



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Allowing Christ to Grow In Us and Feed Others

There are many ways for us to fulfill the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. After all, good stewardship is a combination of one's talents meeting another's needs. These needs can be emotional, spiritual, or physical in nature. And the Easter Food Drive is an opportunity for all to feed the hungry and meet the physical needs of those in our community and beyond.

"Jesus said to feed the hungry," says parishioner and Parish Manager Cindy Vinal of our Easter Food Drive. "And when you're doing that, you're doing His work. You can

do it up close and personal by working in the food kitchen or by donating food during our drives."

Each year at Thanksgiving and Easter, the St. Vincent de Paul Society runs a food drive to collect goods for both our parishioners who are in need, as well as for others who live within our parish boundaries. In past years, the generosity at St. Timothy has been so great that we've been able to donate overflow to other churches, missions and shelters.

"In our country, we take food for granted," Cindy says. "If you're out of something, you go to the store and buy it, but a lot of people have to make decisions between paying bills or buying food. We shouldn't have hungry people here in our country."

In preparation for the food drive, the St. Vincent de Paul members will make lists of groceries for Easter meals or items needed in the food pantry. These lists are then



continued on page 5

February 2016

In this Issue

- 2 Living Lent in 2016
- 3 Lent – A Time of Preparation, Introspection and Change
- 4 Creative Hands Ministry Helping Parishioners Share Their Talent
- 7 Our Knights of Columbus Dr. Gilbert Ortiz Council *Reaching Out to the Parish, Community and More*

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LIVING LENT

in 2016

During the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert, Satan was constantly tempting Him. He preyed on Jesus' humanity, trying desperately to get Him to test God. Of course, we all know that it didn't work. As Jesus is 100 percent God at the same time that He is 100 percent man, the devil was unable to take hold of Him.

Yet, the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert communicates an all-important truth to us. Jesus, the God-man, experienced everything we have and everything we ever will as human beings. Satan even tried to tempt Him, just as he tempts us every day. But because Jesus is God at the same time that He is human, He had no tendency to give in to Satan's attempts.

Even so, Christ fought Satan tooth and nail, putting him in his place: "Get away, Satan! It is written, 'The Lord, your God shall you worship, and Him alone shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). At that, the devil left Him.

We all find ourselves in similar situations. We live in a world wrought with sin, and, in his ever-so-cunning way, Satan makes the sinful look appealing. We must stand firm in our faith and tell Satan to "Get away," just as Jesus did. Only then will we truly experience the glory of the salvation Christ came to give. Lent offers us a particular time to fight Satan, taking courage in the resurrection that we are preparing to celebrate. It is a time that we spend focused on strengthening our relationships with the Lord. Armed with His power, which we receive in many different ways, we can resist

the temptations of the devil and accept the salvation Christ offers each one of us.

How can we do this? Get to know the Lord through prayer. Read the Scriptures often. St. Jerome tells us that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. So, we must be steeped in Scripture. Read it daily – chapter by chapter, or verse by verse. It is, after all, the Word of God! Draw close to the Blessed Mother – she is eager to bring us to her Son. Join her at the cross, where she witnessed her most precious Son die for each one of us. Pray the Rosary – individually and as a family. It is a powerful prayer through which, with Mary, we walk through Christ's life, His Death, and His resurrection. Unite with Christ Himself in His suffering.

At a minimum, the Church tells us to fast and abstain from meat throughout the Lenten season. Catholics who are 14 years of age and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday (which falls this year on Feb. 10), Good Friday (falling this year on March 25), as well as all of the Fridays throughout Lent. In addition, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 60 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is defined as eating one meal and two smaller meals, which, together, do not equal the larger meal.

The idea behind these requirements is to help us focus on the spirit of the season. We are to be preparing ourselves, just as Christ did, for the great event that won for us salvation!

Lent – A Time of Preparation, Introspection and Change

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the holiest time of year for Catholics. Lent, of course, officially begins on Ash Wednesday. Most of us are familiar with the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Those are important in relation to repentance and renewal. Everything we do should remind us that Lent is a penitential season.

In the midst of this serious time, however, we must keep in mind that the word “Lent” comes from a Middle English word, which means “springtime,” and the time of lengthening of days. When we think springtime, our thoughts tend to be lighter and brighter. That is how we need to view Lent, just as we recognize the joy, colors and brightness of Easter.

In the Church over the past few decades, we as Catholics have come to the insight that Lent is more than a time to give something up. It is also a time to add something, to take action about our faith in ways that make it more meaningful and real. This does not mean we should not make sacrifices – we need to consider that while sacrifices may mean denying ourselves something, they can also mean we are filling that denial with a positive action.

