



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Spring Cleaning Sale

Chance to Help the Parish

The “save the date” notices that were sent out a couple months ago set in motion the preparations for our second Parish Spring Cleaning Sale set for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at our Youth Center.

Not only is the sale a chance to clear out the things we no longer need, but it also is a great opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners, while taking part in a great parish cause.

Jack Provenzano and his committee began planning the sale after the first sale held last April.

“In November, we really began planning,” Jack says. “After last year’s sale, we sat with the group involved and called for input about bettering it. Then in November, we started the actual planning, and really got active in January.”

Although the sale will be held after Lent has passed, Fr. Malley has observed that the proximity of the two enables us to clean out



Outdoor equipment, duffels, baby items, and household goods make up the wide range of items for sale in our Parish Spring Cleaning Sale.

our homes and our souls at the same time, Jack notes.

“We can get rid of our stuff, and feel better,” in his words,” Jack says.

Items that can be donated for the sale include appliances, electronics, housewares, outdoor equipment, sports equipment, men’s, women’s, and children’s clothes, baby clothes, and baby furniture.

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Teaching by Example

The Importance of Prayer in a Child's Life

“I want to be just like Mom and Dad!” Perhaps nothing lifts a parent’s heart like hearing these words. While certainly affirming, such words also remind us of the great responsibility that comes with parenthood.

Children often examine the lives of their parents when making decisions that will affect their own lives. For example, a young boy may dream of becoming a physician one day, just like his father. Or a young girl may hope to become a veterinarian, just like her mother. Could the same be said about their parents’ faith lives?

Just as children learn traits and values from their parents, they should also learn the importance and great joy of developing a personal relationship with Christ. And the foundation of such a relationship is prayer – conversation with God.

How should we go about teaching our children to pray? There are several methods, but none works as well as teaching by example. Begin teaching the importance of prayer by praying openly with your spouse. This teaches children that prayer is meaningful and important, and not just a ritual. Also, pray with your children – in the morning and in the

evening. Show your sons and daughters the importance of beginning and ending each day in prayer.

A good rule of thumb is to start simple – maybe an *Our Father* or *Hail Mary*, and then move into something more complex – *Hail, Holy Queen* or *Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel*, among others. Begin with prayers your children can pick up fairly quickly. Not only will this show them that praying can be fun and easy, but shorter prayers are also usually easier to understand.

Teach your children the importance of spontaneous prayer, rather than just prescribed prayers. Spontaneous prayer is any prayer that is created at the same time it is offered. Another way to think of spontaneous prayer is “praying in your own words.” Structure spontaneous prayers according to the ACTS acronym – Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. In layman’s terms, this means beginning each prayer with words of adoration, such as “You are the Lord God Almighty. I love you.” Move into a period of contrition, asking God’s forgiveness for the sins you have committed. Then, give words of thanksgiving, thanking God for the gifts He has given. Finally, spend time sharing with God your heart’s desires. These intentions can be personal or on another’s behalf. Following this format ensures that spontaneous prayer “covers all the bases,” and doesn’t become just a mental wish list. While God wants to hear and grant our wishes, He also expects words of adoration, contrition and thankfulness.

The best time to begin praying with your children is right now. The sooner they learn about prayer, the sooner they can begin cultivating their own relationship with Jesus. Many parents even pray with their children before birth, hoping their unborn son or daughter can hear their words in utero. Remember, there is no better way to teach one’s children about the value of prayer than by example.



Just as children learn traits and values from their parents, they should also learn the importance and great joy of developing a personal relationship with Christ. And the foundation of such a relationship is prayer – conversation with God.

Give Thanks to the Lord, It Is Right and Just

Dear Friends in Christ,

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



Finding

The Valdez Family Shares

“I am so much more appreciative of the Church. It has changed us. When there’s turmoil or something isn’t going the right way, we pray and pray, and good comes out of it and we can see that. It’s transformed our whole family.” – Debbie Valdez

One of the most beautiful aspects of our faith is knowing when you’re “home,” as the Valdez family can certainly attest.

“Right when we got to St. Timothy, we pulled in the parking lot, and Trenton looked at me and said, ‘I like it here, Mom,’” says Debbie Valdez, recalling the beginning of her family’s journey to join the family of St. Timothy and the Catholic Church. “And we walked up the steps and he said, ‘This is our Church.’”

While Debbie was baptized Catholic, she didn’t receive any other sacraments, as her family stopped going to church when she was young.

“I’m not sure why we stopped going, but we did, and so I drifted away from church,” she says.

Her husband, Johnny, grew up with his hard-working and devoted mom, who raised her three sons as a single parent, without any regular religious influence. They occasionally attended various churches with friends, but Johnny never belonged to any one in particular.

