventually experience is new and glorious.



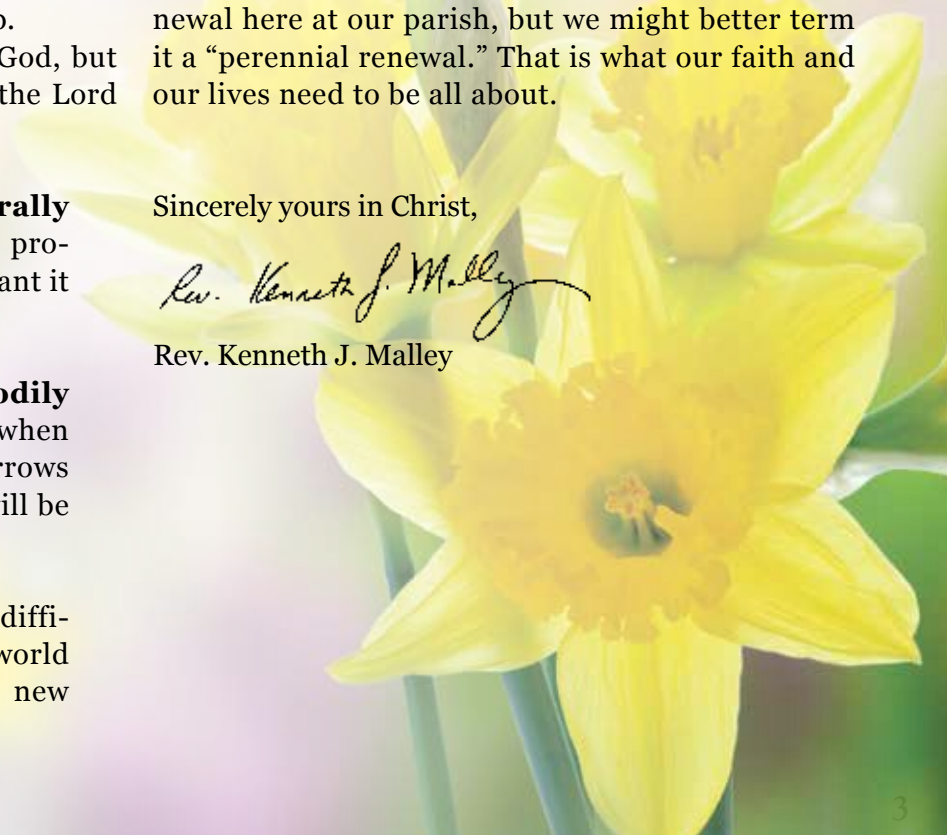
4. **God perfects our relationship with Him and with each other.** In heaven there will be no sin to get in the way of His love for us, our love for Him, or our love for one another.

For all of the seeming depth and complexity of these concepts, they really boil down to one basic idea — if we live out our lives in ways that serve and love others, this “newness” is not only a natural progression, but also a natural result. It all comes down to the calling each of us has received. Are we responding to that call? Are we even thinking about that call? We need to, and we need to do it now — not at some vague point in the future. We have an annual renewal here at our parish, but we might better term it a “perennial renewal.” That is what our faith and our lives need to be all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





“The Perspective of Mercy Our Outreach to Migrant Families”

“‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice’ is the message Pope Francis sends to each of us in this season of Lent. After proclaiming this year as a Holy Year of Mercy, the pope reminds us to listen to God’s Word and to live it out by practicing the works of mercy “where they touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, housed, visited, counseled, welcomed, healed, saved, and loved.”

Several St. Timothy parishioners volunteer in various ways with Catholic Charities Catholic Mobile Medical Services, established 16 years ago by Bishop Lynch. Sr. Sara Proctor, DW, has coordinated the program since its inception. Sister says the program provides much more than just medical services, however.

“We are much more than a provider of medical assistance to the poor, especially to the numerous migrant families who reside in our diocese,” she says. “We also are involved with providing food and housing and other more practical assistance to these people.

“Of course, the medical aspect is at the core of what we do, I suppose,” Sr. Sara adds. “The needs have grown through the years, if anything. We are able to accomplish what we can through volunteers. We work with volunteer physicians, and other health and social service professionals to provide free medical, health promotion and social services to the rural poor of eastern and southern Hillsborough County. The program operates under the auspices of the State of Florida Department of Health Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.”