We are talking about conversion again. We are speaking of stewardship again. This is a time when we should be looking within ourselves. It is a time for introspection. How can we improve? Maybe we need to



be a bit more patient with people in our lives – perhaps we need to adjust some of our attitudes. One thing we all need to do is to see and find the good in many small things in our lives.

Do we spend quality time with God, and with our families? Do we help someone in need? Do we set aside a time each day to pray? The possibilities for change and positive action seem quite endless. The point is to do it. Stewardship is a life of action – Lent should be a time of action.

Rather than being concerned about how others see us, this is a time for us to look at ourselves. We may need to rethink and re-evaluate our faith and especially our relationship with God. The Lord has called each of us to love and serve. Every day and every season is a time for us to carry out that call – but now, during Lent in preparation for Easter, this is very important indeed.

The 40 days of Lent are a time for us to live life as a disciple and as a steward of our God-given gifts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Creative Hands

Helping Parishioners



Members of the Creative Hands Ministry with some of the items they've made for other parish ministries. Jan Kelly (back row, far right) and Carol Sossota (back row, second to the right) bonded over their love of crafting and started the growing ministry this past autumn.



These beautiful welcome kits were made for new parishioners by the Creative Hands Ministry.

We are often told we should give the church our time, talent and treasure. One new ministry is making sure the “talent” portion of that idea is going a long way to extend the Love of Christ!

The Creative Hands Ministry was recently created by Jan Kelly and Carol Sossota. Jan says she and Carol bonded over a love for crafting and wanted to start a ministry that would encourage parishioners who love to sew, knit, crochet, or work with paper crafts to get to know one another and give back to the community at the same time.

“The point of it is to give our talent to the church and also to have fellowship,” she says. “I wanted to meet people, have a good time, but also serve the Lord.”

Since their initial meeting in August, the group has made welcome kits for new parishioners that include

handmade “mug rugs,” baby booties for expecting moms who utilize Catholic Charities free ultrasound services, and more than 40 Christmas cards for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and for distribution to the sick and the homebound.

One project – lap quilts and pillow cases specially made for sick and homebound parishioners – has been used by the Cancer Ministry to bring comfort to the patients they work with.

“Our intention is to work with other ministries within the church, as an outlet for what we make,” Jan says.

While the group started with materials donated by Jan and Carol from “a lot of unfinished projects,” Jan says the ministry has been fortunate to receive

“The point of it is to give our talent to the church and also to have fellowship. I wanted to meet people, have a good time, but also serve the Lord.” – Jan Kelly

Hands Ministry

Share Their Talent

donations from both the Women's Club and the Men's Club to help them become a self-sustaining ministry.

"We're trying to do a lot of this through donations," she says. "A friend in Michigan gave us a sewing machine, and we're hoping to get a few more. When we made our first mug sets, we ended up using donated fabric in fall colors."

Jan says parishioners who don't consider themselves to be particularly "crafty" shouldn't let that stop them from joining in the fun.

"Some of our volunteers say, 'I don't know how to do anything, but I can glue and I can cut out,'" she says.

With the recent acquisition of a special Serger sewing machine, which is machine that creates professional-looking seams and hems, Jan says she's excited to

help new volunteers learn how to sew and create other crafts, as well.

"We welcome anyone and we will teach skills," she says. "We have different things we want people to try."

The Creative Hands Ministry meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall classroom. Those who craft at home and are unable to volunteer or come to meetings are welcome to donate items to the group to be passed on to other ministries. Please contact Jan Kelly at 813-892-5556 for more information.

Allowing Christ to Grow In Us *continued from front cover*

attached to grocery bags and given to parishioners for them to fill and bring back to the church.

"When the food comes in, we sort it out based on families in need," Cindy says. "Anyone in need of food can contact our St. Vincent de Paul Society and they will meet with them to find out their needs and put them in touch with all available resources."

By helping with the food drives or by donating food, not only are we helping those who are in need, but we are also given an opportunity to participate in Christ's

compassion for the hungry. In this way, we, too, grow with Christ as we allow Him to use our time, talent, and treasure to take care of others.

There are many ways to get involved and carry out the task to feed the hungry in our local area. Some of these options include helping transporting goods to various donation sites, enabling our food pantry to be open two weekends per month for families to pick up food, or by making food donations not only at our Easter Food Drive but also throughout the year.

For more information or to get involved, please contact the parish office at 813-968-1077 to get in touch with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. To donate to the Easter Food Drive, keep an eye out for the grocery bags with lists in the church!