“The only time I went to church was maybe Easter and Christmas, and not even every year,” Johnny says.

The couple, both native Floridians, wanted their son, Trenton, to have faith as a part of his life, but they struggled to find a church that fit.

“That seed had been planted, so I always knew that I wanted to get back to church,” Debbie says. “There was always a yearning. I knew it was the right thing to do, something I should do – but we didn’t find the right church. We never found the right spot that felt like home for us.”

But one day, Debbie and Trenton, then 10 years old, started the search for a church community together.

“My son has played a huge part in me finding my faith again,” Debbie says. “It was important to me that Trenton was comfortable, and that he wanted to attend and become a member of the church, too.”

“When we were looking on the parish website, I saw one of the priests, Fr. Malley, and I thought he looked really nice so I wanted to see how it was,” says Trenton, now 12, remembering his first impression of St. Timothy.

It wasn’t long after that first visit that the Valdez family realized they had found something special –



The Valdez family participated in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral, at the beginning of Lent. They will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil this year.

something of which they wanted to be a part.

“That’s how our journey started,” Debbie says. “We decided to become part of the parish.”

Debbie and Johnny joined RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – and Trenton enrolled in Faith Formation classes. In no time, they began to feel that they

Home

es the Journey of Faith

truly were becoming part of a parish family. Debbie and Johnny became friends with their sponsor couple/godparents. They also became good friends with another couple whose wife would eventually become Trenton's godmother.

Since they arrived at St. Timothy, they have experienced nothing but love and support.

"We're very fortunate to have the friends that we do – everyone is wonderful," Debbie says. "I love my sponsor, she's part of my family now."

Since Debbie had little formation in the Catholic faith and Johnny had none, the experience of going through the RCIA process strengthened their relationship with God and their understanding of the Church, and also helped them feel connected in the community of St. Timothy.

"When we first started talking about it and they told me that we had to come once a week for a year, I thought, 'What am I possibly going to do every week for a year?'" Johnny says with a chuckle. "Now, when I'm traveling and I'm not there, I miss everybody. I love to be there. I can't put it into words, it just feels like home."

"I am so much more appreciative of the Church," Debbie adds. "It has changed us. When there's turmoil or something isn't going the right way, we pray and pray, and good comes out of it and we can see that. It has transformed our whole family."

For Debbie, her experience of St. Timothy was completely different than what she had previously known of the Catholic Church.

"I have felt like I had been judged throughout my life, especially when I was younger, but here at St. Timothy you don't find that, everybody is loving," Debbie says. "I could ask any question and no one would look at me strange, like 'You should know that.'"

The Valdez family is grateful for the sense of welcome they've received over the past two years – not only from those they have met through RCIA, but also from the entire parish.

"When we first got accepted into the Church, people approached us and said, 'Congratulations!'" Debbie says. "They were so happy that we were becoming part of their family."

Johnny and Trenton will both be baptized this year at the Easter Vigil, and all three will receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation on that special night.

"We're looking forward to being able to participate in the Eucharist – to be able to do that and be able to live with Jesus within us," Debbie says.

Debbie and Johnny encourage other parishioners, particularly those who may be "cradle Catholics," to consider serving as sponsors or godparents in the RCIA process – both as an opportunity to strengthen their own faith, as well as to walk alongside someone just starting their journey.

"Learning as children, sometimes we forget and just do things out of habit," Debbie says. "Some of the parishioners have said, 'I'm a little bit jealous that you get to learn your faith through the RCIA program.' One way that parishioners can get the benefits of the RCIA program is to become a sponsor."

My godfather is fantastic. He never tells me that I have asked too many questions. He is always willing to help me understand," Johnny says.

We hope Debbie, Johnny and Trenton always know that they are part of the St. Timothy community, and that they are never alone. We're so glad to have you as part of our family!

For more information on becoming Catholic or preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation as an adult, or to learn more about serving as a sponsor or godparent, please contact the parish office at 813-968-1077 or adultRCIA@sainttims.org.



"Serve God With Our Voices"

Chase White, St. Timothy's



The Jackson family – Chase White's maternal grandfather Woodrow Wilson Jackson (far right); Woodrow Wilson's sister, Elizabeth (microphone); and his brother, Gene (fiddle)

Chase White's commute was challenging. He was serving as a middle school music teacher for Hillsborough County schools in Odessa and working part-time at a Catholic parish in Sun City Center. After moving from Brandon to Lutz, Chase found himself lost on his morning commute.

"Jesus took the wheel," and Chase ended up on the Dale Mabry bypass of the Veterans Expressway, which passes right by St. Timothy. The construction of the new church was completed a few months prior.

"I fell in love with it, and it was a perfect location for me," Chase says. "I introduced myself to Lynn Cassilly, who led music, and told her I was a church musician. She told me that they were currently looking for a music director and that I should submit my resume."