Most services are provided through a mobile bus taken directly to the target population. The mobile bus visits are scheduled during convenient evening and working hours and are located at accessible sites such as churches, community-based social service agencies, and day care centers. There is a stationary clinic available at the San Jose Mission in Dover, which is where Sr. Sara has her office.

“I wish there was a way to raise awareness of the situations in which the migrant families of our diocese find themselves,” she says. “The whole migrant situation is a ‘hot-button’ and politically charged issue. Our people need to look at this as Pope Francis does – from the perspective of mercy and compassion.”

Volunteers are certainly needed, as Sister emphasizes.

“Medical professionals are needed to provide acute primary care and well-woman exams,” she says. “Medical screeners are needed to assist the medical professionals with patient vitals and information gathering. Individuals able to speak Spanish are needed as interpreters. In fact, the ability to speak Spanish is helpful to anyone who wishes to volunteer.”

Sr. Sara also points out that our Catholic Charities is the lead provider of services to those in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties.



In her Dover office, Sr. Sara Proctor, DW, interviews a client.

“Mercy and Compassion” Families and Migrant Camps

“There are many ways people can help us,” she says. “Financial support is also important. I am passionate about getting people out of their ‘ivory towers’ and get them directly involved with the people in need.”

In his message for Lent 2016, Pope Francis also said, “In an ever-new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church’s tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and in spirit.”

Let us consider how the works we carry out can impact our own neighbors in need throughout our community!



Sr. Sara Proctor, DW, in front of the mobile medical unit.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sr. Sara Proctor, DW, at 813-707-7376. Effort is made to match people with work in their skill areas, or they may be directed to a place within the organization that is in need of help.

Multicultural Picnic *continued from front cover*

“I’m amazed that I learned how many Polish Nobel Prize winners there are, and Polish saints and Polish art and heritage,” she says of her research.

According to Amy, booth coordinators have also been asked to provide an image of Mary that is native to their culture, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe for Mexico. The image can be represented in a photo or statue and will be an effort show how we are all unified by our Catholic faith.

“We really want to wrap the picnic in grace,” Amy says. “We want to bring it under the mantle of Mary because we are One Body. The picnic has always been very close to Pentecost Sunday, and this year it’s on Trinity Sunday. It’s that carry-over of the apostles being able to speak to all the nations. I like that, because we’re asking for that spirit to fill us and breathe through us as a parish.”

Amy says the picnic also allows those who were born in other countries to relive cherished family memories and to educate their fellow parishioners about who they are.

“We are One Body in Christ, and it’s important for people to see that and know that,” Amy says. “Sometimes, I think people get afraid of other cultures, but there’s a beauty in letting people showcase their culture. It’s almost like they’re showing us part of their hearts because it’s about who they grew up as.”

Outside of the Parish Hall, the American portion of our culture will be represented through traditional picnic foods like hamburgers and hot dogs for those who might still be hungry. Amy says she wants to emphasize that the picnic is open to all parishioners of all ages.

“This for the entire parish, and it’s a very family-friendly event,” she says.

If you would like to lend your time at the multicultural picnic, contact the parish office at 813-968-1077.



Dying He Destroyed Our Death, Rising He Restored Our Life

“He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead” – Apostles' Creed

As we have recently come to the end of our Lenten journey toward Easter, let us take a moment to meditate on three pivotal lines from the ancient creed, which comprise the central events of our redemption.

Far from being a mere myth or legend, in Jerusalem around the year 30 A.D., Jesus Christ – the Son of God made man – was tortured at the hands of the Romans. He was flogged, beaten, spit upon, and crowned with thorns. He was made to carry the cross through the crowded streets to Golgotha and, once there, He was crucified – He was nailed to a cross and died. Just as someday we will each be laid in our graves, Jesus was laid in His.

The most obvious question that confronts the observer of this horrific reality is “why?” Luckily, Christ made the impetus for His self-sacrifice quite clear: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life” (Jn 3:14-15).

The reasons Christ died on the cross are twofold, one negative and one positive. The negative cause is sin. Only in witnessing the cost of redemption – the death of the Son of God – can we begin to comprehend the profound magnitude of sin: “You were bought with a price,” says St. Paul (1 Cor 6:20).