Valentine's Day

THE FEAST OF A CHRISTIAN MARTYR

Candy, flowers, romantic dinners, and excuses for wooing are the common traditions we associate with the once-pagan holiday known as Valentine's Day.

Dangling cupids, candy "message" hearts, and faux long-stemmed roses clutter every card store, waiting for that last-minute purchase.

The question is — how did this over-commercialized holiday really begin?

There are a few stories surrounding the history of Feb. 14 and St. Valentine himself, all dating back to the Roman Empire. The 14th day of February was a day set aside to honor the goddess Juno, queen of the Roman gods and goddesses. The following day, Feb. 15, began the feast of Lupercalia — a fertility festival dedicated to

Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

As part of the festival traditions, there was a name drawing among the young people. The names of young Roman women were written on slips of paper and placed into a jar. Each young man would draw a young woman's name from the jar, and the two would be partners for the duration of the festival. Sometimes the pairing lasted an entire year, and often, the couple would fall in love and later marry.

At the time, Emperor Claudius II was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns, and he was having a difficult time recruiting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that soldiers were reluctant to join because they did not want to leave their loves or families.

With this in mind, Claudius decreed all marriages and engagements canceled in Rome. During this time, St. Valentine was a priest in Rome, and he and St. Marius secretly married young couples. For this, St. Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who sentenced him to be beaten and then executed by beheading. He suffered this martyrdom on Feb. 14, around the year 270 AD.

Before his death, it is said that St. Valentine left a note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine." Although the truth behind the St. Valentine's legend is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and, most importantly, romantic figure. It is no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Over time, Feb. 14 became a time for lovers to exchange sweet messages, making St. Valentine the patron saint of lovers. The date was often commemorated with the sending of poems and simple gifts. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that Feb. 14 was the beginning of the avian mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February — Valentine's Day — should be a day for romance.



Our Knights of Columbus Dr. Gilbert Ortiz Council *Reaching Out to the Parish, Community and More*

Charity. Unity. Fraternity. Patriotism. All good works done by the Knights of Columbus are based upon these four core principles. And reflecting these principles, our local Knights Council #13525 states, “We are proud to serve the Saint Timothy Catholic Community. We are Catholic gentlemen committed to the principles of the Knights. Our Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and is unequivocal in its loyalty to our Holy Father, Pope Francis. We are firmly committed to the protection of human life from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family.”

The head of our local Council, Grand Knight John Roskovensky, is proud of both his membership in the Council and what the Knights do in our parish and community.

“The Knights of Columbus, and I personally, are interested in charity and in service to the poor and

needy,” he says. “We try to be available to the parish and the Church. However, we also do a lot outside the Church in the community.”

As John notes, the Council’s goal is to respond to any request for help that comes from Father or parish leadership.

“We are first and foremost a service organization,” he says. “Prayer is particularly important to us, as are all our holy liturgies. Therefore, we help organize and conduct our monthly Rosary on the first Sunday of the month. In addition, we provide service at the Wednesday evening Mass, help and participate in adoration and benediction, and are involved in penance services, particularly First Communion for our young people. Basically, we want Father to know that he can call on us for help with most anything.”

Our Knights Council was founded in 2004, and is named after Dr. Gilbert Ortiz, who served as an

continued on back cover





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Our Knights of Columbus *continued from page 7*

excellent example for all Knights in his service to his family, church, and community. Through the years, our Council has been awarded the McGivney Award and the Founders Award by the national Council of the Knights. Currently, there are almost 150 members.

“We do a lot with religious education,” John says. “We have our annual basketball free throw contest, operate a golf tournament in the fall, work at the parish Fall Festival and do the Friday night dinner for that. And this month, we are sponsoring and hosting a parish Valentine’s Day Dance. We work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Santa Maria Mission, which serves the poor, Sister Sara Proctor of Catholic Mobile Medical serving the migrant workers at the Racetrack and have recently become associated with Liberty Manor, a Veterans’ Home.”

Having started as one Council in New Haven, Conn., in 1892, founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus now boast more than 14,000 Councils worldwide and membership in excess of 2 million men. In the past decade alone, the Knights have donated almost \$1.5 billion to charity, and given more than 700 million volunteer hours to serve the Church and to support charitable works.

“Being a Knight is more than camaraderie,” John says. “It is being involved in your community. It is supporting to your parish, our St. Timothy Catholic Community. It enhances your own faith by helping others live out theirs.”

For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a part of our Knights of Columbus Council #13525, please contact John Roskovensky at 813-966-2847 or roskoskippy@yahoo.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.