Music has always been a part of Chase's life, and he sang in chorus at school and in the choir at a Baptist Church. His maternal grandfather's family formed a family band that played during the 1930s and 1940s.

In school, Chase was frequently bullied, and he remembers praying to God for three things – to play the piano without needing lessons, to make straight As without doing homework, and to have all the girls like him.

"I realize it was tall order, but God is good, and He answered each of my prayers!" says Chase. "In ninth grade, I was moved to a new school. I asked my chorus teacher how she knew 'which buttons to push on the piano,' and she explained. Everything lined up, and I seemed to understand how to play."

On his 15th birthday, Chase's mom bought him an old used piano, and he remembers running home from the bus stop to play. When he taught himself to play Chopin's "Prelude in D-flat," Chase's mother decided he needed a formal teacher.

"I took lessons for a year before auditioning at the performing arts high school in Lakeland," Chase says. "I was accepted to the school on academic probation, and I found myself at the top of the class and seemed to be pretty popular with girls at school."

The summer before his freshman year of college, Chase was offered a scholarship to sing in the choir at a local Episcopal church. He was soon taking weekly lessons from the church organist, as well as piano and voice classes at college.

"I found my way to the Catholic Church by way of the Episcopal Church," Chase says.

A few short months later, Chase received a call from Nativity Catholic Church in Valrico, and very soon he was playing at Masses in an opportunity that shaped the rest of his professional and spiritual life.

"I had always been curious about Catholicism," says Chase. "The Church is rich in history, symbols and ritual. The parishioners at Nativity welcomed me into their family and made their faith look very attractive."

After graduation, Chase left the church for a while, but God kept knocking at his heart. It wasn't long before he was back at the organ as the part-time organist at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center, Fla.

When Jesus led him to St. Timothy's, Chase knew it was time to become Catholic.

"The people of St. Timothy are what make it such an incredible place to be," Chase says. "They have all

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Director of Music

become my family over the last 14 years, and in 2005, I officially joined them and became Catholic.”

Today, Chase oversees the music program at St. Timothy and selects and leads the music at weekend Masses and Holy Days, as well as at weddings and funerals.

“If I had to identify the best part of my job, I would say that it is the Adult Choir,” Chase says. “We’ve been together a long time, taken two pilgrimages and have grown as a family. They are an amazing group of people, and I am very proud to be a part of their lives.”

Over the years, Chase acknowledges what a great encouragement the faith community has been for him. For Chase, there is something special about sharing music with Catholic worshippers, especially the people of St. Timothy.

“I will always ask them to serve God with their voices,” Chase says. “Even if they don’t join the choir, they can still make a joyful noise from their pew.”



Chase White as the pianist and organist in 1997 during his freshman year of college touring Methodist Churches with the chorale

“The people of St. Timothy are what make it such an incredible place to be. They have all become my family over the last 14 years, and in 2005, I officially joined them and became Catholic.” – Chase White, Director of Music



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

— Holy Thursday, April 13 —

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper
10:00 PM Tenebrae (Day Chapel)

— Good Friday, April 14 —

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
3:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

— Holy Saturday, April 15 —

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 PM Easter Vigil
(There is no 5:30 PM Mass or confessions)

— Easter Sunday, April 16 —

7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Masses: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 1:00 PM
(There is no 5:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)



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Parish Spring Cleaning Sale *continued from front cover*

“Books and records didn’t sell, so we’re not asking for them,” he says. “But a good example of sale items are things that one family outgrows, and another family needs. There is also the sense of camaraderie that brings the parish together, not only for those who donate items for sale, but also for those involved in working the event. It’s just a fun day for the entire parish.”

Although the Spring Cleaning Sale was originally developed as a non-entity, Jack says that there is a possibility that it may become a parish ministry.

“With last year being the first year, we were very pleasantly surprised with the financial results,” Jack says. “And it was interesting to see a lot of people come and get useful things. But after it all was over, we contributed to six different ministries – the homeless, and women’s

clinics, and we provided clothing and furniture to some different ministries.”

Although there has been discussion about where the proceeds from this year’s sale will go, it is most likely they will be designated to Faith Formation.

“All of the proceeds stay in the parish,” Jack says. “Either for the parish or the needs of the parish. We do open up the sale to the ‘neighborhood.’ We want them to come to St. Timothy and enjoy the campus.”

As the date for the sale approaches, the need for volunteers continues.

“Please check the weekly bulletins for updated information,” Jack says. “The whole week before the sale, we will start taking drop-offs at the Youth Center. We don’t have any way to do pickups, however.”

Anyone wishing to volunteer, or who has questions may contact Burnita at burnitaw@gmail.com.

• *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.