Conversely, Christ willingly accepted the cross because of love. St. John famously says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

Uniting these two causes, St. Paul says, “God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

In His limitless compassion, Christ entered into the fullness of human suffering – physical torment, emotional agony and utter isolation – so that He might share complete solidarity with mankind. Accordingly, His passion and death not only accomplished our redemption, but by the cross, He also showed us the way to true discipleship. For Christ taught His disciples

long before His crucifixion, “if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23).

Christ’s is the final and perfect covenant between God and man, and it is a covenant of love, with Christ Himself as its high priest. Nevertheless, this covenant is not based on love as popular culture conceives of it, but love as Christ displayed it: “The way we came to know love was that He laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16).

Joined with the passion, Christ’s resurrection is the key to the entire Gospel – for in rising from the dead, Jesus proved true His bold promises. He had prophesied to the apostles, “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again” (Jn 10:18). The resurrection vindicates this promise and validates His teaching and miracles.

Furthermore, Christ, “the firstborn from the dead,” opened the door to eternal life and to new creation (Col 1:18). Out of the darkness of despair, the scattered and frightened disciples saw the risen Christ and were renewed and transformed. Filled with faith in the crucified and resurrected Savior, they evangelized the known world.

St. Paul summarizes the centrality of the redemptive power of the Easter Triduum with his characteristic zeal: “If Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. Then we are also false witnesses to God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins” (1 Cor 15:14-17).

This Easter, let us respond to the glory of Christ’s resurrection by exclaiming, as St. Thomas the Apostle did, “My Lord and my God!” And may each of us be filled with faith in God of our salvation, hope in the rewards He has won for us, and love for Him who has deigned to bestow them on us.

There's No Place Like Home *Allison and Bill Archer*

When we welcome new members into our Catholic family of faith at Easter, we often say they are “coming home to Rome.” And for each of us, our St. Timothy parish itself serves as our home, whether we grew up here, or became part of the St. Timothy community later in life. And this is certainly the case for Allison Archer and her husband, Bill.

“It felt as though we grew up in the parish,” Allison says. “It was home from the time we came.”

While the sentiment is certainly meaningful in any context, it takes on even greater significance for the Archers, who are actually nearly 2,000 miles away from “home.” Cradle Catholics who grew up on the island of Trinidad, Allison and Bill met in high school and were married shortly after. In 1985, they left home to come to the United States.

“It was a new beginning,” Allison says.

It didn't take long for Bill and Allison to become involved at St. Timothy.



Bill and Allison Archer moved to the United States from Trinidad in 1985.

“It's a very welcoming, very warm community,” she says. “The people are very kind and welcoming and loving. It's our home.”

For Allison, her involvement began with teaching religious education and has led to her involvement in various parish ministries, from serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy

Communion and sacristan, to visiting prisoners with the parish Prison Ministry. Bill has also found ways to use his talents in service to the community, serving as an usher and working with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide aid to those in need.

“It's always been a love of mine to serve – I love helping,”

continued on back cover

“It's what God calls your heart to do, whether to work with kids, to run St. Vincent de Paul, to serve as a sacristan behind the scenes. As Christians, [serving] is part of our faith and it's always good to give back. God has been so good to us, we need to help others when we can, and give back in whatever way we can, to help someone else.” – Allison Archer



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Allison and Bill Archer continued from page 7

says Allison, who found it easy to get involved at St. Timothy's. "It's a very encouraging community. It's always been very inclusive and it encourages you to serve."

However, for Allison and Bill, it wasn't just serving in the community that made them feel connected. They've also participated in different small prayer groups throughout the years that have given them the support and fellowship they were looking for.

"We got to meet people, more than just seeing them in church on Sunday," says Allison of their involvement in the prayer groups, "That has been wonderful. It's great fellowship. We get to know people and share our stories and witness. It has really helped us."

And in difficult times, the Archers experienced the support of their fellow parishioners, surrounding them with love as a family.

"When we've had problems in our life – when, at one point, our son was very sick," Allison says. "God was there to help us, and whatever happened, it would be OK."

Allison encourages others to find ways to get involved in the parish, listening to the desires and call that God places on your heart.

"It's what God calls your heart to do, whether to work with kids, to run St. Vincent de Paul, to serve as a sacristan behind the scenes," Allison says. "As Christians, [serving] is part of our faith and it's always good to give back. God has been so good to us, we need to help others when we can, and give back in whatever way we can, to help someone else."

Bill and Allison, we're so grateful for your service and so glad to have become your family and your home!

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.